

## EMERGING TRENDS IN PLANT SCIENCE

Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, organized 2 days National Conference on “Emerging Trends in Plant Science” on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2016, has brought together leading Scientists in Plant Biology from various parts of the country and focused on some of the basic questions and constraints that need to be answered in depth taking into account the contemporary global thinking and developments. More than 150 participants took part in the deliberations of the Conference. Eminent scientists delivered seven lead lectures. About 150 researchers presented their research findings.

In the inaugural function, Prof. B. D. Ranjitha Kumari, Organizing Secretary, welcomed the gathering and explained the significance of the theme. The conference souvenir was released by Dr. V. M. Muthukumar, Vice-Chancellor, Bharathidasan University, and first copy received by Dr. P. Gunasekharan, Pro – Vice-Chancellor of Vellore Institute of Technology, Chennai.



Dr. B.D. Ranjitha kumari (Organizing Secretary), Dr. V. M. Muthukumar, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. Gunasekaran, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dr. M.B. Viswanathan, HOD

Conference was inaugurated and presided by Dr. V. M. Muthukumar.

Dr. P. Gunasekharan, delivered the Key Note Address on “Root Colonization by Plant Growth Promoting Rhizobacteria: A Genomics Perspectives”.

Themes of the conference were sectioned into five sessions such as

1. Biodiversity, conservation and utilization
2. Plant breeding, crop improvement and post-harvest technology
3. Plant physiology and biochemistry – biotic and abiotic stress physiology
4. Pharmacognosy, pharmacology and nano-biotechnology
5. Plant tissue culture, plant transgenics development, conservation and utilization.



A section of the participants

After invited lectures, oral presentations were held under the above 5 themes. Dr. P. Rajaguru, Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Anna University, Bharathidasan Institute Technology Campus, Tiruchirappalli, chaired the Theme 1 wherein 28 oral presentations were held. There were four oral presentations in the second theme chaired by Dr. (Mrs.) T. Thirunalasundari, Professor and Head, Department of Industrial Biotechnology,

Bharathidasan University. Third theme chaired by Dr. Rajinikanth Mohan, Visiting Assistant Professor (Biochemistry), Hamilton College, NY, USA, had 8 oral presentations. In the fourth theme chaired by Dr. G. Mathan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Science, Bharathidasan University, there were 31 oral presentations. Fifth theme chaired by Dr. N. Jayabalan, University Grants Commission-Basic Sciences Research Faculty Fellow, Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, there were 23 oral presentations. Soon after oral presentations, 17 posters were presented in front of the chairmen, Dr. S. Achiraman, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Biotechnology, Bharathidasan University and Dr. K. Prem Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Biomedical Science, Bharathidasan University.

Valedictory function of the conference was held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016. Dr. M. Sathiyabama, Assistant Professor in Plant Science, Co-organizing secretary, Bharathidasan University, welcomed the gathering. Dr. C. Thiruchelvam, Registrar, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, delivered presidential address. Prof. M. Krishnan, Syndicate Member & Chair, School of Environmental Sciences, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, delivered valedictory address. Dr. M. B. Viswanathan, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, announced awards for best papers and posters. Dr. B. D. Ranjitha Kumari, Organizing Secretary, Professor of Plant Science, Bharathidasan University, proposed vote of thanks and heartily thanked Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Department of Science and Technology (DST – SERB),

DST-PURSE, UGC–SAP, UGC-Unassigned Grant and Bharathidasan University for financial assistance for the successful conduct of the Conference.