

## **Microbial biotechnology for sustainable agriculture and food safety**

**Date: July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2017**

### **Conference Report**

A two-day National Conference on "Microbial biotechnology for sustainable agriculture and food safety" was held at the Department of Microbiology, Department of Biotechnology, Karpagam Academy of Higher Education, Coimbatore on July 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> 2017. It was well organized to commemorate Agriculture field. The conference provided a forum for academicians, professionals, environmentalists and scientists to discuss on the potential action of microbes on Agriculture field.

Dr.S. Sudalaimuthu, Vice Chancellor, Karpagam University presides and delivered presidential address. In his speech, he highlighted the importance of microbes in day-to-day life which boost the researchers. He released the first copy of "Microbial biotechnology for sustainable agriculture and food safety" souvenir containing various topics on the thrust areas of the conference to Chief Guest, guest Dr.N. Mathivanan, Director, CAS in Botany, Guindy Campus, University of Madras, Chennai. He gave an inspiring talk on the power of mighty microbes makes the world go around. The chief guest inaugurated the session and gave a lucid presentation about the mighty microbes in the agricultural field. The first lead lecture was given by Dr.N. Mathivanan on the topic "**Microorganism for soil and plant health management in sustainable agriculture**". The lecture was more informative for the students and made the students focus more on agriculture significance and its need. He emphasized the role of microbes in industrial sectors also. He showed real research results on microbial action on crop yield.

Dr.Muraligopal gave lecture on "**Application of microbiome in agriculture**" mainly focusing on microbial community which is used in agriculture, the first technical sessions starts with the oral presentation under the chairpersons Prof. Dr.N.Mathivanan and Dr.G.R.Prabu, HoD, Department of Biotechnology, KAHE, Coimbatore. Many scholars and faculty from various universities actively participated in the oral presentation and presented their views on microbial biotechnology on

agriculture and food safety and second technical session with the chairpersons Dr.Muraligopal and Dr.K.Devaki, KAHE and first day conference ended with this session.

The second day national conference was started with the lead lecture by Dr.U.Sivakumar, Professor, Department of microbiology, TNAU, Coimbatore. He gave lecture on “Biocatalysts for biomass deconstruction and derived aromatics” which mainly focus on locally and cheaply available lignocellulosic biomass material can be an alternate energy sources for the production of fuels and chemicals in the place of fossil fuel. In addition, biomass derived products such as xylo oligosaccharides from residual xyalin and vanillin from spent lignin will also be attempted. Second day technical session was started with the oral presentation under the chairpersons Dr.U.Sivakumar and Dr.B.V.Pradeep, Professor, Department of Microbiology, KAHE, and the students defended the discussion session and next technical session of the poster presentation under the chairperson Dr.R.Thilagavathi and Dr.S.Sangilimuthu and many students participated in the poster presentation.

In valedictory address he enlightens the progress of microbial diversity changed by many constraints especially in developing countries and also, he explores largely untapped microbial resources. Valedictory address was given by Dr.S.Sundararajan, at last prize distribution was given to the students who presented their papers nicely .finally feedback are given by the student of different colleges. This two-day national conference gave information about microbial biotechnology on sustainable agriculture and food safety and students gained knowledge about it. And soil fertility and its beneficial practices. The prominent role of AM fungi for sustainable plant production systems employing natural possesses to achieve acceptable level of productivity and food quality.

More than 120 delegates from various Universities, Institute and College participated and exchanged views on microbes in sustainable agriculture and food safety. A total of 80 research articles were discussed during this conference.

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