

Roadshow on “Brewing Bio-entrepreneurship in Jorhat” held at CSIR-NEIST

CSIR-NEIST in association with BIRAC eastern region team, KIIT Technology Business Incubator, Bhubaneswar organized a roadshow on “Brewing Bio-entrepreneurship in Jorhat” on 29 July 2019. The primary aim of the programme was to spread awareness about various support schemes of BIRAC and mentor the budding student innovators/researchers towards entrepreneurship particularly in the field of Biotechnology and allied areas. The event covered series of lectures and interactive discussion among the experts and participants.

Dr G N Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST, welcomed the participants and presented an overview about CSIR-NEIST and its focus areas of research such as, Herbal Formulations and Environmental Care and further mentioned that Agri, Food & Nutrition is another area where the Institute is actively working. He explained the multidisciplinary approaches including chemistry, biology, engineering and data sciences have been aligned within the umbrella of Herbal Formulations and Environmental Care. He also emphasized the importance of documentation and digitalization of biodiversity and traditional knowledge of North East India with the help of AI and ML.

Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO, KIIT Technology Business Incubator, highlighted the activities of KIIT-TBI and various nuances of starting start-ups in an Indian ecosystem. He informed the various support schemes and fellowships offered by DBT-BIRAC viz., BIG, SHIP, SRISTI, CRS, etc. for budding entrepreneurs in the Biotechnology sector. He further provided background information on the BIG grant, the application process, funding process-flow, guidance on writing proposals etc. Encouraging the participants to take advantage of BIG scheme, he expressed hope that at least 10 enterprises should come out of Jorhat.

Dr Sanjay Kumar, Director, CSIR-IHBT, through Video Conference gave a brief description on various food and post-harvest technologies of IHBT which can be adopted and implemented by entrepreneurs from North East. He eagerly extended his support to CSIR-NEIST for collaboration and adopting the technologies for commercialization in the North East.

Dr KSMS Raghavarao, Director, CSIR-Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore spoke about opportunities in the area of Food, Agri, Health & Nutrition. He gave an overview of the post-harvest processing plants established by CFTRI in North East. Dr Raghavarao also projected various value added nutrition based products like energy bar, fruit concentrate, high protein biscuits launched in NE and mentioned their association with NERMAC for many of outreach activities in the North East. He suggested in bringing in cultivation of valuable raw materials in the rural areas for which the market will lie in the major urban industries.

Dr Jatinkalita, Head RPBD, spoke about different technologies developed at CSIR-NEIST and briefly described about the success stories of various technologies in uplifting the socio-economic status of the people of NE region.

Dr Priyanshu Sharma, Co-Founder, Innotech Intervention Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati, spoke about his journey and experiences in the start-up industry. As a beneficiary of BIRAC support

scheme (BIG) himself, he mentioned that BIG can be a game changer for budding bio-entrepreneurs. He informed the various stages of BIG scheme and the recent 15th call for proposals under BIG scheme by DBT-BIRAC.

Mr Rajeev Aiyappa, Partner, Plataforma Capital, Singapore spoke about investment opportunities in the sector of Agri& Food. He shared his experiences as a venture capitalist in these sectors.

Mr Subhas Bhattacharjee, Retd. MD, NERMAC, Guwahati in his brief remarks shared valuable insights regarding commercialization and marketing aspects of products.

Mr Ashwini K Mishra, DNA Xperts, New Delhi, spoke about his firm and its activities expanding from molecular, Immunology to Biochemistry.

Dr Devendra Biswal, Co-Coordinator cum Senior Information Officer, Bioinformatics Centre, NEHU in his brief remarks, spoke about vast scope available increasing value from bioresources and biodiversity from the NE region.

Later in the interactive session, the expert team answered various queries posed by the participants and encouraged the ideas and also suggested the way forward to draft proposals under different schemes. A close interaction followed the next day between the expert team and students & scientists who showed keen interest for submitting proposals under BIG scheme.



Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO, KIIT Technology Business Incubator, Bhubaneswar speaking at the event.



Dr G Narahari Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST delivering his lecture on the occasion.



Dr KSMS Raghavarao, Director, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysore delivering his lecture on the occasion.



Dr. Priyangshu Sharma, Co-Founder, Innotech Intervention Pvt. Ltd., Guwahati, delivering his lecture on the occasion.



Mr Subhas Bhattacharjee, Retd. MD, NERMAC, Guwahati giving his brief remarks on the occasion.



Mr Rajeev Aiyappa, Partner, Plataforma Capital, Singapore delivering his lecture on the occasion.



Dr Jatin Kalita, Head RPBD delivering his lecture on the occasion.



Dr Devendra Biswal, Co-Coordinator cum Senior Information Officer, Bioinformatics Centre, NEHU giving his brief remarks on the occasion.



Mr Ashwini K Mishra, DNA Xperts, New Delhi giving his brief remarks on the occasion.



Participants and organizing members from CSIR-NEIST and KIIT-TBI and various experts.
