

## **PRESS NOTE:**

### **Maliba Campus(Bardoli)- Biotechnology Institute to boost Indo-Nigerian Ties in Agricultural Biotechnology**

#### **Uka Tarsadia University(UTU), Maliba Campus, Bardoli, South Gujarat, India to sign MoU with University of Illorin(Unilorin), Kwara State, Nigeria**

Uka Tarsadia University is one of the top private state universities located in Bardoli, South Gujarat, India popularly known as Maliba Campus. It is spread over more than 100 acres with state of the art campus facilities and is considered as one of beautiful campuses in India. This university is managed by the Bardoli Pradesh Kelvani Mandal's (BPKM) Trust Members.

BPKM has its own reputation in imparting education since 1960. Uka Tarsadia University is supported by a number of NRIs throughout the world. One of the well wishers and trustees, Mr. Naranjibhai Bhakta is a business tycoon in Lagos, Nigeria. More recently, Mr. Naranjibhai has been instrumental in establishing a model, sophisticated plant tissue culture laboratory in the name "Maliba Research Centre for Excellence in Tissue Culture" having a capacity to produce 3 million plants per annum. This is a part of his mission to promote commercial R & D projects in India and overseas countries. Farmers of Gujarat Regions are getting benefited through Maliba Tissue Culture Laboratory in getting subsidized tissue culture planting materials of Banana, Sugarcane, Horticultural and Floricultural crops.

Under the guidance of Shri Naranjibhai, Dr. Dinesh R Shah (Vice-chancellor, UTU) and Shri Kiritbhai Patel (Secretary and long term associate of BPKM) and Shri Bhagubhai Patel (President, BPKM) the Uka Tarsadia University has collaborated with University of Illorin by signing an MoU on 19<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. Prof. Dr. R Krishnamurthy, Director, C G Bhakta Institute of Biotechnology, UTU was present in Illorin while executing the MoU.

The two Universities will be exchanging students and teachers program and also joint venture R & D projects. To begin with, Dr. Krishnamurthy has initiated R & D trials of Tissue Culture Banana, Papaya and Watermelon in Illorin. The students of the University of Illorin is going to study field performance of these target crops in Kwara State under the supervisions of Dr. Krishnamurthy and with some senior Professors of Nigerian counter part. In future, it is expected to come up with many such R & D activities on fruits, medicinal, floricultural and agricultural crops. The two Universities joint venture of UTU and Unilorin has been possible by the initiative of Shri. Sa'ad Belgore, Chairman, M/S Hamdani Farm Limited, Illorin and Honorable Former Chief Justice of Nigeria Shri S.M.A. Belgore.

In this regard, a delegation of the University of Illorin, led by Prof. Dr. A G Ambali, Vice-chancellor is visiting from Nigeria to Uka Tarsadia University, Maliba Campus, Bardoli shortly in order to finalize various R&D projects, students and teachers exchange program between the Universities.