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Purple Revolution: IIIM Jammu, local artisans promote lavender cultivation in Poonch for sustainable agriculture

CSIR-IIIM

25th March , 2024

In a pioneering effort to promote sustainable agriculture and economic growth, the Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine (IIIM) Jammu, in collaboration with local sericulturists and esteemed artisan Dr Rubia Bukhari, organized an enlightening Awareness Programme on Lavender Cultivation. The event saw the distribution of quality planting material of lavender among farmers in Mendhar Poonch.



The initiative garnered an overwhelming response from the community, with around 130-150 enthusiastic farmers participating. These individuals showed keen interest in venturing into lavender cultivation, recognizing its potential to revolutionize the agricultural landscape of the region. Over 1.5 lakh units of quality planting material of lavender were distributed among the farmers by Dr Siya Ram Meena, Senior Technical Officer at IIIM Jammu, Dr Rubia Bukhari, Dr Wajid Shah, Mr Akash Verma, Technical Assistant at IIIM Jammu, and Mr Vinod Phogat, Project Assistant at IIIM Jammu.

Dr Zabeer Ahmad, Director of IIIM Jammu, and Suphla Gupta, Senior Principal Scientist and Nodal Aroma Mission, conveyed their heartfelt congratulations to the people of Poonch for their enthusiastic response towards lavender cultivation. Dr Ahmad expressed delight at the overwhelming support from the community, highlighting the importance of promoting local agricultural initiatives and the transformative potential of lavender cultivation in fostering sustainable development.

The programme, led by Dr Siya Ram Meena, commenced with informative discussions on lavender cultivation techniques. Dr. Meena provided valuable insights into soil preparation, irrigation methods, pest management, and harvesting techniques tailored to the unique climatic conditions of Mendhar Poonch. His comprehensive guidance equipped the farmers with practical knowledge and instilled confidence in them to embark on their lavender cultivation journey.

Dr Rubia Bukhari, a renowned sericulturist and founder of the Dr Rubia Bukhari Cocoon Artistry Initiative, expressed gratitude to IIIM Jammu for selecting Poonch as the focal point of the lavender cultivation initiative. She highlighted the region's potential for success in lavender cultivation, envisioning Poonch as the future hub of the "purple revolution," akin to Bhaderwah.

Dr Wajid Shah hailed the event as the beginning of a new era for Poonch district, foreseeing a prosperous future through lavender cultivation. Special appreciation was extended to Mr. Touqeer Bagban, Managing Director of JK Aroma, for his unwavering support throughout the initiative.

Farmers expressed gratitude to IIIM Jammu and Dr Rubia Bukhari for spearheading the transformative initiative. Their collective enthusiasm and commitment augur well for the success of lavender cultivation, marking a historic milestone in the region's agricultural journey.

As the event concluded, optimism filled the air, setting the stage for a flourishing future where the tranquil hues and fragrant scents of lavender adorn the landscape of Mendhar Poonch.

International Women's Day celebrated at CSIR-SERC and CSIR-CMC

CSIR-SERC, CEERI

25th March , 2024

International Women's Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm at the CSIR-Structural Engineering Research Centre (CSIR-SERC) and CSIR Madras Complex (CMC), Chennai, on 25 March 2024. This year's theme for International Women's Day 2024 is Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress.

Smt. Brindha Srinivasan, Assistant News Editor, Hindu Tamil Thisai, was the chief guest of the function. Smt. Porkodi, Writer, Novelist, & Cine Dialogue Writer, was the guest of honor. Dr. N. Anandavalli, Director, CSIR-SERC and Coordinating Director, CMC, welcomed the gathering. In her opening remarks, she said that Women's Day is celebrated to recognize the contributions of women and to create awareness on gender equality. Speaking on this year's theme, she said that it is critical to invest in and empower women for the betterment of society and the nation. She spoke on the inexplicable gap between education and workforce participation and pointed out that women who study STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are less likely to enter into STEM careers.

Smt. M. Vijayalakshmi, Senior Stenographer, CSIR-SERC, introduced the guest of honor to the audience. In her International Women's Day Lecture, Smt. Porkodi called upon women to respect and value themselves, win over challenges, focus on their strengths, and not compromise on their aims and objectives. She also said that it is important to identify our unique talents, cultivate skills, align our careers with our passions, and make a positive impact on the world.

Dr. A. Hepsiba Kiranmayee, Principal Scientist, CSIR-CEERI unit, introduced the chief guest to the audience. Smt. Brindha Srinivasan, in her International Women's Day lecture, spoke on the societal pressure, restrictions, and limitations women face in their everyday lives and the societal mindset that treats women and men very differently. She spoke on the struggles and

contributions of Savitribai Phule (one of the first female teachers in India and social reformer), Kamala Sohoni (a biochemist who became the first Indian woman to receive a PhD in a scientific discipline), Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy (the first female student to be admitted into a men's college, the first woman house surgeon in the Government Maternity and Ophthalmic Hospital, the first woman legislator in British India, etc.), Moovalur Ramamirtham (social reformer who fought for the abolition of Devadasi system) - who fought extensively to break many societal barriers that existed for generations and laid the road for women empowerment. She called upon all women to utilize the opportunities available today to prove themselves and to live for themselves. She also pointed out that mutual respect between men and women is essential to ensure gender equality and that it is necessary to teach to respect women from the family.

A report on the Women's Day Celebration at the campus was given by Ms. Renuka Darshyamkar, Scientist, CSIR-SERC. Earlier, various team games (Musical Run, One Minute Games, and Rangoli) were organized on the eve of International Women's Day 2024 at the CSIR campus during 6-7 Mar 2024. A large number of women actively took part in the games. Videos by male staff members of the campus who spoke about the women who inspired them were also played as a part of the program. It was followed by a cultural programme and prize distribution for the winners of the team games. Dr. Mymoon Moghul, Senior Technical Officer, CSIR-SERC, proposed a vote of thanks.



Published in:

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CSIR- NIIST Conducts Biomedical Waste Management Conclave on March 26

CSIR-NIIST

25th March, 2024

CSIR-National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), a constituent laboratory under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India, will conduct a one-day Biomedical Waste Management Conclave and Stakeholders Meet on 26 March, 2024.

The conclave will start at 10.00 am in Bhattnagar Auditorium at CSIR-NIIST campus located at Pappanamcode, Thiruvananthapuram. The conclave has been envisioned to address the challenges associated with scientific management of biomedical waste and discuss new avenues in proper and safe disposal of pathogenic waste.

The inaugural session of the conclave will be presided over by Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Hon'ble Secretary, DSIR and Director General, CSIR. The eminent guests participating in the Conclave include Dr. M Srinivas, Director, AIIMS New Delhi, Dr. Sanjay Behari, Director, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Sreekala S., Chairperson, Kerala State Pollution Control Board, Dr. Joseph Benavan, State President, Indian Medical Association, Dr. Pragya Yadav, Director-in-Charge, ICMR-NIOH and Head, BSL 4 Facility, National Institute for Virology, Pune, M. S. Faisal Khan, Managing Director, NIMS Medicity, Thiruvananthapuram and J. Chandrababu, Regional Director, Central Pollution Control Board, Bengaluru.

Published in:

[Newsexperts](https://www.newsexperts.com)

Ayodhya Ram Mandir: CSIR prepares special Gulal for Ram Lalla this Holi

CSIR-NIIST

25th March , 2024

Ram Lalla will enjoy this year's Holi with skin-friendly gulal. A team of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI) has prepared special gulal for the occasion. According to a report in news agency PTI, Gulal made from Kachnar flowers will be put on Ram Lalla at his new temple in Ayodhya. The report quotes officials. "The scientists have prepared another herbal gulal from the flowers offered at Gorakhnath Temple in Gorakhpur and are available in lavender and sandalwood fragrances," an official told PTI. Ajit Kumar Shasany, Director of CSIR-NBRI presented both the herbal Holi colours to Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Wednesday.

Why Kachnar flowers

Devotees believe that Kachnar was Ayodhya's "state tree" in Treta Yuga. "Kachnar was considered the state tree of Ayodhya in Tretayuga and it is used as a medicine in Ayurveda. It has anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial and anti-fungal properties," he said.

"These herbal colours have been tested and are completely safe for human skin and are eco-friendly," he added. The appearance of these colours is not bright as they do not contain harmful chemicals like lead chromium and nickel, the director said.

"The colours extracted from flowers are mixed with natural ingredients to form a powder that can be easily wiped off the skin," he explained. CSIR-NIIST, VSSC ink MoU for research on materials for space programme The CSIR - National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (CSIR-NIIST) has entered into a collaboration with the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) to scale up research and delivery of strategically advanced materials for India's space programme.

Airbus and SDC Foundation Launched Plastic Bank In Dehradun

CSIR-IIP

23rd March , 2024

Dehradun-based Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation launched its revolutionary Plastic Bank Project. With a fervent spirit and unwavering determination, they rallied government officials, educators, businesses, and citizens alike to join forces in a noble endeavor to combat plastic Pollution in the city.



Supported by the renowned aerospace giant, Airbus, under their Corporate Social Responsibility mandate, the Plastic Bank Project set out to redefine the narrative surrounding plastic waste. With a strategic approach, SDC Foundation orchestrated the creation of Plastic Banks across schools, colleges, hostels, government offices, and more, spreading like wildfire throughout Dehradun.

The mission was clear: empower communities to embrace the principles of reduce, reuse, and recycle while instilling a sense of responsibility towards our planet. Through a series of capacity-building workshops and awareness programs, the collective mindset shifted towards a sustainable future, one plastic bank at a time.

As the Plastic Banks flourished, so did the spirit of collaboration and innovation. Dr. Harendra Bisht, Director of CSIR-IIP, shed light on the transformative potential of plastic waste, igniting a spark of optimism among participants. Gaurav Kumar, Commissioner Nagar Nigam Dehradun, rallied citizens to action, emphasizing the urgent need for collective effort in waste segregation.

The ripple effect of the Plastic Bank Project extended far beyond Dehradun, resonating with leaders and environmentalists across the Himalayan region.

Chandan Singh Rawat of the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board echoed the sentiment, advocating for the expansion of the initiative to other cities and towns.

Amidst accolades and recognition for exemplary contributions, the Plastic Bank Project emerged as a beacon of inspiration for communities far and wide. From Swami Rama Himalayan University to local businesses and schools, each participant played a pivotal role in the journey towards a cleaner, greener future.

Anoop Nautiyal, the visionary founder of SDC Foundation, expressed gratitude for the partnership with Airbus and reaffirmed the commitment to scientific recycling and circularity.

With unwavering dedication, the Plastic Bank Project not only tackled plastic pollution but also alleviated the burden on waste collection centers, paving the way for a more sustainable tomorrow.

As the sun set over the Himalayas, a new chapter began, with other states in the region eagerly embracing the Plastic Bank Project.

Driven by a shared vision of environmental stewardship, the journey towards a plastic-free future had only just begun, united by the belief that together, we can make a difference.

SDRC holds awareness on new SFURTI cluster

CSIR-IHBT

23rd March , 2024

Sustainable Development Research Centre (SDRC) organised an awareness and motivation programme on March 22 at Bundrock auditorium of Patkai Christian College, Chümoukedima. An update from SDRC informed that the programme was organised to create awareness about the new Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) cluster and motivate



stakeholders to actively engage in the development of the Nagaland shiitake mushroom and other food processing cluster, which are currently being implemented by SDRC in collaboration with CSIR-Institute of Himalayan Bioresource Technology (CSIR-IHBT) as the technical agency and Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) as the nodal agency.

Addressing the beneficiaries, Dr. Mechüselie Kehie, chairman and director of SDRC, highlighted the various facets of SFURTI cluster implementation, ranging from infrastructure development to skill enhancement and market linkage facilitation. He informed that as part of the SFURTI initiatives, a common facility centre would be set up at Seithekema under Chümoukedima district, which would serve as a hub for shiitake spawn production, processing, packaging and value addition of mushroom, fruits and vegetables.

He further stressed that after the functionalisation of the cluster, the implementing agency would hand over the cluster to the special purpose vehicle (Nagaland SFURTI Cluster Shiitake Agri and Allied Cooperative Society Ltd.) as per SFURTI guidelines.

During the session, Mikato Shohe, CEO of Fruit Tales, shared his remarkable journey and

offered motivating insights to aspiring entrepreneurs. Shohe addressed the audience by recounting his humble beginnings in the food-processing sector during the COVID-19 pandemic and how with unwavering determination, he transformed a cottage-based startup into a thriving enterprise.

With consumer preferences evolving and demand for healthy and convenient food options on the rise, he urged the aspiring individuals to capitalise on the resources available and innovate relentlessly.

The event was chaired by Lohrű Soruna and an opening prayer was said by Rev. Dr. Vichűkho Ngukha. The welcome address was delivered by Virűűzo Meyase and Neisano Chase gave the closing remarks.

Altogether, 83 participants from various project villages under Chűmoukedima district attended the programme.

Guyanese delegates learn rice milling tech at CFTRI Mysuru

CSIR-CFTRI

22nd March , 2024

CSIR-CFTRI successfully organised the training programme on “Rice Milling and Value Addition to Rice” for the Guyanese delegation under the Indian Technical and Economic Co-operation (ITEC) programme sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India during February 27 to March 18.

India has a long tradition of sharing knowledge and in 1964 it formally launched the ITEC programme which is the flagship programme for capacity building of our partner countries. Through this, India, with a sense of solidarity, would share her experiences of learning with other developing nations, building partnerships to fight poverty and backwardness and thus progress together. Building on India’s vast and rich network of governance and development related expertise available in higher educational institutions and training facilities, ITEC offers nearly 10,000 fully-funded in-person training opportunities through nearly 400 courses offered at 100+ eminent institutes in India each year along with a chance to experience the culture and hospitality of India, a press release said here.

A total of 29 Guyanese delegates attended the training programme. The course had representations from Guyana School of Agriculture, University of Guyana, Institute of Applied Science and Technology, Guyana Food Safety Authority, Guyana Marketing Cooperation, Banks DIH LTD, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Local Government and Regional Development, Ministry of Agriculture and its allied departments/Institutes etc.

As the course is based on rice – one among the three major cereals (wheat and maize are the others), it has been termed internationally as the grain of life because it is supposed to be supported as a stable and sustainable food for half of the world’s population. From the paddy to the customer, rice is always preferred in a whole grain form and broken grains reduce the economic value. About 90% of the rice in the world is grown in South-East Asia and Southern

Asia. India is contributing 35-40% of total rice trade in the past few years.

The three-week training programme consists of lectures on topics such as Grain Processing — an Overview, Production and Agronomy, Rice milling; Packaging of rice and rice products; Drying of paddy; Aging of rice, and others.

In addition to the in-campus training and multiple visits to various industries who are pioneered in rice processing, visits to cultural and heritage places in and around Mysuru were also arranged in connection with the ITEC programme.

At the valedictory of the programme, D. Sridevi Annapurna Singh, Director, CSIR-CFTRI explained about the major research works of the Institute on rice including parboiling, machine prototypes, fortification etc.

UPSIFS & CSIR-IITR join hands for cooperation in educational activities

CSIR-IITR

22nd March , 2024

The Uttar Pradesh State Institute of Forensic Sciences (UPSIFS) and CSIR-Indian Institute of Toxicology Research signed an MoU on Friday to collaborate on educational activities, training, and capacity building for professionals. This partnership also involves the exchange of faculties and subject experts, as well as research collaboration in domains of mutual interest.

Speaking on the occasion, UPSIFS Director and senior IPS officer Dr. G K Goswami stated that “this association with the IITR, which is a prestigious academic and research organisation, will surely leapfrog the city and state in identifying and developing emerging technologies in critical areas like toxicology, safeguarding health and environment, S&T aspects of crime investigations, forensics, etc.”

He added that the UPSIFS and CSIR-IITR have a joint vision that aims to provide quality education and training to professionals, including judicial and police officers, forensic experts, and mass media.

Dr. Bhaskar Narayan, Director, CSIR-IITR, was optimistic about this partnership. He expressed hope for significant outcomes from this MoU, emphasising CSIR’s focus on “Skill India initiatives and several academic and industry-oriented programmes that aim to enhance capacity building and provide high-quality trained manpower for immediate deployment across diverse public and private sector entities”.

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[Thestatesman](https://www.thestatesman.com)

How Mint Plants Adapt Their Roots to Flooded Conditions

CSIR-CIMAP

22nd March , 2024

Waterlogging presents a significant challenge for agriculture, particularly in low-lying, rainfed regions where excess water can severely impact plant growth and crop yields. This phenomenon affects a range of crops, including economically important ones like soybeans and cucumbers. Researchers from the Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CSIR-CIMAP) have recently shed light on how certain plants adapt to these stressful conditions, focusing on *Mentha arvensis*, commonly known as wild mint^[1].

Mentha arvensis has demonstrated a remarkable ability to cope with waterlogged soils by developing adventitious roots (ARs). These roots, which form from non-root tissues, help the plant to survive by improving water and nutrient uptake when the main root system is compromised. The recent study aimed to delve deeper into this adaptive mechanism by analyzing the changes in gene expression that occur during AR development in response to waterlogging.

The study found that when *Mentha arvensis* is subjected to waterlogged conditions, its ARs exhibit increased levels of total carbohydrates and proteins, as well as a heightened activity of antioxidants such as catalase (CAT) and superoxide dismutase (SOD). These biochemical parameters are crucial for the plant's survival under stress, as they help to counteract the damaging effects of reactive oxygen species (ROS), which can accumulate in plants under waterlogged conditions.

To understand the genetic basis of these physiological changes, the researchers performed transcriptome analysis, comparing the gene expression in the ARs induced by waterlogging to that in the control taproots. They identified differentially expressed genes (DEGs) that were grouped into four functional categories: carbohydrate metabolism, antioxidant activity, hormonal regulation, and transcription factors. This categorization suggests that these

processes play a vital role in the development of ARs and the plant's response to waterlogging stress. The findings from the CSIR-CIMAP study are in line with previous research that has explored the effects of waterlogging on other crops. For instance, a study on soybean varieties revealed that waterlogging stress increases antioxidant enzyme activity and that treatment with uniconazole, a plant growth regulator, can mitigate some of the adverse effects by enhancing the plant's antioxidant defense mechanisms[2]. Similarly, research on cucumber demonstrated that the production of ARs in response to waterlogging is regulated by the interaction between sugars and the plant hormone auxin, with light also playing a significant role[3]. Another study on cucumber highlighted the involvement of hormones like ethylene and auxin, as well as ROS, in the regulation of AR formation under waterlogged conditions[4].

The current study expands on these earlier findings by providing a more detailed genetic perspective on how ARs develop in response to waterlogging. The identification of thirty-five transcripts that were upregulated or uniquely expressed in the ARs not only contributes to our understanding of the adaptive mechanisms of *Mentha arvensis* but also offers potential targets for enhancing waterlogging tolerance in other crops. By validating the differential expression of these genes through qRT-PCR, the researchers have laid the groundwork for future functional characterization, which could lead to the development of more resilient plant varieties.

In conclusion, the study from CSIR-CIMAP offers valuable insights into the genetic changes that enable *Mentha arvensis* to thrive in waterlogged environments. By unveiling the specific genes and pathways involved in AR development, this research not only advances our knowledge of plant adaptation and survival but also has implications for agricultural practices and crop improvement strategies in areas prone to waterlogging.

Siddhartha College hosts meet on nanotechnology

CSIR-NCL

21st March , 2024

Undetectable by the human eye, nanoparticles range between 1 to 100 nanometres in size.

Nanoparticles can exhibit significantly different physical and chemical properties to their larger material counterparts, said B.L.V. Prasad, Director, Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences and Senior Principal Scientist at National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL).



Speaking at a workshop on 'Physics, Chemistry and Material Sciences- Emerging Trends' organised by the Department of Physics in Siddhartha College of Arts and Science on Wednesday, he spoke at length on how a nanoparticle is synthesised, its benefits and how it changes the environment.

Director of International Advanced Research Centre on Powder Metallurgy and New Materials (ARCI), Hyderabad, Tata Narasinga Rao explained how the size of a battery can be shrunk with the help of nanoparticles and their conversion into supercapacitors.

Chief Scientist S. Gopinath, college principal M. Ramesh, Dean J. Rajesh, and V. Baburao from Siddhartha Academy spoke.

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[The Hindu](https://www.thehindu.com)

National Conference On 'Recent Advances In Material Science (RAMS)' Hosted At Dharanidhar University's South Campus In Keonjhar

CSIR-IMMT, NML

21st March , 2024

A two-days' national conference on the theme "Recent Advances in Material Science (RAMS)" was recently held at the South Campus of Dharanidhar University, Keonjhar. Organised by the Department of Chemistry of the University, the conference was aimed at bringing together academia and industry on one platform in order to envision models of sustainable development by harnessing the powers of materials. The event was held on 15 and 16 March 2024 and witnessed the participation of eminent scholars of the field.



The inaugural session of the conference had as its chief guest, former Chief Scientist of CSIR-IMMT Bhubaneswar, Dr S.K. Biswal. Renowned scientist, Dr SC khattoi was the guest of honour of the occasion. Underscoring the significance of the academic gathering, the guests lauded the University for conceptualizing and organising a conference of this kind. The Vice Chancellor of the University, Professor Pratap Kumar Mohanty and Chairman PG Council, Professor Satyabrata Mishra were among the other dignitaries on the dais.

Several experts from the field, such as Professor Dipankar Chattopadhyay of University of Calcutta, Dr. Trilochan Mishra, Chief Scientist of CSIR-NML, Jamshedpur, Professor Debabrata Pradhan of IIT Kharagpur, Dr Gokarneswar Sahoo of NIT Rourkela, Dr KSK Varadwaj of Ravenshaw University, Dr Bikash Kumar Jena of CSIR-IMMT, Bhubaneswar and Dr Avijit Mandal of Presidency University, spoke on a range of topics connected to the theme of the conference. The speakers specifically stressed on the need to explore the sustainable materials that ensure technological progress without harming the environment.

Dr. Ramanuj Narayan (Director, CSIR-IMMT Bhubaneswar), the chief guest of the valedictory session enthused the scholarly gathering by urging upon students and researchers to extensively study the untapped potential of Keonjhar. He also declared that an MoU would be signed between CSIR-IMMT and Dharanidhar University, which would contribute to research on the region and also pave the way for substantial development. Convenor of the event, Dr Sridhar Sanyasi read out a report highlighting key outcomes of the conference. While the Vice Chancellor of the University presided over the meeting, Dr Bhabani Shankar Jena (retd. Chief Scientist, CSIR-IMMT), Sri Narendra Kumar Sahoo (Registrar, Dharanidhar University) shared the stage with him. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by co-convenor of the conference, Dr Y N Singhbabu. Among others present were Dr P.C. Pal (Org. Secy. and HoD, Chemistry), Dr. Anupama Dash (Jt Secy. Cum Treasurer), Dr Debasish Grahacharya (Co-convenor), Dr. Bandita Swain, Dr Preeti Manjari Mishra, Dr Priyadarshini Nayak, Sudhansu K Giri and Chandan Ray who coordinated the meeting.

DG CSIR visited CSIR-NIScPR, inaugurated newly constructed Main Gate of Institute and Chaired SVASTIK Monitoring Committee Meeting

CSIR-NIScPR

21st March , 2024

The CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (NIScPR) celebrated a significant milestone with the inauguration of its Main Gate at its Pusa Campus on March 21st, 2024. Dr. N. Kalaiselvi, Director General of CSIR and Secretary of DSIR inaugurated the ceremony.



Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal, Director of CSIR-NIScPR, delivered the welcome address. Dr. Kalaiselvi, DG CSIR, said, “CSIR-NIScPR is fostering connectivity among all labs, spearheading the efforts of its Science Media Communication Cell (SMCC). S&T column will now be prominently featured in the 'Employment News' publication of Ministry of I&B.”

Dr. Kalaiselvi added, “Utilizing a comprehensive array of tools and cutting-edge data technologies, CSIR-NIScPR is poised to develop innovative software solutions or transformative tools, facilitating efficient communication and collaboration across scientific domains while advancing research dissemination and outreach efforts.”

Dr. Kalaiselvi later visited the SVASTIK Exhibition and chaired the Monitoring Committee Meeting. The event underscored CSIR-NIScPR's unwavering commitment to science communication. CSIR-NIScPR is a premier institute under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), specializing in science communication and evidence-based Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) policy research. It was established in 2021 with the merger of CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Information Resources (NISCAIR) and CSIR-National Institute of Science, Technology and Development Studies

(CSIR-NISTADS). CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR) hosted the monitoring committee for communicating India's scientifically validated traditional knowledge to the society branded as SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge) on March 21st, 2024, at 3:00 pm. The meeting was chaired by Dr. (Mrs.) N. Kalaiselvi, Director General, CSIR & Secretary DSIR. Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal Director, CSIR-NIScPR, welcomed the experts and delivered her introductory remarks on SVASTIK activities. Eminent experts, including Dr. A. Raghu (Deputy Director General Health Services, Ministry of AYUSH), Dr. Subhasis Chaudhari (Director, IIT Bombay), Dr. Anita Aggarwal (Head SEED and State S&T Programme, DST), Dr. Anil Kumar (ADG, Coordination ICAR) attended the meeting.

Coordinator SVASTIK Dr. Charu Lata, gave a detailed update on SVASTIK activities and its digital footprint through her presentation. During the meeting, the second volume of the book SVASTIK Stories: Indian Traditional Knowledge through the Lens of Science, and a special issue of the Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge on Communication & Dissemination of Traditional Knowledge were released. Members of the monitoring committee appreciated the initiatives and suggested measures for communicating and disseminating Indian traditional knowledge across various domains. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Paramananda Barman, Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR.

CSIR-IIIM Jammu concludes skilling programs on industrial microbiology, cloning

CSIR-IIIM

21st March , 2024

The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu successfully concluded two skilling programs "Industrial Microbiology" and "Cloning and Protein Expression", each spanning three days, with participation from across India. Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM, graced the valedictory ceremony as the chief guest, extending congratulations to the participants for their successful



completion of the training programs. He commended their dedication and emphasized the significance of such workshops in providing practical, job-oriented training while fostering scientific curiosity among participants. Dr Ahmed highlighted the role of these workshops in promoting research careers among young students, aligning with the objectives of Viksit Bharat.

Fifty participants from various parts of India, including Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Gujarat, Bihar, Goa, Ladakh, and the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, attended the training programs.

During the "Cloning and Protein Expression" session, participants received hands-on training and theoretical insights from eminent scientists. Practical sessions covered essential microbiological techniques, including genomic DNA and plasmid isolation, PCR runs, double digestion, ligation, transformation, and protein expression. Dr Sumit G Gandhi and Dr Kuljit Singh led lectures and practical sessions, imparting knowledge on gene cloning, protein expression, and laboratory techniques.

In the "Industrial Microbiology" program, participants learned about microorganism isolation, characterization, and preservation, as well as recombinant technology and its industrial applications. Dr Sundeep Jaglan, Dr Meenu Katoch, Dr Asha Chaubey, Dr Vinod Kumar and Dr Kanhaiya Kumar conducted lectures and practical sessions on fermentation media, reactor types, and industrial enzymes.

Additionally, Dr Rashmi Sharma and Dr Saurabh Saran shared insights on biosafety levels, drug discovery principles, and startup ecosystems, enriching the participants' understanding of industrial practices and technology innovation.

The valedictory session, led by Ms Arushe Tickoo, featured Dr Nasir ul Rasheed delivering a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all involved in organizing the successful training programs.

The training programs received patronage from Dr Zabeer Ahmed and were conducted under the supervision of Er Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist, and Head of RMBD & IST Division at CSIR-IIIM.

JNC conducts national seminar

CSIR-NEIST

21st March, 2024

The Chemistry department of J.N. College here in collaboration with Dhemaji College (in Assam), organized a national seminar on “Recent Developments in Medicinal Chemistry and Catalysis” on blended mode on Tuesday. It was sponsored by the higher and technical education department, GoAP.

Participating in the seminar, prof. Diganta Sarma from Dibrugarh University shared profound insights of the advancements in medicinal chemistry and catalysis.

Other invited speakers included Dr. Bolin Chetia from Dibrugarh University, Dr. Chandan Tamuly, senior principal scientist at CSIR-NEIST, Itanagar branch and Dr. Dwipen Kakati from Rajiv Gandhi University.

The scholars and researchers from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Gujarat presented 62 papers during the seminar. (DIPRO)

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