

National workshop on genome editing discusses advancements in research

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A “National Workshop-cum-Webinar on Genome Editing” has been organised from June 27 to July 3, 2022 online with an objective of communicating the advances in science and technology to young students and researchers. This workshop was organised under the Chairmanship of Prof KC Bansal, Secretary of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS), New Delhi, who is a former Director of the premier institution of ICAR, the National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR).

Co-Chaired by a world-renowned scientist Prof Yiping Qi, Associate Professor, University of Maryland, USA, the 7-day online workshop was attended by over 350 young researchers and faculty members belonging to the various fields of biotechnology.

Speakers included Dr KA Molla, Scientist, NRRI, Cuttack; Dr Siddharth Tiwari, Scientist, NABI, Mohali; Dr P Chander Shekhar, Principal Scientist, CSIR-CCMB, Hyderabad; Dr Debojyoti Chakraborty, Senior Scientist, CSIR-IGIB, New Delhi; Dr Viswanathan Chinnusamy, Principal Scientist, IARI, New Delhi and Dr Naveen Bisht, Staff Scientist V, NIPGR, New Delhi. The scientists who will be speaking during the next three days include Dr Kavita Babu, Principal Investigator, IISc, Bangalore; Dr Deepti Trivedi Vyas, Scientist, NCBS, Bangalore; Dr Amit Ghosh, Assistant Professor, IIT, Kharagpur; Dr Basudev Ghoshal, Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Dr D T Singh, Founder & President, CloudSeq Pte Ltd, Singapore.

Prof KC Bansal highlighted the current state of Gene Editing and mentioned that since Government of India has recently issued guidelines easing the norms for bio-safety assessment for developing genome-edited crops, more opportunities have

opened into the research and development in this field, and therefore, this workshop is the need of the hour. The Gene Editing technology enables the manipulation of targeted genes in a precise and efficient manner in many organisms and cell lines, and has become indispensable for all life sciences researchers globally, ranging from agriculture to pharma to health sectors.