

RECENT TRENDS IN PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

Prof. N. Jayabalan, organized the National Conference “**Recent trends in Plant Biotechnology**” on 27th and 28th February 2013 at AC Auditorium, Bharathidasan University.



Prof. N. Jayabalan, Prof. M.V. Rao, Dr. Rajaguru, Dr. Jagadeesan and Dr. A. Lakshmi Prabha

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and University Grants Commission (UGC) of New Delhi, and Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, sponsored the Conference. **Dr. P. Rajaguru**, Deputy Director Research, Professor and Head, Department of Biotechnology, Bharathidasan Institute of Technology, Anna University, Tiruchirappalli, inaugurated the conference and then **Prof. M. Jagadeesan** Registrar In-charge, Tamil University, Thanjavur, delivered the keynote address.

During the first day of the Conference, **Prof. M. Jagadeesan** delivered a lecture on “**Useful compounds in *in vitro* culture of Plants**”. Thereafter, P. Venkatachalam, Associate Professor in Biotechnology, Periyar University, Salem, delivered a talk on “**Molecular cloning and characterization of Pi responsive genes in gulf ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum* L.) and common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris* L.) by SSH analysis**”. During the second session, Dr. S. Rathinalvel, Centre for Research in Botany, Saraswathi Narayanan College, Madurai, delivered a talk on “**Plant Tissue Culture and its Pharmaceutical applications**”.

On Second Day, Conference started with the talk on “**Authentication of *Salacia oblonga* and *Salacia reticulata* through RAPD molecular markers**” by **Dr. B. Sekar**, Associate Professor in Botany, Pachiyappa College, Chennai. **Dr. R. Stephan**, Assistant Professor in PG & Research Department of Botany, Government Arts College, Ariyalur, delivered a lecture on “**Low cost technologies to start a biotech industry**”. Finally, **Dr. A. Ganapathy**, UGC-BSR Faculty Fellow, Department of Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering, Bharathidasan University, delivered a talk on “**Biotechnological applications to improve phytochemical contents of *Withania somnifera* (L.) Dunal**”.



Participation of Faculty Members from different Departments in the inaugural function

Overall 126 abstracts were published in souvenir and presented in oral as well as poster format in respective scientific sessions. After evaluation by the Scientists, best oral and poster awards were presented in the valedictory function.