

**National Seminar on “Traditional Knowledge & Biotechnology”
22 – 24 Nov. 2013**

School of Studies in Biotechnology has organized three days national seminar from 22nd to 24th Nov 2013; on ‘Traditional Knowledge & Biotechnology’; as a part of the Golden Jubilee celebrations of our University. Apart from university, University Grants Commission, New Delhi was the major sponsor on the seminar. The seminar was enlightened by the presence of more than fifty scientists from different parts of the country. The inaugural session was presided over by Honorable Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof SK Pandey. Chief Guest of the program- Prof GB Gupta, Vice-chancellor of AYUSH University has mentioned the necessity of medical validation of ethno medicines, particularly used by the Chhattisgarh tribe. On this occasion Convener- Prof SK Jadhav has mentioned the relevance of the subject- the sustainable use of medicinal plants, their conservation, tribal medicines and also the development of environment friendly alternate sources of energy especially the bio-fuels are the need of hour. Eminent microbiologist Prof C Manoharachari from Osmania University, Hyderabad has also quoted in his Key-note address that that the validation of our medicinal plants is must and then it should be patented. Otherwise developed countries will do that, for example neem, haldi, gau-mootra

etc. He has also added that the value addition and formulation of finished products from medicinal plants is must for India. In this aspect we are lagging far behind from China, who captured the much bigger world market than us; despite that we have much bigger diversity of medicinal and aromatic plants than China.

The seminar was enriched by the invited lectures of eminent scientists of all over the country- Prof BR Kaushal, Kumaun University, Nainital; Prof SK Sahu, Sambalpur University, Odisha; Prof MP Thakur, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Rajnandgaon; Prof TR Sahu, Sagar University; Prof AK Pande, MP Private Univ. Regulatory Commission, Bhopal; Shri K Subramaniam, IFS, Chairmen VYAPAM, Raipur; Prof BN Tiwari, Guru Ghasidas University, Bilaspur; Prof SB Verulkar, Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Raipur etc. The conference was divided into 10 technical sessions related to different aspects like- Alternate Source of Energy, Biodiversity conservation, Bioremediation, Ethno medicines, Medicinal plants- propagation & exploitation, Microbes in biotechnology and a free session as well. In these sessions total 52 research papers of quality have been presented by young scientists from all over the country and judged by the chair persons.

The students and researchers were benefitted by the plethora of scientists; to whom they have interacted and enlightened with diverse and quality information in

these three days. Dr. BR Kaushal, in his presentation has mentioned that because of human activity, other species are vanishing much faster than ever since times. Prof MP Thakur & Prof AK Pande have mentioned that mushrooms have the both potentials, they are good quality food fortified with all the minerals as well as quality protein and on the other hand they are full of medicinal properties. Prof TR Sahu has worked hard in Bastar forests for two years for studying ethno medicines of Bastar tribe and on the rich plant taxonomy. In his deliberation, he has mentioned the different plants used by the tribe for toothache, as antibiotic, for lactation and even red-ants for small surgery. Prof BN Tiwari said that microbes can convert simple materials in to valuable things without any significant cost. Shri K Subramanium observed deeply the conservation behavior of tribe for forests; so we can learn from them. Prof SB Verulkar has developed the molecular markers for easier identification of the drought resistant rice variety, within few hours.

Finally, on third day of the seminar's concluding session was structured in the university auditorium; which was again presided over by Honorable Vice Chancellor of the university- Prof SK Pandey. Chief Guest of the function Prof GD Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Bilaspur University has delivered the final technical note of the seminar; has mentioned the need of conservation of medicinal plants as well as the knowledge of ethno-medicines of Chhattisgarh state. One of the

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Organizing Secretaries, Dr. Afaq Quraishi has summed-up the three days activity of the whole function. Convener, Prof SK Jadhav has announced the publication of proceedings of the seminar of selected papers after the peer reviewing. At last, Dr. KK Sahu, Organizing Secretary of the seminar has presented the vote of thanks.