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CSIR FOUNDATION DAY CELEBRATED



Prof R Natarajan (right facing), Former Chairman, AICTE & Former Director, IIT, Madras and Dr P G Rao, Director, NEIST, Jorhat

The 65th Foundation Day of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) which is the apex body of the North East Institute of Science & Technology (NEIST), Jorhat was celebrated in the laboratory on 26 September, 2007 amidst much enthusiasm with a well charted out programme. Held in NEIST auditorium, the foundation day meeting was largely attended by invited guests, dignitaries, students, teachers, prominent citizens of the town, members of press and media besides the scientific community of the laboratory. Prof. R Natarajan, Former Chairman, AICTE & Former Director of IIT, Madras took part in the celebration as the Chief Guest and delivered the Foundation Day lecture. Dr P G Rao, Director, NEIST-Jorhat gave the welcome address. In his welcome speech, Dr Rao expressed happiness and showered the foundation day greetings to all. He spoke briefly about the contributions made by CSIR over the years for the economic and societal development of the country and mentioned that CSIR has just completed the 10th Plan and is currently going for the 11th Plan with its mission to further develop the scientific and technological base of the country. CSIR today pervades all aspects of human life with the range of products it has developed over the years from the nutritious 'Amul' to the vital life saving drugs and this shows the worthiness, relevance and versatility of the organisation, he remarked. Delivering the Foundation Day lecture on a very focussed topic, 'The Significance of Innovation for Technology and Business Competitiveness' Prof Natarajan said, 'Business

competitiveness provides the business advantages and innovation acts as a strong determinant for a knowledge economy and knowledge society - a society which uses knowledge as a powerful tool for societal transformations. So, innovation is the most important issue, he said. Many define innovation in many different ways. But it could be defined in its most simplistic form as the creative idea to implement solutions to the societal problems. While talents are the heart of innovation, the ingredients for innovation are primarily the industry, the community and the university; the universities can be considered as the bedrocks of innovations, he said. Innovation does not consider individual, rather creates environment that foster inventions, the environment under which the creative skills of individual becomes more creative'. He mentioned that the university and the industry, which breed entrepreneurship, are having different cultures of their own. But it is very vital to bring together the two and innovation is the only way which can bring them together. Because, innovation is the art of creating new products, processes, etc. and the entrepreneurship is the art of carrying innovation to market in commercial manner, he informed. Earlier, the Chief Guest wished Foundation Day greetings to all and mentioned that CSIR labs are the number one in the country in terms of Patent filing and R&D outputs and expressed his happiness for being associated with the historic celebration.



Scientist briefing to the visiting students

In the meeting, in-services employess who have completed 25 years of continuous service in CSIR and also a few retired employees were felicitated with CSIR mementoes in token appreciation and recognition to their contributions towards the growth and development of the institution. Meritorious students belonging to SC/ST category were given cash awards for scoring highest marks in science subjects in the last matriculation examinations held under various school boards of the region. Prizes were also awarded to the winners of essay competition organised among the wards and children of CSIR employees on the occasion. A CSIR special cash award was presented to Mrs Protima Bora, a Group D (Non-technical) employee of NEIST and the winner of Carrom Championship (woman) of the CSIR S S Bhatnagar Indoor Tournament.

The day was also declared as `Open Day' for the visit of students and teachers from nearby schools and colleges and also for other public. A large number of teacher and student visitors thronged in the laboratory who went round the various departments to see for themselves the on going research activities on the spot.

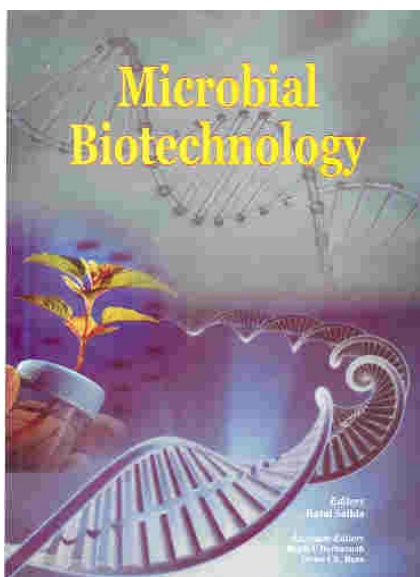
HINDI WEEK AND HINDI DAY OBSERVED AT NEIST



Shri Ravi Shankar Rai (left facing) and Dr P G Rao, Director, NEIST, Jorhat

Like the previous years this year also the laboratory observed 'Hindi Week' during 10-14 September, 2007 with a weeklong extensive programme which included various Hindi competitions such as Hindi quiz competition, Hindi dictation competition, etc. held among the staff. These programmes were basically to create awareness among the members of the staff of NEIST-Jorhat about the importance of use of Hindi as the national official language. The Hindi Week culminated in the celebration of 'Hindi Day' on 14 September, 2007. Held at NEIST auditorium under the Presidentship of Dr P G Rao, Director, NEIST-Jorhat, the Hindi Day function was attended by Shri Ravi Shankar Rai, Author, Writer, Assamese-Hindi Literature Coordinator and a Columnist of Guwahati as the Chief Guest. In the Hindi Day function, certificates were awarded to those staff who qualified in the Hindi Prabodh, Praveen and Pragya examinations held during the year and also to the winners of various competitions organised on the occasion. Special award was given to the staff members namely Mrs Palakshi Bordoloi, T A and Sri Ananta Kr Sarmah, T O who wrote research paper in Hindi and presented in a seminar held at Trivandrum during the year. In his speech as the Chief Guest Shri Ravi Shankar Rai lauded the efforts of NEIST-Jorhat towards the implementation of official language. He mentioned that now a days Hindi is gaining popularity alongside the English language throughout the world. But at the same time, he also appealed to the scientists to learn and respect the local language as well with the same compassion. In the Presidential remarks, Dr P G Rao informed that NEIST has been consistently receiving awards for several years for its efforts for implementation of Hindi in the day to day official works and requested all to keep up the good effort. He also very much appreciated those staff members who made attempts to write research papers in Hindi and appealed to others to emulate the example.

Book on Microbial Technology edited by NEIST Scientists



Cover Page of the Book

A book of remarkable value under the name and title 'Microbial Biotechnology' has recently been published entirely with the efforts of NEIST scientists. Published by the New India Publishing Agency, 101 Vikas Surya Plaza, CU Block, Pitam Pura, New Delhi, the book has been edited by Dr Ratul Saikia, Scientist of the laboratory while the two other scientists namely Dr R L Bezbaruah and Dr Tarun Chandra Bora have been the Associate Editors. The book contains a total of 15 chapters including 9 from Indian authors and 6 from abroad and runs into some 410 pages. Microbial Biotechnology is wide-ranging, multi-disciplinary activities and the book is a modest attempt to highlight the significant aspects of the vast subject area of microbial biotechnology like bioinformatics tool for PCR primer designing, fungal biotransformations, bioremediation by microbes, natural products from fungi, microbial diversity, etc. to provide a complete overview of the subject. It also addresses the issues such the role of bacterial plasmid in xenobiotic degradation, antimicrobial resistance in bacteria, ultraviolet-B radiation effect on microbes and human health. The book is going to serve as valuable tool to the researchers, biologists, microbiologists, scientists, post-graduate students of microbiology, agriculture, biotechnology and medical science. The book has been priced at Rs. 1990 for Indian buyers and US\$ 87.75 for foreign buyers.

Training-cum-Awareness programme on Aromatic plants and Edible mushroom

The laboratory organised a training, demonstration and awareness programme on aromatic plants and edible mushroom in three villages namely Ddantola, Baragara and Kumurikata of BTAD, Assam during 13-17 August, 2007 in pursuance of the intended objective of a DBT sponsored project. Organised under the aegis of Manav Shakti Jagaran, an NGO of Kairara, BTAD the programme was attended by a total of 60 participants with twenty growers taken from each of the three villages. Training was imparted on cultivation and processing of aromatic plants like citronella, lemongrass and patchouli. Dr T C Sarma, the Principal Investigator of the DBT project coordinated the programme. A similar one day programme was also organised at NEIST Sub-station of Lamphelpat, Imphal, Manipur on 6 September, 2007 in which more than 30 trainees comprising mostly of educated youths from in and around Imphal took part. Dr H B Singhk, Scientist-in-Charge, NEIST Sub-station, Imphal coordinated the programme and Dr R K Adhikery, Co-PI of the project imparted the training. Dr T C Sarma, the Principal Investigator inaugurated the programme.

Training on Java citronella and Vermicompost



*Demonstration of the extraction of oil of Aromatic plants
at BTAD*

The NEIST branch at Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh conducted a one day Awareness-cum-training programme on cultivation of Java citronella and production of vermicompost jointly with the Ringtey Denny Society of Kurung Kume district of Arunachal Pradesh at Palin on 10 October, 2007 under a DBT funded project. Altogether 80 women and 3 male participants belonging to different SHGs working under Ringtey Denny Society of Palin took part in the programme. The participants were demonstrated the cultivation technique of citronella for economic benefit. The NEIST branch in the meantime distributed 5000 citronella slips to the SHGs through the society for plantation. More planting materials will be distributed in the next planting season. The NEIST branch has also been actively considering the introduction of some of the rural technologies as developed by NEIST and other CSIR labs. like low dust chalk, liquid deodorant cleaner, moulded leaf cup/plate machine, etc. for socio-economic development of Palin and some other places of Arunachal Pradesh in near future to help boost the rural economy of Palin and nearby villages.

Training imparted to Post-graduate student

Ms Ardhana Lucky Hans, a student of Alahabad Agriculture Institute (Deemed University) received training for submitting her project dissertation titled 'RAPD based analysis of genetic diversity of the endemic and endangered pitcher plant of Meghalaya (Nepenthes khasiana) for the partial fulfilment of the degree of Master of Science in Biotechnology. She worked under the guidance of Dr B S Bhau, Scientist, MAEP Division of NEIST, Jorhat.

NEIST Director inaugurated the Science Writers' Workshop

The Assam Science Writers' Association under the Presidentship of Dr P C Tamuly, Scientist, NEIST organised a One day workshop on 'Science for all' for the science writers and science journalists on 14 October, 2007 at North East Institute of Management Science (NEIMS), Jorhat. Dr P G Rao, Director, NEIST, Jorhat inaugurated the workshop and delivered the inaugural lecture. Dr D C Goswami, Adviser, NEIST delivered the keynote address. Dr Bolin Khargharia, former Superintendent of JDS Civil Hospital, Jorhat, Dr M P Borthakur, Professor of AAU and Dr P C Tamuly, Scientist, NEIST spoke on the topics 'Health for All', 'Agriculture' and 'Superstition' respectively.

NEIST Scientist evaluated CAPART Projects

Dr H B Singh, Scientist-in-Charge, NEIST Substation, Imphal was engaged by the CAPART, Guwahati to evaluate the following two CAPART projects : (i) Integrated horticulture development project (pre-funding) submitted by Highland Welfare Association, Kangpokpi, Manipur, (ii) Economic upliftment of poor villagers of Thoubal district, Manipur (pre-funding) submitted by South-Eastern Rural Development Organization, Thoubal, Manipur. Dr Singh submitted the evaluation reports to the CAPART authority. (iii) Poverty reduction among rural communities (Pre-funding) submitted by Rural Education & Action for change - Manipur (iv) Integrated innovative sustainable agro-

based horticulture - an alternative to Shifting cultivation (Pre-funding) submitted by Oriental Rural Development Organisation, Tamei, Tamenglong District, Manipur (v) Production of organic ginger (Pre-funding) submitted by Young Progressive Planters' Association, Langol, Imphal, Manipur.

Valued citation on NEIST's research publication in book

A Book titled 'Cinnamon and Cassia : The Genus Cinnamomum' edited by P N Ravindran, K N Babu and M Shylaja was published by CRC Press, Boca Raton, USA in recent times in which as many as 13 research publications of Dr S C Nath and his team of NEIST, Jorhat were cited in various chapters of the book. This can be taken as a morale booster to the scientific studies of the institute in the area mentioned. Thumbs Up to Dr Nath and his team.

Training on Footwear commenced at Training Centre of Manipur Sub-station

With the joint initiatives of Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai and NEIST-Jorhat (both CSIR labs.), a Non-leather Footwear Training-cum-Production centre was established in the NEIST Substation of Imphal, Manipur under a joint project with a view to providing a platform or outlet for the local entrepreneurs of the Manipur state for setting up of small scale industries in the non-leather footwear sector and also for judicious disposal of raw material reserves. Consequent upon the installation of the centre, the first batch of entrepreneurs comprising of 7 participants were recruited for imparting training in the centre and the training was commenced on 3 September, 2007. The Principal Coordinator of the training being Dr H B Singh, Scientist-in-Charge of the NEIST Substation.

Research Council approves 11th Plan Document of NEIST, Jorhat

The Research Council of NEIST, Jorhat in principle approved the 11th Five Year Plan 2007-2012 Document of NEIST which included the following Research Projects - (i) The Supra-institutional Project titled 'Seismic based risk evaluation and earthquake precursor related studies (ii) The Faculty Creation - State-of-Art Analytical facility for North East (iii) 8 nos. of Network projects and (iv) 14 nos. of non-Network project along with their projections, yearly targets and goals to be achieved, milestone and budget earmarked, etc.. Under the non-Network projects emphasis was given in the sectors like Natural Products Chemistry, Biotechnology, Medicinal Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Coal Chemistry, Material Sciences, Geosciences, Petroleum & Natural Gas, Chemical Science & Technology, Cellulose, Pulp & Paper, Housing, Road & Construction, Rural Development, General Engineering, Electronics & Instrumentation, etc.

Lecture-cum-database of SCOPUS Database

Ms Suresh Narayan of M/s Elsevier Science Group organised a lecture and demonstration session of SCOPUS, an Online database in the NEIST auditorium on October 17, 2007 for the benefit of Neist Scientific community. It can be mentioned that the SCOPUS is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature and quality Web sources with Smart tools to track, analyze and visualize research. It also offers users citation tracking and metrics for analysis of Research Performance Measurement (Bibliometrics). The NEIST, Jorhat being a subscriber of SCOPUS for its focussed Web information.

Projects undertaken

Plan allocation for CSIR Project
(Under Eleven Five Year Plan)

(i) Network Project

Project Title :

Remediation/Ecorestoration and clean up of contaminated ground water resources.

Project No. : NWP-0019

Coordinating Laboratory :
NEERI Nagpur

Allocation :

Rs. 13 lakh for current financial year (2007-2008)

PI : Dr Neelima Saikia, Scientist, Biotechnology.

2. Facility Creation Project :

Project Title :

State of Art Analytical Facility for North East

Project No. : FAC-0009

Allocation :

Rs. 60 lakh for current financial year (2007-2008)

PI : Dr N C Barua, Scientist F and Head, Natural Products Chemistry.

Grant-in-aid

(i) Motivational Programme for Talented School Student undertaken on behalf of NCSTC, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, New Delhi. (Total Cost - Rs. 3.34 lakh, Period - 2 yrs., Principal Coordinator- Dr D C Goswami, Scientist G & Adviser).

VISIT ABROAD

Dr P C Tamuly, Scientist F and Head, Information & Business Development division visited Bangkok to attend the International Congress on 'Asia Fruits Logistica which was held at Queen's Cultural Centre of Bangkok during 5-8 September, 2007. Dr Tamuly attended the congress as one of the FINER delegates and he was also one among the 8 delegates from North Eastern states of India. The FINER delegation attended the World Congress with an objective to gather knowledge on the latest international scenario and also to explore the international business strategies and possibilities for growing and exporting fresh vegetables and fruits grown in the N E region of India.

Seminar/Symposia/Meeting attended

Dr P G Rao, Director, NEIST attended the following meetings :

(i) Project Review Committee meeting of M/s Ogene Systems (I) Pvt. Ltd. for ongoing project titled 'Development of process for the manufacture of Nano Labeled DNA/RNA Coumpounds' at Hyderabad on 6 September, 2007.

(ii) Core-Committee meeting at Guwahati organised by Science & Technology Department of Govt. of Assam, Dispur, Guwahati on 12 September, 2007 regarding establishing a 'Biotechnology Park' in Assam.

(iii) CSIR's Committee Meeting on Rural Sector, Women, Weaker Sections & North East held at Guwahati on 17 September, 2007.

(iv) The meeting for Tea Improvement held at Tea Research Association, Tocklai on 22 September, 2007.

(v) Assessment Committee meetings at RAB, New Delhi on 23 & 24 October, 2007.

(v) Inaugurated the Science Writers' Workshop organised by Assam Science Writers' Association at NEIST, Jorhat on October 14, 2007 and delivered the Inaugural Lecture.

Dr Neelima Saikia, Scientist attended the Science Seminar organised on the occasion of 13th Establishment Day of Chandra Nath Bezbaruah College, Bokakhat on 12 September, 2007 as a Resource Person. She delivered a talk on the topic 'Lichen and Environment'.

Dr B N Saha, Scientist F & In-Charge, NEIST Branch attended the seminar on 'Potential for Export of Medicinal

& Aromatic Plants from the NE region' organised by Export Import Bank of India, Guwahati on 3rd August, 2007.

Dr S P Saikia, Scientist was invited to act as a resource person in the National Seminar on 'Biodiversity : Herbal Medicine' held at Synod College, Shillong, Meghalaya during 20-21 September, 2007.

Dr P C Tamuly, Scientist F & Head, I&BD attended the the district level '15th National Children Science Congress' organized by the Jorhat Children Science Academy held at Teok H S School, Teok under the Jorhat district on 23 September, 2007 and delivered an invited lecture in the Open Session.

Shri D K Dutta, Scientist F & Area Coordinator, General Engineering attended the seminar ANERT held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala during 5-7 September, 2007.

Dr P C Tamuly, Scientist F & Head, Information & Business Development division represented the NEIST(CSIR) of behalf of the Director in the meeting to discuss the mandate of Science/Knowledge/Resource Centres proposed by the Govt. of India particularly in the rural areas, their scientific work content and the possibilities of strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions held at Administrative Staff College, Khanapara, Guwahati on 19 September, 2006 organised by the Third Assam State Finance Commission.

Dr Paran Baruah, Scientist attended a symposium on Assamese Science Literature organized by Sahitya Akademi and Bahona College, Jorhat on 4 October, 2007.

Dr Paran Baruah, Scientist was invited as a resource person to deliver a talk on Solid Waste Management organized by Bulbuli Eco Club held under the sponsorship of Assam Science Society at Jorhat Govt. Girls' HS School on 5 August, 2007.

Dr D K Dutta, Scientist F attended the '10th International Conference on Advanced Materials 2007' organised by the International Union of Material Research Society (IUMRS) held at Bangalore during 8-13 October, 2007.

Dr B G Unni, Scientist F was deputed by the Director, NEIST as a member of a delegation to attend a meeting at Rajbhavan with the Governor of Assam on 9 July, 2007. The delegation which included the senior citizens of Assam comprising of intellectuals and academicians, was to submit a project proposal to the Hon'ble Governor of Assam for setting up of a Science City at Guwahati.

Shri Paresh Saikia, TO participated and coordinated the National Workshop on 'Metal Casting Sculpture' organised by the Lalit Kala Akademy, New Delhi in collaboration with Jorhat Fine Arts Society held at Jorhat Kala Bhavan, Mithapukhuri Road, Jorhat during 4-13 October, 2007.

Dr H B Singh, Scientist-in-Charge, NEIST Substation, Imphal attended the CAPART Workshop On Institutional Monitors on 22 September, 2007 held at National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, Guwahati.

Dr C M Senthil Kumar, Scientist, NEIST Substation, Imphal attended the 7th Foundation Training Programme for Scientists & Technologists held under the aegis of DST, New Delhi at Indian Institute of Public Administration, New Delhi during 6-13 August, 2007.

Honours / Recognition

Dr R K Sharma, Scientist F has been nominated as a member of the Organizing Committee of the International Interactive Meet on Ayurveda proposed to be held on 27 November, 2007 at Guwahati and organised by S K M Ayurvedic Institute, Geetanagar, Guwahati .

Dr H B Singh, Scientist-in-Charge, NEIST Substation, Imphal, Manipur was invited as an External Expert for appointment of Research Associate of Manipur University in the CSIR funded project 'Technology development of water mimosa (Neptunia oleracea)'

Dr H B Singh, Scientist-in-Charge, NEIST Substation, Imphal, Manipur evaluated a research paper of the journal Natural Product Radiance (CSIR) titled 'Gaultheria frarantissima and Litsea citrata - two untapped economic plant species of Meghalaya ; A detailed feasibility study of their use as income generating resources that can be adopted in village'.

Dr S P Saikia, Scientist acted as a judge of the Science Projects as submitted by the Child Scientists at the

district level '15th National Children Science Congress' organized by the Jorhat Children Science Academy held at Teok H S School, Teok under the Jorhat district on 23 September, 2007.

Dr B G Unni, Scientist F and Area Coordinator (Biological Science) was nominated for the following -

(i)As an External Examiner for taking M Sc /B Tech (Biotechnology) Second and Third Semester examinations held on 4 & 5 October, 2007 by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Assam Central University, Silchar.

(ii)As a Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Cell Tissue Research by the Editorial Board of the Journal, Rajkot, Gujarat.

(iii)As an external reviewer of the proposals for preliminary Registration of Ph D (Biotechnology) programme by the Controller of Examination, Assam Central University, Silchar.

Dr S P Saikia, Scientist acted as a Judge of the Science Projects as submitted by the Child Scientists at the district level '15th National Children Science Congress' organized by the Jorhat Children Science Academy held at Teok H S School, Teok under the Jorhat district on 23 September, 2007.

Dr Paran Baruah, Scientist was invited as a Jury Member of the National Childrens' Science Congress, Jorhat held at Teok HS School on 23 September, 2007.

Paper published

Indian

PURKAYASTHA J, DUTTA M, NATH S C: Ethnomedicinal plants from Dibru-Saikhowa biosphere reserve, Assam, Indian J Traditional Knowledge, 2007, 6(3), p-477-80.

BORAH M N, CHALIHA S, SARMAH P C, RAHMAN A : Electrical properties of thermally evaporated doped and undoped films of CdSe, Indian Journal of Pure Applied Physics, 2007, 45(8), p-687-91.

BHAU B S, NEGI S K, JINDAL S K, SINGH M, LAKSHMIKUMARAN M: Assessing genetic diversity of Tecomella undulata (Sm) - an endangered tree species using amplified fragment length polymorphisms-based molecular markers, Current Science, 2007, 93(1), p-67-72.

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SARMA T C (2007) : Biodiversity for sustainable development of Northeast India. Anweson - A Souvenir, published by Jorhat District Childrens' Science Academy on the occasion of National Childrens' Science Congress, 2007, p-39-41.

PURKAYASTHA J, DUTTA M L, NATH S C (2007): Ethnomedicinal plants from Dibru-Saikhowa biosphere reserve, Assam. Ind. J. Traditional Knowledge 6(3), p-477-480.

Chapters in book

SARMA T C (2007) : Patchouli - An aromatic oil crop for development of perfumery industry in Northeast India. (Book Chapter) Aromatic Plants from Asia their Chemistry and Application in Food and Therapy ; Eds : Leopold Jirovetz, Nguyen Xuan Dung and V K Varshney, Published by H K Bhalla & Sons, Dehradun, p-197-201.

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NATH S C, BARUAH A, KANJILAL P B: Chemical composition of the Root bark and Stem bark essential oils of Cinnamomum pauciflorum Nees. In : L Jirovetz, N X Dung and V K Vershney ed. Aromatic Plants from Asia their Chemistry and Application in Food and Therapy. Har Krishan Bhalla and Sons Publication, Dehradun, India, p-76-81.

Experience as a Fulbright Scholar to USA. In the book titled 'Beyond boundaries - Reflections of Indian and U S Scholars, ed. Zeeshan-Ul-Hassan Usmani and Nibir K Ghosh, Universe, 2021, Pine Lake Road, Suite 100, Lincoln, N E, USA, pp-233-238.

International

BORTHAKUR M G : Ammonium acetate, Synlett, 2007, (9), p-1475-76.

BARUAH B P, KHARE PUJA: Desulfurization of Oxidized Indian Coals with Solvent Extraction and Alkali Treatment, Energy & Fuels, 2007, 21(4), p-2156-64.

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SIVAKUMAR V, RAVI VERMA V, RAO P G, SWAMINATHAN G : Studies on the use of power ultrasound in solid-liquid myrobalan extraction process, Journal of Cleaner Production, 2007, 15(18), p-1813-18.

BARUAH B, DEB M L, BHUYAN P J : A novel three-component reaction: Synthesis of some complex annelated quinolines from simple acetanilides and via intramolecular 1, 3-dipolar cycloaddition of azide to nitrile, Synlett, 2007, (12), p-1873-1876.

Paper presented

SAHA BN AND DUTTA S C: Scope of commercial cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants in N E India - Problems & Solution. Presented in the seminar on 'Potential for Export of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants from the N E Region' organised by Export-Import Bank of India, Guwahati on 3rd August, 2007.

DUTTA DK : The Biomass Drier. Presented in the seminar ANERT held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala during 5-7 September, 2007.

SAIKIA, S P : Current status and future strategy for development of medicinal plants sector in India. Presented in the National Seminar on 'Biodiversity: Herbal Medicine' held at Synod College, Shillong, Meghalaya during 20-21 September, 2007.

BHAU B S : Molecular marker based genetic diversity analysis of few economically important plants of North East India. Presented (an Invited paper) in the National Seminar on 'Biodiversity : Herbal Medicine' held at Synod College, Shillong, Meghalaya during 20-21 September, 2007.

TAMULY PC : Assamese Children Science Literature. Presented (an Invited paper) in the seminar on Assamese Science Literature organized by Sahitya Akademi and Bahona College, Jorhat on 4 October, 2007.

DUTTA D K, BHORODWAJ S K, PHUKAN A AND PATHAK M G : Micro and Mesoporous Mont-morillonite clay based matrix for catalytic applications in Friedel-Crafts Reactions. Presented in the 10th International Conference on Advanced Materials 2007 held at Bangalore during 8-13 October, 2007 (Oral Presentation).

Talk delivered

Dr J C S Katak, Scientist F delivered a talk on 'Garbage : Its impact on Environment' in the seminar on 'Solid Waste Management' organised by Prajnalya (Organization for Children and Rural Underdeveloped People) of Saraipani, Titabor, Jorhat on 23 August, 2007 at Prajnalya.

Dr B G Unni, Scientist F and Area Coordinator (Biological Sciences) was invited by the Biotechnology Department of Assam Central University, Silchar, Assam to deliver the following talks on 5 October, 2007 : (i) Isolation, identification and characterization of Biomolecules from medicinal plants and microbes (ii) Molecular and functional properties of antibacterial proteins from non mulberry silkwoms.

NEIST-Jorhat's participation in Exhibition



Sri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister, Assam visiting the NEIST exhibition stall at Gramya Mela, Assam, 2007

NEIST-Jorhat participated in the Exhibition programme organised on the occasion of Sarodiya Gramya Mela, Assam, 2007 which was held at JDSA Field of Jorhat during 9-13 October, 2007. The exhibition programme was organised by the Project Director, DRDA, Jorhat, on 10 October, 2007. Sri Tarun Gogoi, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam accompanied by other officials paid a visit to the NEIST-Jorhat Exhibition stall put up at the Sarodiya Gramya Mela, Assam, 2007 on 10 October, 2007.

Farewell

The following members of the staff retired from Council's Service on attaining the age of superannuation with the effective dates shown against them :

Shri S K Ghosh, Technical Officer, Gr III(7) w.e.f 30.09.2007

Shri K C Dey Dhali, Private Secretary
w.e.f 30.09.2007.

Shri Jibeswar Kalita, Tech.Gr II(4)
w.e.f 30.09.2007.

Condolence

The Director and the members of the staff of NEIST-Jorhat, in a condolence meeting held in front of the Administrative Block on 5 September, 2007, deeply condoled the sad demise of Dr A P Mitra, former Director-General of CSIR and conveyed their heartfelt sympathies to the members of the bereaved family.

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