

**National Conference on
“Recent Trends in Plant Sciences”**

9-10 November 2022

Venue: IIS (Deemed to be University), Mansarovar, Jaipur 302020

REPORT

The two-day National Conference “Recent Trends in Plant Sciences” during 9-10 November 2022 was organized by Department of Botany, IIS (Deemed to be University), Jaipur in collaboration with Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board and Indian Science Congress Association, Jaipur Chapter **as a part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**. The conference comprised of six Technical sessions, each session was followed by discussion. 140 delegates registered for the conference from all over the country. The conference began with invoking the blessings of the almighty followed by lamp lighting. The inaugural ceremony began with welcome note delivered by Dr. Ashok Gupta, Chancellor, IIS (Deemed to be University), Jaipur. He extended a heartiest welcome to all the delegates. Prof. Pradeep Bhatnagar, Dean, Faculty of Science, IIS (Deemed to be University), Jaipur, acquainted the audience with the aims and objectives of the conference, followed by the release of abstract book by the dignitaries.

The guest of honour, Shri Venkatesh Sharma (IFS), Chairman, Rajasthan State Biodiversity Board delivered the inaugural address enlightening the significance of recent research and developments in fields of Plant Science, he also emphasized role and importance of biodiversity in sustenance of life on Earth. He also appreciated and congratulated team IISU for their efforts of organizing the event.

After the inaugural ceremony the Keynote address was given by Prof PC Trivedi, former Vice Chancellor JNV University, Jodhpur The session was chaired by Prof Vidya Patni. Prof PC Trivedi discussed about the increased use and interest renewed in herbal plants and their escalating commercial demands. He also discussed about the need of phytodiversity Conservation and the role of indigenous people in protecting biodiversity.

Technical Session-I was chaired by Prof. Kailash Agarwal, Former Head, Department of Botany, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur. He invited Dr. Rakesh Pandey, Professor Emeritus AcSIR & CSIR, Aging and cognitive Biology Lab CIMAP, Lucknow to deliver his lecture on *C. elegans* as a marvellous research tool and robust model employed for various aspects of research in field of Life Sciences. He emphasized on use of *C. elegans* in studying the efficacy of Plant extracts on age related diseases like Alzheimers and Parkinsons.

Technical session II was chaired by Dr. Sumita Kacchawaha. She invited Prof Veena Chandra to deliver the lecture on Biodiversity Conservation, management and preservation of genetic diversity, species and Ecosystems. Prof Chandra also talked about strong interaction and relationship between the components of Ecosystem and key roles of humans in conserving biodiversity and taking corrective steps to improve the current scenario.

The Second speaker in the session was Prof Arvind Pareek, Head Department of Botany, MDS University, Ajmer. Dr. Arvind Pareek gave an interesting talk on Algae and its uses. He discussed about the current research exploring the use of algae as solution to major problems like malnutrition where algae are used to extract nutraceuticals, as agents to treat soil salinity, as biofertilizers and many more.

The Third Technical session was chaired by CSIR Emeritus Professor Dr. Amla Batra. The resource person in this session was Dr. Yogesh Joshi who presented a talk on Lichens and their associated Fungi

in which he focussed on the diversity and prevalence of endolichenic fungi and lichenicolous fungi that have not yet been studied extensively in India. This session also included the oral presentations in the student and Research scholar category that were to be judged in the ISCA Award Category a total of 15 presentations were made in this session.

Day Two began with Technical session IV the chairperson in this session was Dr. Smita Purohit in which students who had opted for the online mode made their virtual presentations the number of presentations in this category were 14.

The Technical Session V was also an online session, The chairperson in this session was Dr. Kalpana Agarwal in which 15 Faculty members from different institutions presented their research work.

The Last Technical session was the poster presentation session in which a total of 33 posters were displayed of these, 24 belonged to the student category which were judged by a panel of judges for the ISCA Best Poster Award.

The Valedictory session of the conference was held at the IISU Stage where the posters were displayed. The Judges of the poster session Dr. Amit Kotia and Former Forester Shri Naresh Sharma along with the Dean Prof. Pradeep Bhatnagar gave away the prizes to the winners and also interacted with the participants on recent trends in the field of Plant biology.