

## ***A Successfully Implemented Activity Based on Perspective/Strategic Plan***

Bharathidasan University is continuing its strategic stride especially in creating and multiplying national facilities/centres/repositories in its campus with Central Government funding, making the University distinct from its neighbourhood peers and also reaping great outcomes.

National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria (NFMC), National Centre for Alternatives to Animal Experiments (NCAAE), Centre for Nonlinear Dynamics, Centre for High Pressure Research, Centre for Organometallic Chemistry, Centre for Remote Sensing etc are such Facilities and Centres consciously developed through strategic intent.

### **National Repository for Microalgae & Cyanobacteria (Fresh-water) NRMC (F)**

Recently the NRM&C (F) got on stream. It is a strategic initiative to synergize with the 1991 established National Facility for Marine Cyanobacteria (NFMC), funded by Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India. From that time onwards, an interest aroused in us to establish NRMC (F). We acquired expertise for initiating the dream of developing a National Repository.

### **Proposal – Sanction- Move Forward**

During 2007 Dept. of Microbiology functioning with NMFC was carved out given independent status. Its attention towards freshwater Microalgae and Cyanobacteria got off with fresh thrust. Pioneering work of the last decades has raised the status of freshwater microalgae & cyanobacteria to a level where they are being viewed with favour in biotechnological spheres. In addition to Marine Cyanobacterial cultures collections at NFMC, reliable culture collections of Freshwater Microalgae & Cyanobacteria in the form of National Repository and utilization of the cultures for the institution's benefit, was felt. Our project proposals with DBT, DST, DoD and UGC, for about Rs. 200 lakhs got approved and we could establish freshwater microalgal and cyanobacterial culture collections with sophisticated infrastructure. The DBT invited Prof.Thajuddin to submit a proposal for the establishment of Freshwater Microalgae & Cyanobacteria which was done promptly and we were sanctioned the first phase grant in 2015 after three meetings for evaluation of my NRMC-F proposal by the DBT.

### **Fulfillment of the DBT's Conditions, meetings, schedules, etc.**

The Major tasks of the NRMC-F are the collection, isolation, purification, identification and maintenance of important and useful microalgal cultures, supply of the cultures in a healthy live condition on demand and preparation of their informative catalogs, development of DNA Barcodes for all cultures and conducting annual training workshop on basic morphological & molecular taxonomy, phylogeny and DNA bar-coding techniques. This NRMC- F would also be acted as a mirror site centre for the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Impal, Manipur freshwater Microalgal & Cyanobacterial culture collections.

### **Fruition of the Proposal – Acceptance - Allocation - Conditions- University's Concurrence, etc.**

The Rs. 85.35 lakhs I Phase sanction included Rs. 45 lakhs for construction of the building. The University Administration was supportive and facilities created in time.

### **Dedication**

The National Repository for Microalgae & Cyanobacteria – Freshwater was dedicated to nation by Dr. Sangitha M. Kasture, Joint Director, DBT, Govt. of India, on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2018. This is thus an instant of successful implementation of a strategic intent. The MRAC(F) stands committed to accomplishing its *'raison d etre'* in right earnest.