

# CSIR IN MEDIA



सीएसआईआर

CSIR

भारत का नवाचार इंजन

*The Innovation Engine of India*

## NEWS BULLETIN

### 06 TO 10 MARCH 2024





## IIIM celebrates 'Purple Revolution' with farmers

CSIR-IIIM

10<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu celebrated the success of lavender cultivation, “Purple Revolution” with farmers in an impressive function held at Sports Stadium here today. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State and Vice President, CSIR was the chief guest of the event, and inaugurated a Startup Exhibition in presence of Dhanater Singh Kotwal, DDC Chairman Doda, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, Harvinder Singh, IAS Deputy Commissioner, Doda and Sangeeta Rani Bhagat, Vice Chairperson, DDC Doda.



The purpose of the event was to acknowledge and promote sustainable agriculture, particularly in the context of ‘Lavender Cultivation’. The occasion highlighted the positive impact of lavender cultivation on the local economy and agricultural landscape, symbolizing a significant step forward for farmers in Doda and nearby regions.

With over 900 farmers actively participating, the event showcased a Lavender Cultivation exhibition, Agri-start-ups stalls, and an exhibition of aroma value-added products. These activities not only provided a platform for economic diversification but also contributed to the awareness and knowledge enhancement of the farming community.

Dr. Jitendra Singh, while addressing a mammoth gathering of farmers, startups and entrepreneurs drawn from the Chenab Valley, emphasized the importance of making facilities available in far-flung areas similar to those found in smart cities. He stressed that a real democracy is where children from any part of the country can be uplifted, educated, and reach



higher levels, regardless of whether they are from a city or a village. Dr. Singh highlighted that since the arrival of the new government in 2014, numerous facilities have been extended to remote areas, promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities.

The event underscored the commitment of CSIR-IIIM towards playing a pivotal role in promoting sustainable agriculture and contributing to rural prosperity. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, earlier during his welcome address, highlighted the significant research contributions of CSIR-IIIM in the fields of cancer medicines, diabetes mellitus, Rheumatoid Arthritis and addressing liver ailments, along with research on various diseases. He also talked about two major societal initiatives, namely the “CSIR Aroma Mission” and “CSIR Floriculture Mission”, both operating under the dynamic mentorship of Union Minister, Dr. Jitendra Singh.

The event mainly highlighted the success of lavender cultivation with the farmers. Dr. Zabeer Ahmed extended his gratitude to Dr. Jitendra Singh for his efforts on behalf of the entire CSIR-IIIM team, and apprised him about the project CSIR-IIIM would be starting with National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for beautification of the Highway between Ramban and Banihal, and on the other side of Jawahar Tunnel by planting lavender at identified locations.

The positive influence of the event on economic development and agriculture was acknowledged, setting an example for future initiatives. The emphasis on eco-friendly farming practices and the Purple Revolution movement reflects a commitment to a sustainable agricultural future.



## Working silently in their labs, these women scientists are doing city proud

CSIR-CDRI, NBRI, CIMAP

09<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

Working silently in laboratories, focused on their research work and discoveries that can help save society and the planet Earth, these city-based scientists have brought international fame to the country in the field of science. Keeping a low profile, these women scientists, working in different CSIR and DST scientific institutes in Lucknow, have made a mark globally. On the International Women's Day TOI features a handful, but powerful women in science:

**Binita Phartiyal:** First Indian women scientist who was part of Indian scientific expeditions to Antarctica (2005-06) and Arctic (2008).

With a research experience of over 25 years in Earth Sciences, Binita Phartiyal is a senior scientist at Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow. “Be inclusive, break the glass ceiling, get rid of the sticky floors and sing of the aspirations and achievements of fellow women colleagues, and gender parity will soon be history. This approach will not only help in balancing personal and professional life, but it will also motivate other women,” said Binita. She added: “I will advise the same to the young girls what I have done in my life and career and that is to do what your heart says. Stay strong, face the world without losing your cool and you will be the winner.”

**Ritu Trivedi:** She is known globally for her work on bone disorders and drug development. She is behind the development of nano formulation from spinach for cartilage and joint health.

Ritu is a senior principal scientist of CSIR-CDRI and holds over 25 patents in her over two decades of research experience. “I got married at a young age of 24 which made me balance my personal and professional life,” Ritu said. She said a simple success mantra for every woman is that they should be ready for change. Parents should have confidence in their daughters. I have a daughter Ira and I always motivate her to be passionate about her work.”



A postdoc at National Institutes of Health-US in developmental biology, Ritu is known for her work in basic and translational research in metabolic bone disorders and drug development.

Mehar Hasan Asif: A fellow of the National Academy of Science in India Mehar was part of the development of Namoh 108, a rare lotus variety with 108 petals.

A senior principal scientist at CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow, Mehar holds more than 20 years of research experience in the field of molecular biology and computational biology, including two years of postdoctoral research experience at the University of Maryland, US. “I am a mother of two schoolkids. Balancing both personal and professional life is a little tricky, but having a supporting family and friends make life a lot better. My source of inspiration are the hundreds of women who have through the ages done what they were passionate about and at the same time raised a family too,” said Mehar. Mehar is known for her work in the area of fruit ripening, genomics and transcriptomics and metabolic pathways.

Puja Khare: Known globally for her research work in quality control of medicinal plants, Puja is a fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, London.

Holding over 21 years of experience in the field of research, Puja is the principal scientist at CSIR-CIMAP. “The success mantra for all women is to listen to your instinct, work hard and be yourself. Express yourself with your actions and nothing can stop you from growing,” she said.

Puja is an expert in quality control of medicinal herbs, particularly contaminants issues, recycling crop residue and utilization of distilled waste for soil fertility enhancement and immobilizing metals and pesticides.



## शहर में चमड़ा उद्योग से जुड़े 50 स्टार्टअप हो रहे तैयार; युवाओं ने लिया प्रशिक्षण

CSIR-CLRI

08<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

शहर में चमड़ा उद्योग से जुड़े 50 स्टार्टअप तैयार हो रहे हैं। इन स्टार्टअप पर काम करने वाले युवाओं को सीएलआरआई की ओर से प्रशिक्षण दिया गया। इस प्रशिक्षण के दौरान युवाओं को चमड़ा उत्पादों से जुड़ी विश्व बाजार की मांगों के बारे में बताया गया। प्रशिक्षण में उन्हें चर्म कारोबार का प्रबंधन करने के तरीके भी बताए गए।



केन्द्रीय चर्म अनुसंधान संस्थान की ओर से चमड़ा उद्योग से जुड़े युवाओं को बाजार की नई विधाओं के बारे में भी जानकारी दी गई। सीएलआई ऑडिटोरियम, केएलसी कॉम्प्लेक्स में हुए प्रशिक्षण में वरिष्ठ प्रधान वैज्ञानिक डॉ आर अरविंदन ने कहा कि नवाचार नए प्रयोग और नई तकनीक का मिश्रण है।

आज चर्म क्षेत्र में हरित तकनीकी विकल्प के रूप में मौजूद है। नवाचार में इस तकनीक का प्रयोग नए तरह के कारोबार को जन्म दे सकता है। उन्होंने कार्बन फुटप्रिंट और सर्कुलरिटी पर भी युवाओं को जानकारी दी। सीएलआई के क्षेत्रीय केंद्र प्रभारी वैज्ञानिक अभिनंदन कुमार ने युवाओं को वैश्विक बाजार में चर्म क्षेत्र में नए आविश्कारों के बारे में बताया।

उन्होंने कहा कि निर्यात में बढ़ोतरी के साथ ही वैश्विक बाजार में नए तरह के चमड़े, उत्पाद और डिजाइन की मांग बढ़ गई है। हालात यह है कि इस मांग के मुकाबले कारोबारी आपूर्ति नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। ऐसे में नवाचार के जरिए इस आपूर्ति चैन को बेहतर किया जा सकता है। वरिष्ठ तकनीकी अधिकारी नरेंद्र सिंह व तकनीक अधिकारी कुलदीप विश्वकर्मा ने युवाओं को कारोबार से जुड़ी नवीन तकनीक के बारे में जानकारी दी।

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[Amritvichar](http://Amritvichar)



## CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre signs License agreement with L & T Construction

CSIR-SERC

08<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

On the occasion of International Women's Day, a License Agreement was signed between CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC), Chennai and L & T Construction – Water & Effluent Treatment IC, Chennai, for transfer of technology titled “Textile Reinforced Concrete Prototyping Technology (TRCPT)”. The agreement was signed in the



presence of Dr. N. Anandavalli, Director, CSIR-SERC, Dr. K. Sathish Kumar, Chief Scientist and Head, Business, Knowledge Management & Development Division, CSIR-SERC, Dr. S. Parivallal, Advisor (Management), CSIR-SERC, Shri. Simeshwaran Pillai, Chief Engineering Manager, L&T and Ms. Dayana Rexaline M.R., Operations Head, L&T.

The technology was developed by Dr. (Mrs.) Smitha Gopinath, Principal Scientist, CSIR-SERC. Mrs. Sakthi Chitra, Chief Engineering Manager, signed the license agreement on behalf of L&T.

Textile reinforced concrete (TRC) is an upcoming non-conventional construction material consisting of fine-grained cementitious binder and non-metallic textile reinforcement. CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC) has developed textile-reinforced concrete prototyping technology (TRCPT), a precast technology to produce TRC components for which an Indian patent has been granted. TRCPT can serve as an effective indigenous technological solution to achieve economical mass production of TRC products.

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[Pib](#)



## Role of higher education in nation-building, scientific mindset in youth emphasised

CSIR-CFTRI

07<sup>th</sup> March, 2024

The CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute (CSIR-CFTRI) in Mysuru celebrated National Science Day recently.

It is celebrated in honour of Nobel laureate Sir C.V. Raman on February 28 every year to commemorate the discovery of Raman Effect by Sir C.V. Raman in 1928. This discovery earned him the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930, the institute said.

The theme of this year's National Science Day was "Indigenous Technologies for Viksit Bharat". The theme underscores the critical role Science and Technology plays in tackling global challenges and creating a more sustainable future for all. The theme focuses on areas like climate change, resource depletion, environmental degradation and sustainable development.

The event, was inaugurated by S.R. Niranjana, Vice-Chairman, Karnataka State Higher Education Council.

In his address on "Development of Science and Technology in India", Prof. Niranjana emphasised the indispensable role of higher education in the monumental task of nation-building. He underscored the need for harnessing indigenous technology development, especially in the face of global research challenges. He also touched upon various contributions of scientists and technologists in Indian science.

Prof. Niranjana also emphasised on the significance of creating a conducive environment for research, laying the foundation for trans-formative discoveries. He also expressed his appreciation to Sridevi Annapurna Singh, director, CSIR-CFTRI, and her team for organising the National Science Day 2024.



Dr. Singh, in her presidential address, underscored the importance of celebrating National Science Day and fostering a scientific mindset among the youth.

She provided a brief overview of CSIR-CFTRI's pioneering research, cutting-edge technology, and societal programs of national importance.

“The National Science Day celebration at CSIR-CFTRI served as a testament to the institute's unwavering commitment to scientific excellence, innovation, and societal advancement. Through collaborative efforts and groundbreaking research initiatives, CSIR-CFTRI continues to be a beacon of scientific progress, shaping a brighter and more sustainable future for generations to come,” she said.

The event was witnessed by more than 300 staff, students, and invitees, and also international delegates from Guyana.



## Empowering Heeng Cultivation in Kargil: A Workshop Organised by CSIR-IHBT, Palampur

CSIR-IHBT

07<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

On March 5-6, 2024, the CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT), Palampur, organized a two-day workshop and training program focused on “Heeng Cultivation in Kargil” as part of the “Unnat Bharat Abhiyan.” Ten forward-thinking farmers from Kargil, UT Ladakh, actively participated in this initiative.



Throughout the program, participants gained insights into the potential and opportunities of heeng cultivation in the Kargil region, including its climatic requirements, agricultural techniques, and the management of biotic and abiotic stresses, as well as the quality analysis of oleo-gum resin. Practical demonstrations were conducted covering nursery management, field plantation, and tissue culture techniques. Additionally, attendees were introduced to the Kisan Sabha Mobile app for smart farming and had the chance to explore the heeng germplasm resource center and seed production center within the institute premises. Dr. Sudesh Kumar Yadav, Director of CSIR-IHBT, Palampur, concluded the session by engaging with the farmers and gathering their feedback. He emphasized the pivotal role of biotechnological tools, such as plant tissue culture, in scaling up the propagation of planting material to ensure sustainable cultivation and production of heeng nationwide. Dr. Yadav motivated the farmers to adopt heeng cultivation practices sustainably on their unused land, highlighting its potential to positively impact the country's heeng production. Participation certificates were also distributed to the farmers as a token of appreciation for their involvement.

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[Himachalheadlines](https://www.himachalheadlines.com)



## CSIR-IIP hosts DRDO Scientists

CSIR-IIP

07<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

As a part of the Mandatory Specialized Training on Essential Management Skills (STEMS-21.3), around 40 Scientist G rank officials from different laboratories of DRDO visited CSIR-IIP on 6th March 2024. The Institute of Technology Management, Mussoorie – DRDO organized the visit. The objective of the visit was to provide the participants with valuable insights into the processes and innovative technologies involved in developing and refining petrochemical/chemical products.



Director CSIR-IIP, Dr H.S. Bisht, formally welcomed the participants and presented a brief overview of the Institute, covering its mandate and vision. Dr. Sanat Kumar, Head of Research Planning and Project Management, presented the past and present research initiatives undertaken by CSIR-IIP and highlighted various success stories of the Institute. The participants then visited the Advanced Gas Separation laboratory, Domestic Combustion Laboratory, Bio-Jet fuel pilot plant, and Waste plastics to fuel pilot plants. They interacted with the scientists and technical personnel. The participants felt overwhelmed and energized by the R&D initiatives being undertaken by CSIR-IIP in the direction of Photocatalytic pathways for developing chemicals, Hydrogen generation and storage, Vehicular emissions, and green technologies. The visit provided an idea of the Institute's progress in the energy sector. The Science Communication and Dissemination team of CSIR-IIP conducted the programme.

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## CSIR-NIIST transfers technology for bio tableware, plant leather

CSIR-NIIST

07<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

The CSIR-National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) on Thursday inked a pact with Tamil Nadu-based Aquagri Processing Pvt. Ltd. for transferring the technology it developed for manufacturing multi-use biodegradable tableware and plant leather from seaweed and chitosan. C. Anandharamakrishnan, Director, CSIR-NIIST, Thiruvananthapuram, and Tanmaye



Seth, Director, Aquagri Processing, exchanged the documents of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) at a function held on the institute campus at Pappanamcode, here.

Aquagri Processing, a venture in which the Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative (IFFCO) has a 50% stake, produces seaweed-based organic products for use in agriculture, animal husbandry, and food processing.

Dr. Anandharamakrishnan said the collaboration had brought together NIIST's expertise in developing cutting-edge technologies with Aquagri's experience in seaweed cultivation and processing, and IFFCO's extensive agricultural distribution and farmer connect.

### Better income for farmers

Noting that India's 8,100 km-long coastline has an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 2.17 million km<sup>2</sup> (equal to 66% of the total mainland area), he said nearly 30% of human population was in one way or the other dependent on the rich exploitable coastal and marine resources. According to him, utilisation of sea waste (seaweed and chitin) for the production



of multi-use biodegradable products and plant leather will help increase the income of farmers in rural coastal regions of the country through value addition and also reduce the biomass pollution in sea waste.

The technology was developed by the CSIR-NIIST team led by scientist Dr. Anjineyulu Kothakota. It is claimed to be ideal for replacing single-use plastics and lowering the carbon footprint.

Mr. Seth said the company would establish a pilot production facility in Manamadurai, Tamil Nadu, to manufacture leather alternatives (vegan leather), crafted from seaweed, chitosan, and carrageenan. This eco-friendly alternative offers a sustainable and ethical solution for the leather industry, he said.

Multi-use biodegradable tableware is made from the same sustainable seaweed-based materials and this innovative tableware provides a plastic-free and environmental-friendly option for consumers.



## CSIR-NIScPR organised "Phenome India" - A Unique Health Check-up Camp

CSIR-NIScPR, IGIB

07<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has initiated a unique health check-up camp called 'Phenome India' (PI-CHeCK) for the CSIR family. The key objectives of this initiative of CSIR are to ensure "Swasthya Bharat Viksir Bharat" through health and wellness check. CSIR is one of the largest research and development organisations of India and this is a network of 37 laboratories situated across the whole country.



National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) is one of the constituent laboratories of CSIR which organized the PI-CHeCK health check-up camp from 3 to 5 March 2024 at its Pusa Campus, New Delhi. A few glimpses of the Phenome India inauguration and Health Check-up Camp at CSIR-NIScPR

The health check-up camp was inaugurated by Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director of CSIR-NIScPR and Dr. Shantanu Sengupta, Chief Scientist of CSIR-IGIB. This pioneering initiative is dedicated to fostering holistic health within the CSIR family. The event was efficiently coordinated by Dr. Kanika Malik, Dr. Narendra Kumar Sahoo, Dr. Arvind Meena, Shri Narendra Pal and Shri Kailash Chandr Parewa. Notably, the PI-CHeCK health check-up camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from around 98 individuals within the institute.

Phenome India is not just a health check-up camp; it's a pioneering step towards understanding the unique health landscape of our nation. By gathering diverse data through



PI-CHeCK, CSIR aspires to pave the way for tailored healthcare solutions and contribute significantly to the advancement of medical knowledge.

Phenome India-CSIR Health Cohort Knowledgebase (PI-CHeCK) is the flagship project designed by CSIR to identify India-specific risk factors for cardio metabolic diseases. This ground-breaking study, conducted in collaboration with experts and participants from various CSIR labs across the nation, seeks to provide valuable scientific insights, marking a significant stride toward personalized and precision medicine.

PI-CHeCK is a long-term cohort study initiated by CSIR, aiming to encompass the diverse Indian population. With representation from labs across the country, this health cohort study will collect comprehensive data, including clinical questionnaires, lifestyle and dietary habits, body composition measurements, scanning-based assessments, blood biochemistry, and molecular assay-based data.

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) is dedicated to advancing science communication, evidence-based Science Technology and Innovation policy research and promoting scientific awareness among the public. Through innovative initiatives and collaborative efforts, CSIR-NIScPR strives to bridge the gap between the scientific community and the general public.



## CSIR-NIScPR Organized Workshops on how to communicate Science by using right S&T Terminology through Electronic and social media

CSIR-NIScPR

07<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) hosted an Orientation Workshops on 6 March 2024, empowering its Science Media Communication Cell (SMCC) with valuable insights from renowned experts. The workshops, held at CSIR-NIScPR, Pusa, New Delhi, aimed to nurture the SMCC with effective strategies to communicate science and technology (S&T) information of Indian science to society and public at large.



Dr. Ashok Selwatkar, Assistant Director at the Commission of Scientific and Technical Terminology (CSTT), shared his knowledge on the role of technical terminology in S&T dissemination. He also trained the workshop participants in the usage of the latest scientific and technical terminology of various scientific domains. Attendees gained an in-depth understanding of the importance of using technical terms in S&T communication to enhance the public awareness about the complex scientific concepts.

Ms. Priyanka Tiwari, Program Executive from the Science Cell, All India Radio (Delhi Station), shared her thoughts on how to effectively broadcast S&T achievements of Indian laboratories through Akashwani. Ms. Tiwari provided valuable insights into the techniques and methods involved in effectively communicating science on radio.

Shri Bharat Bhushan, Consultant at Doordarshan, delivered a presentation on innovative ways to disseminate science through social media. Shri Bhushan addressed the importance of using



AI for audio, visual, and content creation to increase social media engagement. Participants attained a clear understanding of the latest trends in social media and learnt how to effectively use them to promote S&T content.

Dr. Suman Ray, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR felicitated the experts. Dr. Manish Mohan Gore, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR and Principal Investigator, SMCC provided a brief outline about the objectives of SMCC, its key activities and purpose of the orientation workshop.

The workshop was attended by SMCC project staff and Ph.D. students seeking to enhance their knowledge of S&T dissemination. The government's focus has been on increasing public awareness and understanding of science and technology, and workshops like these play an important role in bridging the gap between science and society.

Shri Bharat Bhushan while delivering his talk at the Orientation workshop

The CSIR-NIScPR workshop provided a unique opportunity for experts from various media fields to come together and share their insights on disseminating S&T to the public. Participants are getting valuable insights and learning innovative techniques that can be used to communicate complex scientific concepts effectively.

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) is dedicated to advancing science communication, evidence-based S&T policy research and promoting scientific awareness among the public. Through innovative initiatives and collaborative efforts, CSIR-NIScPR strives to bridge the gap between the scientific community and the general public. Science Media Communication Cell (SMCC) is a recent initiative of CSIR-NIScPR to disseminate S&T achievements of Indian laboratories through various mass media and formats.

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## International Women's Day Celebrated At CSIR-IMMT

CSIR-IMMT

07<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

International Women's Day with a campaign theme, Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress, highlighting the need for a world where everyone is respected and valued was celebrated at CSIR –IMMT Bhubaneswar. Chief Guest, Utkal Ratna Samman Mrs. Jagi Mangat Panda, MD, OTV and Guest Of Honour Dr. Smita Mohanty, Director & Head, CIEPET: SARP inaugurated the celebration Shanti



Swaroop Bhatnagar Hall, of CSIR-IMMT in the presence of distinguished women professionals from the state faculty members and students. On this occasion, Dr. Ramanuj Narayan, Director of CSIR-IMMT conveyed his greetings to all the employs.

Speaking on this occasion Mrs. Jagi Mangat Panda, highlighted significant achievements such as the launch of Chandrayaan 3 and the role of women power and mind in this project. Emphasising on breaking stereotypes surrounding women in India, particularly citing the achievements of the “Rocket Women” and advocating for their recognition. In her speech she discussed on the recognition of India's deep history and culture, alongside the ongoing efforts to break stereotypes and promote gender equality, advocacy for women to take on decision-making roles, emphasizing that Women's Day should not be limited to a single day but celebrated daily. We should acknowledge women's qualities such as compassion and understanding of emotions, as well as the necessity of women's soft skills for overall development.

Dr. Smita Mohanty emphasized the need to break down barriers that hinder women's participation in entrepreneurship. These barriers could include societal norms, access to



funding, and cultural biases. She noted a shifting trend where women are increasingly participating in traditionally male-dominated fields such as bodybuilding and kusti (traditional Indian wrestling), signalling a broader cultural shift towards gender equality and inclusivity.

The involvement of women in physically demanding sports like bodybuilding and kusti not only challenges stereotypes but also promotes physical health, self-confidence, and empowerment among women, said Dr Mohanty

While Shri. H. K Tripathy, Scientist in-charge and Dr(Mrs) M.G.Sujana, Chief Scientist, organising secretary of the international women's day celebrations presided over the celebrations.

In this connection, several programmes were arranged for the students and staff of the institute and prizes were distributed to the winners. During the program, last one PhD awarded girl research scholar were felicitated along with RRL project school girl topper as a token of appreciation and encouragement.



## WARM-TH 2024 inaugurated at CSIR-IITR in Lucknow

CSIR-IITR, CDRI

06<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

Themed on a gender-equal world, free of bias, stereotypes, and discrimination while also being equitable, and inclusive is everyone's dream, a three-day conference on 'Women in Academia, Research and Management of Toxicology and Health-Wellness (WARM-TH 2024)' was inaugurated at CSIR-IITR here on Wednesday. The conference is being organized in collaboration with CSIR-Central Drug



Research Institute (CSIR-CDRI), King George Medical University (KGMU), National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Raebareli and Association of Food Scientists and Technologists of India (AFSTI) Lucknow Chapter.

The inaugural programme was graced by the presence of Pramoda Devi Wadyar, Maharani of Mysore, as the Chief Guest of the day. In her inaugural address, she congratulated CSIR – IITR on conceptualising such a conference and said that the theme areas chosen, i.e., health and wellness; gender-specific health management; opportunities and success stories are indeed very apt in the present times.

She also opined that the inherent resilience in women makes them empowered by birth allowing them to make ground breaking discoveries in all their endeavours. Recipient of the Nari Shakti Award given by the Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Guest of Honour, Krishna Yadav shared her thoughts on being a successful self-made entrepreneur. Coming from a very humble background fraught with struggles, Shri Krishna Pickles, her entrepreneurial venture, now employs nearly 200 individuals, she said.



Nandini Harinath, Deputy Director, ISTRAC-ISRO, Bengaluru and Guest of Honour, also addressed the gathering and released the curtain raiser of the International Hindi Conference to be organized by CSIR–IITR soon.

Sharing facts on the role of women in different ISRO Missions, she said that ISRO's women scientists have been critical decision makers in both Mangalyaan and Chandrayaan Missions.

Presiding over the function, Dr Radha Rangarajan, Director, CSIR-CDRI opined that while there are several success stories today of women scientists, entrepreneurs, and academicians as compared to a few decades ago, a lot still needs to be done to make the STEM ecosystem truly inclusive for women.

Citing the healthy gender equality of nearly 50 percent among the scientific workforce in the Scandinavian countries, Dr Radha said that mentoring first-time working women from traditional upbringing will go a long way in empowering them to turn into successful achievers.

The Day 1 of the conference was marked by keynote addresses from leading healthcare practitioners and the Academia Government Industry Leadership (AGILE) Conclave that highlighted the role of efficient government-academia-industry collaboration in ensuring successful technology development and deployment.



## CSIR-NIScPR hosted Expert Review Meeting on 'Millets for Sustainable Health in India'

CSIR-NIScPR

06<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) organised a landmark Expert Review Meeting in New Delhi yesterday under the project titled "Enhancing Nutritional Security and Sustainable Health through Millets in India: a Policy Perspective". The event brought together key experts from the millet industry, researchers, and policy domains to discuss the development of the millets value chain in India.



The session commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Naresh Kumar, Chief Scientist of CSIR-NIScPR, followed by a thought-provoking keynote speech on the "Development of Millets Value Chain in India: Perspectives and Way Forward" by Dr. Dayakar Rao B, Principal Scientist at ICAR-Indian Institute of Millets Research, Hyderabad.

Dr. Dayakar Rao highlighted a concerning trend in India, noting a 60% decline in millet cultivation since 1950. This decline, attributed to a lack of policy and market-driven demand, underscores the need for a millet revolution led by PM Modi. The neglect spanning six decades has resulted in imbalances in the millet supply chain, characterized by unorganized practices and farmer disinterest. Addressing this issue requires informed efforts to convey the significance of millets and stimulate both supply and demand.

The Expert Input section featured Dr. Alka Singh, a distinguished Professor and Principal Scientist from the Division of Agricultural Economics at ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute. Dr. Alka emphasizes the significant shift in our dietary habits before and after the



Green Revolution when our parents primarily consumed millet rotis. This traditional practice, deeply ingrained in our food system, has undergone behavioural changes over time. It is crucial to raise awareness among farmers and children about the relative profitability of these crops, as some millets are regionally specific and have not gained widespread popularity across the nation.

Dr. Mohammad Rais, Former Chief Scientist at CSIR-NIScPR, chaired the panel discussion and said, "In NIScPR, our focus extends beyond traditional crops. I propose the establishment of a dedicated board for millets to enhance coordination efforts and making a policy for millets. The promotion of millet consumption is of paramount importance, and it is crucial that people receive expert-led education on the subject."

Dr. Suman Ray, Principal Scientist & PI of the Millet project at CSIR-NIScPR, presented an overview of the project, setting the context for the diverse experiences of millet industry stakeholders and experts. The first-hand accounts from Ms. Shubhangi Singh (Founder, Ancient Golden Mill), Shri Rahul Dixit (CEO, Agro Shrey Global Impex Company), Ms. Palak Arora (Founder, SatGuru Superfoods), Ms. Debika Mukherji (Founder, Divavi-Gaon Ka Bazar), and Dr. Jyothi Lakshmi A, Sr. Principal Scientist, CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysuru (joined online) highlighted the challenges and successes within the millet industry.

Dr. Suman Ray proposed the vote of thanks, acknowledging the collaborative efforts that have the potential to shape policies fostering nutritional security and sustainable health through millets in India.

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) is one of the constituent laboratories of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India. It specializes in the fields of science communication; STI focused evidence-based policy research and studies. It publishes various journals, books, magazines, newsletters, and reports on science and



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## CSIR-Indian Institute of Petroleum signs MoU with UCOST to deploy the Pine Needles-based fuel-making technology in Champawat

CSIR-IIP

06<sup>th</sup> March , 2024

Under the directions and guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, an MoU was signed on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> March, between CSIR Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun and UCOST under the aegis of the "Adarsh Champawat" mission. On this occasion, Dr Harendra Singh Bisht, Director of the Indian Institute of Petroleum and Professor Durgesh Pant, Director General of UCOST, signed the MoU documents and inaugurated a



historic project on deploying the technology of making fuel from Pine Needles in Champawat.

Under this agreement, the CSIR - Indian Institute of Petroleum will implement two major technologies at the grassroots level in Champawat. The selected technologies include a briquetting unit with a capacity of 50 kg per hour based on Pine Needles and 500 units of Improved Cookstoves for rural households. An extended field trial study will be conducted regarding energy conservation and its environmental impact. The briquetting unit will be established in the Energy Park in Champawat as a part of the Women Empowerment initiative. The briquettes produced will be used as fuel in homes and local industries.

Dr Harendra Singh Bisht, Director of the CSIR - Indian Institute of Petroleum, said that the use and management of Pine Needles are necessary to reduce the instances of forest fires. The Pine Needle briquettes and pellets can replace coal and protect the environment. The briquettes can be used for domestic cooking and as direct or co-firing fuel in brick kilns and thermal power plants.



He also informed that the Indian Petroleum Institute had been rigorously working towards the utilization and value addition of Pine Needles and has developed an improved technology for briquetting of Pine Needles and an energy-efficient, low-cost, natural draft biomass cookstove. The biomass cookstove works with Pine Needles briquettes at an energy efficiency of 35% and reduces household pollution by 70%. In addition, the CSIR - Indian Institute of Petroleum is a laboratory designated to certify biomass pellets for use in thermal power plants. The laboratory has advanced facilities for the biomass characterisation and evaluation of biomass combustion equipment.

Professor Durgesh Pant said that under the direction and guidance of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, UCOST, as the nodal agency, has worked over the years to make Champawat an ideal district. He informed us that the Pine Needles collection, its value addition, and its supply to the industry offer good business opportunities for the rural people of Champawat. Moreover, with minor technical training on briquetting and quality control parameters, the rural people of Champawat can supply it to the industries and make it a regular source of income. Pine Needles briquetting can be converted into a full-time sector, providing regular employment opportunities, as there will be high demand for these briquettes in the future. Moreover, manufacturing and marketing of improved cookstoves will become an attractive option for the skilled and semi-skilled rural masses. He added that another CSIR laboratory, CSIR-CIMAP, Lucknow, is also doing excellent work in Champawat under the "Aroma Mission".

Mr Pankaj Arya, lead project Scientist, informed that the Indian Institute of Petroleum has been working on a science and technology-based model for sustainable development of Champawat district, with components of demonstration, implementation and skill development. He said that this project will give special attention to promoting rural entrepreneurship through training, skill development and market linkages. Additionally, more than 100 identified beneficiaries/stakeholders will be trained in the manufacturing, operating, and maintaining biomass briquetting and advanced combustion equipment, generating new employment opportunities in Champawat. Also, distance learning methods, workshops, and exhibitions will be organized to revive local women and youth's scientific temperament and



skill development. Ultimately, this project will help in energy conservation, employment generation, skill development, and women's empowerment in Champawat. On this occasion, Dr. Sanat Kumar, Dr G. D. Thakre from the Indian Institute of Petroleum, and Dr D. P. Uniyal, Mrs Poonam Gupta from UCOST were also present, who made essential contributions in designing the project and provided suggestions for its successful implementation.



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