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Jitendra Singh says, success of 'Purple Revolution' has shifted focus to agri-tech startups

CSIR-IIIM

22nd June, 2022

Udhampur (Jammu and Kashmir) [India], June 22 (ANI): Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh said that the 'purple revolution' has shifted focus to agri-tech startups.

Purple Revolution was launched to empower domestic farmers and support India's aromatic crop-based agro-economy by reducing imports of aromatic oils and increasing homegrown varieties. While interacting with the media, Singh said that due to high monetary returns, farmers in hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir are switching from traditional farming to aroma crops like lavender in a big way.



He added that aroma crops are both drought and pest resistant, and CSIR is providing all kinds of technical support for promoting this Agri Start-up boon in the Union Territory.

The Minister informed that CSIR is also planning to introduce the aroma crops in other hilly States with similar climatic conditions like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and in the North-Eastern States.

Dr Jitendra Singh said, "Centre's Aroma Mission, ably supported by CSIR, is changing the mindset of farmers and more and more of them are taking up the cultivation of aroma crops like lavender, lemon grass, rose and marigold for extracting costly oils to be used in many industries."

He said, the oils selling about Rs 9,000 per litre are used in making incense sticks and also being used for room sprays, cosmetics and therapeutics.

Jitendra Singh said, “There is a need for widespread publicity that IIIM Jammu was helping the startups in aroma and lavender farming to sell their produce. Prominent companies like Mumbai -based Ajmal Biotech Private Limited, Aditi International and NavnaitriGamika, etc are the primary buyers.”

Last month, Singh inaugurated the country’s first ‘Lavender Festival’ at Baderwah, the birthplace of India’s Purple Revolution and said that it became possible only because of the progressive thinking of Prime Minister Narendra Modi who after taking oath as PM in 2014 stressed that the regions which did not receive due priority in the past would be raised to the level of developed regions.

Singh informed that Aroma Mission is attracting startups and agriculturists from across the country, and during Phase-I, CSIR helped cultivation on 6,000 hectares of land and covered 46 Aspirational districts across the country. More than 44,000 persons have been trained and several crores of farmers’ revenue generated. In the second Phase of Aroma Mission, it is proposed to engage over 45,000 skilled human resources with the aim of benefitting more than 75,000 farming families across the country.

CSIR-IIIM introduced lavender to farmers in Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Kathua, Udhampur, Rajouri, Pulwama, Anantnag, Kupwara and Bandipora districts of J&K. It provided free quality planting material and end-to-end technology package on cultivation, processing, value addition and marketing of the Lavender crop to the farmers.

CSIR-IIIM also installed 50 distillation units — 45 fixed and five mobile — at different locations across J-K under CSIR-Aroma Mission.

Lavender cultivation has employed about 5,000 farmers and young entrepreneurs in geographically remote areas of Jammu and Kashmir. More than 1,000 farming families are cultivating it on more than 200 acres.

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MoU Signed With CSIR-CIMAP For Pilot Mission On Medicinal, Aromatic Plants In Assam

CSIR-CIMAP

22nd June, 2022

GUWAHATI: A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Directorate of Horticulture and Food Processing, Government of Assam, and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)- Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) was formally exchanged on Tuesday, 21, for providing Technical Advisory support for the Pilot Mission on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAP) in Assam.



The pilot mission is for two years under the World Bank Financed Project – Assam Agribusiness and Rural Transformation Project (APART). This Pilot Mission is for the first time in the State under APART and has been initiated with the cultivation of few crops like lemongrass, vetiver, tulsi and patchouli in selected districts, namely Dhemaji, Majuli, Biswanath, Karbi Anglong, Goalpara, Kokrajhar and Dhubri.

The CSIR-CIMAP will support the Directorate of Horticulture and the Agricultural Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) in the districts to carry out Market-led demonstrations in a cluster mode on the specified crops in the selected districts. They will also support the post-harvest management, processing demonstrations, setting up mini processing plants for the medicinal and aromatic plants, market linkages through buyer-seller meet, training and capacity building of beneficiary farmers, Government and Project Staff.

RGU symposium on chemical edn & self-reliance

CSIR-NEIST

25th June, 2022

RONO HILLS, 24 Jun: More than 70 master's and research students of Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU), the NERIST and the CSIR-NEIST's Itanagar branch lab participated in a symposium themed 'Chemical education in self-reliance: A global perspective', here on Thursday.



The programme, which was organised by RGU's chemistry department in collaboration with Jorhat (Assam)-based CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology (CSIR-NEIST) and London-based Royal Society of Chemistry, was aimed at "raising awareness among the master's and research students of various institutes of Arunachal Pradesh towards self-reliance in chemical education from a global perspective," the university informed in a release.

Addressing the inaugural session, RGU Vice Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha encouraged the participants to "take up the challenge to put Arunachal Pradesh on the global map for chemical education."

He also urged the participants to "work with a view to establishing a long-term and sustainable goal for achieving quality and excellence in chemical education and innovation in research in India."

RGU Pro-VC Prof Amitava Mitra emphasised that the state needs to focus on science education for self-reliance.

Prof T Govindaraju from Bengaluru-based Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research delivered a lecture on molecular theranostics, while RGU Chemistry HoD Dr Rajesh Chakrabarty highlighted the steps taken by RGU for promotion of chemical education in Arunachal.

Eminent researchers and young scientists from RGU, the NERIST and the CSIR-NEIST branch lab delivered lectures. Young research scholars Nirankush Borah (CSIR-NEIST), Amar Jyoti Bhuyan (RGU) and Jinku Borah (RGU) received the best oral presenters' prize in the symposium.

CSIR-NIIST to launch skill development course for aspiring IPR professionals

CSIR-NIIST

23rd June, 2022

Huge demand for IPR agents or attorneys, a highly rewarding profession by itself, says expert

The National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is launching a one-month-long skill development training class on August 16 with a view to churning out much needed IPR (Intellectual Property Rights) experts or patent agents.

Announcing this, a spokesman for CSIR-NIIST said that first-class MSc or B Tech degree holders are eligible to apply. The training course includes lectures, discussions, tests and assignments backed by what he described as a well-structured syllabus. The faculty comprise of experts with rich experience in IP (Intellectual Property) management. The syllabus ranges from Introduction to IPR, Patent Law and Practice in India, Patent search and drafting exercises to patent practice.

Well-structured syllabus

The career as an IP professional (IPR attorneys, patent agents, examiner of patents or IP management experts) is highly rewarding, says RS Praveen Raj, Principal Scientist-IP Management and Technology Transfer at CSIR-NIIST. A lot of thinking has gone into the design of the course, 'Intellectual Property Rights, Patent drafting and Practice' as part of skill development programmes for training scientific personnel and students. Many well-known institutes in the country offer postgraduate courses in IP Rights and Management, but the proposed course is very unique in all respects, Raj told BusinessLine.

Need for strong IPR system

IPRs assure monetary rewards for technological innovations along with accolades for the

creator of the IP. A larger cross-section of the scientific workers is not fully aware of the necessity of harnessing a strong IPR system to their best advantage, Raj added. IPR has not yet obtained required traction among science students in Kerala. There is a growing demand for IPR experts , and there are good career prospects for those opting IPR for higher education, he said.

Career prospects

“The recent past has witnessed a sharp rise in IPR litigations in the country and an exponential growth is predicted in respect of patent litigations,” Raj said. Filing of patent applications by Indians is also showing an uptrend. Despite this, we still starve for IPR Professionals, may it be patent agents/attorneys, IPR managers or academicians.

Multinational corporates offer remuneration of no less than \$5,000 (around Rs 2 lakh) for preparing a patent document. Even for a patent application from an Indian company, a skilled IP professional can demand service charges in tens of thousands of Indian rupees. But the required technical skills demand a very good science background and extensive training in addition to the knowledge of IPR laws, Raj says.

CSIR-NIScPR holds Workshop on Technology Readiness Level and its applications

CSIR-NIScPR, IIP

22nd June, 2022

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR), New Delhi organised a one-day "Workshop on Technology Readiness Level (TRL) and its applications for Technology Assessment" on 22nd June 2022. The workshop was organised by CSIR-NIScPR in association with IIT Madras, IIT Delhi, IIT Mumbai, IIT Roorkee, IIT Dhanbad, IIT Jammu, CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun, UNDP Accelerator Labs and TIFAC. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR in the presence of other dignitaries by lighting the lamp.

Dignitaries of the Workshop (Left) & Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director, CSIR-NIScPR addressing the audience

In her inaugural address, Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal stressed the need for assessing the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the research that is being carried out in various laboratories. Often there is a gap between technology developers and technology users. She explained the efforts made by CSIR-NIScPR in assessing the TRL of various technologies developed at various CSIR laboratories across the country.

The institute has so far prepared the assessment of 467 technologies having TRL 6 and above. Prof. Aggarwal mentioned that because of the initiatives of the Government of India, in recent times, there has been a paradigm shift in policy formation towards innovation. India sees the emergence of the 100th unicorn Today, 1 out of every 10 unicorns globally have been born in India. Since the launch of the Startup India initiative on 16th January 2016, more than 69,000 startups have been recognised in the country, out of which 100 are in the unicorn category. She remarked that science must be focused to serve society and assessing the TRL of technologies developed in our research institutions is important to achieve this.

Dr. Sujata Chaklanobis, Advisor/Scientist-G, Head (PACE, CRTDH & A2K+), DSIR, explained the need for assessment of the readiness level of technologies. The TRL is used to assign maturity levels of technology. She explained the importance of TRL by highlighting a case study on P&G. Studies for identifying technologies with TRL 6 and above was done by DSIR and these technologies have potential for commercialisation.

Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Former Director General, CSIR (Left) & Dr. Sujata Chaklanobis, Scientist-G, DSIR delivering their talks

The Chief guest, Dr. Shekhar C. Mande, Former-Secretary, DSIR and Former Director General, CSIR stressed that whatever research our labs are doing, everything should be evaluated by its TRL. Even though science and scientific discoveries are universal, their implementation is mostly local. He reminded the success of the milk powder production in the country. Even though different branches of science have different ways to assess the TRL, the basics remain the same. It is often observed that there is a gap in the assessment between fundamental science and engineering. If public aspirations must be met, the scientists and industrialists should work together.

Dr. Pramod P. Wangikar (IIT Bombay) delivering keynote address

Prof. Pramod P. Wangikar, Department of Chemical Engineering, IIT Bombay delivered the keynote address on "Research with higher TRL levels-How universities and institutes can contribute?" In his address, he explained the gap observed between government and universities and the private sector. He explained the steps that universities and institutes can take to achieve higher TRL levels in their research. He also explained the technology de-risking so that it's easier to commercialise the technologies and can be taken up at the university level. This will help the universities and institutes contribute to higher TLR level research. Technical sessions followed the inaugural session. The first technical session on "Strategies for TRL Scouting in select sectors" was chaired by Dr. Sujata Chaklanobis, Scientist-G, DSIR. Dr. Anjan Ray, Director, CSIR-IIP, Dehradun delivered the invited talk on "Adventures in Translational Research." He insisted on the study of Industrial psychology,

organisational behaviour, clinical research, market research, cash flow and other soft challenges. He further mentioned the idea of small startups which want to productise the concept, despite having a crunch of cash flow, and they may not necessarily focus on the end market, rather their motivation is on brand building and networking. Dr. Anjan highlighted the need for TRL self-auditing - key questions must be answered to move along the TRL lines and evidence of data for TRL self-assessment must be available

Speakers of Technical Session-1 & 2

The lecture was followed by a session on sharing of methodology and action plan by 6 PIs for carrying out their studies on "Techno-commercial assessment of TRL-6 and above technologies developed in India in academia, research labs and industry". Dr V.Rajkumar from IIT Jammu , Dr B R Basak, Scientist, TIFAC, Dr Ramesh Andnarbum, IIT Roorkee, Dr Manjusha, IIT Delhi, Mr C Sripati, ICCW, IIT Madras, and Dr Shashank Bansal from IIT Dhanbad shared their plan of action for translational research in specific areas and challenges they faced. The session concluded with the closing remarks by the chair Dr. Sujata Chaklanobis.

The second technical session on "Development of CSIR-NIScPR's TRL framework and its implementation" was chaired by Dr. Pramod P. Wangikar, Professor, IIT Bombay. Dr. Vipan Kumar, Senior Principal Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR and Dr. Sujit Bhattacharya, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR presented the initiatives taken by NIScPR in assessing the TRL of CSIR technologies. The technical session was followed by an interactive session and panel discussion on approaches towards scouting and assessment of TRL-6 and above technologies. Dr. Mrutunjay, Director-General -R&D, KIIT University & CEO, KIIT chaired the panel discussion. The workshop was attended by scientists, technology developers, industry experts, scholars, and officials from various R&D institutions, Government departments, Universities, and Industries.

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Pune: CSIR-NCL celebrates the International Day of Yoga

CSIR-NCL

22nd June, 2022

Pune, June 22, 2022: CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL), Pune, celebrated the 8th International day of Yoga on June 21, 2022. On the occasion, a Yoga workshop was organized in coordination with the chief guest Dr. D. Sathyanath, Senior Medical Officer, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune. The celebrations included programs spread across one month from May 5, 2022.



Preceding to the Yoga Day, the Institute organized Yoga practice sessions on May 17, May 23, and June 2. A series of programs was conducted during this period. It included common Yoga protocol practice, Yoga break practice, lectures on Yoga by the experts, Yoga workshops, etc.

Dr. Sathyanath, Senior Medical Officer, National Institute of Naturopathy, Pune, interacted with participants on 'Yoga and its benefits to the human being.' The participants were introduced to Cobra pose asana (Bhujangasana), Bridge pose asana (Setu Bandhasana), Tree pose asana (Vrikshasana), Locust asana (Salabhasana), Wind relieving asana (Pawanmuktasana), Half tortoise asana (Ardha-Kurmasana), Side plank asana (Vasisthasana), Corpse pose asana (Savasana), etc. as per the standard protocol issued by the Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India. He said that in Yoga or daily routine life, we should respect our body and mind. We should do Yoga regularly to maintain the balance in our everyday life, busy schedules, and studies. It brings together physical and mental disciplines to achieve a peaceful body and mind; it helps manage stress and anxiety and keeps you relaxing. It also helps increase flexibility, muscle strength, and body tone. It improves respiration, energy, and vitality.

Dr. Ashish Lele, Director, CSIR-NCL, addressed the gathering about Yoga and its benefits. He shared his thoughts on Yoga and quoted a sentence saying, “Yoga is an invaluable gift from our ancient tradition. Yoga embodies unity of mind and body, thought and actions.”

Earlier, Dr. Lele felicitated the chief guest Dr. Sathyanath by presenting him a Tree Pot. Later, Mrs. Pooja Raut gave away the concluding remarks.



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