

Report

International Conference
on
“Current Status, Opportunities and Challenges in Medicinal Plants and
Natural Product Research”

24-26, September 2014

Organized by

C. G. Bhakta Institute of Biotechnology, Uka Tarsadia University
Maliba Campus, Bardoli, Tarsadi, Dist: Surat - 394 350, Gujarat, India

In Collaboration with

University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria
and
Zandu Foundation for Health Care, Ambach, Vapi, Gujarat, India

Sponsored by

Gujarat Medicinal Plant Board, Gujarat
Department of Biotechnology, New Delhi
Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), Department of Science & Technology,
New Delhi
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All the Dignitaries/Guest speakers, Session Chairmen, Co-chairmen and Panelists who supported and /or participated in the conference



Overview

The International Conference on Current Status, Opportunities and Challenges in Medicinal Plants and Natural Product Research received an overwhelming responses from wide range of stakeholders on single platform in discussing large number of issues related to medicinal plants and natural products for human welfare. Over 600 stakeholders actively participated in the conference and discussed relevance of medicinal plants and natural products in the Indian and global context through different sessions. The first session set the tone of the conference with eminent personality Dr. Rajendra Gupta delivering the lead lectures covering a whole range of issues.

Themes

The Scientific and Programme Committee particularly concentrated on following themes

1. Biodiversity, Conservation and Remote Sensing
2. Genomics, Proteomics and Bioinformatics
3. Natural Products Research
4. Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology
5. Propagation, Tissue Culture and Cultivation of Medicinal Plants
6. Indigenous, Traditional Knowledge and IPR

The ICMPNPR-2014 witnessed a grand event with more than 600 participants. The delegates, included academicians, scientists, research scholars, post graduate students, Government officials, and administrators. There were 17 keynote speakers, 68 oral presentations and 73 poster presentations made by the delegates across the globe.



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Day 1: 24/09/2014

C. G. Bhakta Institute of Biotechnology, Uka Tarsadia University (CGBIBT, UTU) added yet another feather to its cap by hosting International conference for the first time in UTU. The International Conference on Medicinal Plants and Natural Product Research was held in Bardoli during 24th to 26th September 2014. It was inaugurated on 24th morning at 10.00 am in the Dr. Jatin Desai Auditorium of Chhotubhai Gopalbhai Patel Institute of Technology (CGPIT) of UTU. Inaugural function was attended by more than 500 delegates from across India and abroad, invited guests, resource persons, faculty and staff of CGBIBT and our sister institutes of UTU. **Dr. Marcello Iriti**, Editor in Chief of European Journal of Medicinal Plants and Professor at Milan State University, Italy was present at the function as chief guest and **Dr. Rajendra Gupta**, Chairman, Zandu Foundation was the guest of honour. **Dr. Dinesh Shah**, Vice Chancellor, UTU, **Dr. R. Krishnamurthy**, Director, CGBIBT and Conference Chairman, **Mr. Bhagubhai Patel**, President, BPKM and the Organizing Secretaries were present on the dais to inaugurate the conference. All the dignitaries joined their hands to inaugurate the event by lighting the ceremonial lamp. While welcoming the gathering Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, Director, CGBIBT briefed about the significance of the conference and its conception. This International conference handed over Lifetime achievement award to Dr. Minoos Parabia, and two separate appreciation awards to Dr. Rajendra Gupta and Dr. J. M. Pathak respectively for their long time significant contribution in medicinal plant R & D and industrial development. Shri. Bhagubhai Patel, in his inaugural speech stressed upon utilization of the resources for scientific investigation of traditional systems. Speaking on the plenary address Dr. Rajendra Gupta, explained the importance of herbal drugs in India. Dr. Meonis Pithawala proposed the Vote of Thanks.

After formal inaugural session the scientific sessions commenced with keynote talk by Prof. Veena Sharma (India), Dr. Sandhya Kiran (India) and Dr. Puthiyaparambil Josekutty

(Australia) on Biodiversity, Conservation and Remote Sensing followed by five oral presentations on the same theme.

In the afternoon session Dr. N. Jeya Kumar (India) and Dr. R. Nagaraja Reddy (India) delivered keynote talk on Genomics, Proteomics & Bioinformatics followed by five oral presentations on the same theme. The day ended with cultural event and conference dinner.

Day 2: On Day 2 there were two concurrent sessions, one at Dr. Jatin Desai auditorium dealing with session III: Natural products research and another at SRIMCA auditorium dealing with two sessions on Plant breeding, Genetics & Biotechnology (session IV) and Propagation, Tissue culture & Cultivation of Medicinal Plants (session V).

The session at Dr. Jatin Desai auditorium began with keynote talk by Dr. Alexandre Macuik (France), Dr. Marcello Iriti (Italy) and K.S. Laddha (India) on Natural products research followed by 25 oral presentations on the same theme throughout the day.

At SRIMCA auditorium in the morning session IV (Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology) began with keynote talk by Dr. Manivel (India), Dr. M.L.M. Chandrika Dissanayake (Srilanka) and Dr. R. Krishnamurthy (India) followed by 13 oral presentations.

In the afternoon, Propagation, Tissue culture & Cultivation of medicinal plants (session V) began with keynote talk from Dr. Ravinder Raina (India), Dr. K. Rajamani (India) and Dr. Minoo Parabia (India) followed by 12 oral presentations on the same theme.

Day 3: The third day was kick started with a talk from Dr. Jayaprakash Yadav (India), Dr. Bipin Agrawal (India) and Dr. G. Smitha (India) on Indigenous, Traditional Knowledge and IPR theme. There were 8 oral presentations on the same theme. This was followed by the poster presentation session. About 73 posters were displayed which were evaluated by experts. At the end of conference, Dr. Ravinder Raina and Dr. Minoo Parabia selected three best oral and poster papers respectively.

The conference concluded with valedictory function in which Col (Dr) A.R. Pathak, Vice Chancellor, Navsari Agricultural University was the chief guest, presided by Shri. Kritbhai Patel, Secretary, BPKM. Col (Dr) A.R. Pathak, spoke on the occasion and praised the CGBIBT, UTU and the organizers for having hosted such conference. Dr. R. Krishnamurthy, Director, CGBIBT

gave the concluding remarks followed by prize and certificate distribution by the dignitaries. Prof. Rajashekhar Ingalhalli thanked all the delegates and the dignitaries.



Outcomes

From the keynote talks and other deliberations during the conference, the following outcomes emerged.

1. The biotechnological tools shall be exploited for the propagation, conservation and production of active constituents on commercial basis involving grass root level workers focusing the IUCN red list especially the endemic and endangered medicinal plant species.
2. Indigenous Traditional Knowledge should be documented and a database on this should be developed providing IPR rights to the rural communities.
3. Identify hot spots for medicinal plant conservation and management in the forest and agro-forestry ecosystems extending the bio-village concept.
4. Initiate and promote research for enhancement of quality in herbal medicine, formulations and products to increase the confidence level of consumers globally.
5. Educational and training modules should be developed suitable for students, teachers, farmers, tribal healers and herbal product manufacturers.



