

First Convention of Interdisciplinary Society for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (ISASaT): A Brief Report

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The maiden convention of the Interdisciplinary Society for Advancement of Agricultural Science & Technology (ISASaT) was convened at DBSKKV, Dapoli from 16th to 18th March 2017. The society is in its infancy and has been registered less than a year ago. It is a matter of pride that a convention of such magnitude was hosted for agriculture and all allied disciplines. This is one society which is unique in bringing all the agriculture and its allied subjects which include horticulture, fisheries, animal science, and forestry under one umbrella. This newly formed society aims to cultivate the science of agriculture among the concerned scientific community and to keep abreast with the pace of modern advancements. It is formed with the following specific objectives:

- a) to cultivate and promote agricultural & allied sciences
- b) to disseminate the knowledge of agricultural research and technology to masses
- c) to work in close association with organizations with similar objectives
- d) to develop technologies through research with respect to climate change, and
- e) to publish documents and specific studies intended for advancement of agricultural research and development.

The Society is presided by Dr. Tapas Bhattacharyya, Vice Chancellor of Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi

Vidyapeeth, Dapoli, Maharashtra, India and the headquarters is located in the campus of the University. The society is publishing a half-yearly peer-reviewed, online scientific journal namely Advancement of Agricultural Research & Technology Journal (AARJ). The first issue of AARJ was launched during the inaugural session of the convention.

Congruent with the objectives of the ISASaT, the first annual convention was held from 16th to 18th March 2017. The convention was aimed to bring together a wide national and international academia involved in research, development and extension in agricultural and allied sciences. More than 150 scientists from across the country and abroad participated in the convention.

The main theme of the convention was '*Emerging Trends in Agricultural and Allied Sciences*'. The convention was conducted in several concurrent and plenary sessions having keynote addresses, lead lectures by eminent scientists, oral and poster presentations by the delegates.

Inaugural Session

The convention was inaugurated by Dr. M. C. Varshneya, Vice Chancellor, Kamdhenu University, Gandhinagar, Gujarat. Dr. Tapas Bhattacharyya, Vice Chancellor, DBSKKV and President, ISASaT presided over the ceremony which was graced by Dr. K. P. Viswanatha, Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri by his presence. Also present on the dais were Dr. B. N. Ganguli, Asian Development

Bank, Manila, Dr. V. M. Mayande, Dr. V. B. Mehta and Dr. K. E. Lawande all ex-Vice Chancellors.

Keynote Addresses

Dr. M. C. Varshneya delivered the keynote address on the topic 'Cost-effective production technologies through engineering interventions'.

Dr. R. P. Singh, Executive Secretary, IAUA delivered his talk on increasing farmers' income through farming system approach in the backdrop of gains of green revolution in India'.

Dr. B. N. Ganguli, IFS & Ex-senior Specialist, Asian Development Bank, Manila spoke on 'Forests and Forestry: An unbroken dialogue'.

Dr. U. S. Sharma, Vice Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur delivered a keynote address on 'Plant protection: changing and emerging trends'.

Parallel sessions

Total 8 technical sessions were dedicated to various sub-themes in which lead lectures and oral presentations were delivered.

Judicious management of natural resources for enhanced agricultural production

Lead lectures

1. Dr. D. K. Pal, Former Head, NBSSLUP, Nagpur on 'Degradation of red ferruginous soils of humid and semi-arid tropical climate – A critique'.
2. Dr. B. Mandal, Professor of soil science, BCKV, Kalyani on 'Managing Nitrogen for benign environment'.

3. Dr. U. V. Mahadkar, Director of Research, DBSKKV, Dapoli on 'Judicious management of natural resources for enhancing agricultural production'.

4. Dr. K. M. Nair, Former Scientist, NBSSLUP on 'Soil related constraints to crop production in laterite soils of humid tropical South-western India'.

This was followed by 6 oral presentation by delegates.

Synergizing ITK and modern approaches for transfer of technology

Lead lectures

1. Dr. S. G. Bhavé, Director Extension Education, DBSKKV, Dapoli on 'Synergizing ITK and modern approaches for transfer of technology'.

2. Dr. N. Dharmadhikari, Educationist, Pune on 'Improving quality of higher education'.

3. Dr. S. W. Jahagirdar, Executive Council Member, DBSKKV, Dapoli on 'Variance heterogeneity and non-normality of data'.

This was followed by 10 oral presentations by delegates.

Post-harvest management, value addition and marketing strategies for cost-effective agriculture

Lead lectures

1. Dr. K. H. Pujari, Associate Dean, PGIPHM, Roha on 'Post-harvest management practices for Alphonso mango'.

2. Dr. G. D. Joshi, former Dean, DBSKKV, Dapoli on 'Importance of post-harvest management and value addition of horticultural crops'.

3. Dr. S. P. Sonavane, Head, CAET, Dapoli on 'Technologies of post-harvest and agro-processing of horticultural crops and food grains'.

This was followed by 10 oral presentation by delegates.

Conventional and molecular approaches

for crop improvement and physiological interventions for mitigating biotic and abiotic stresses under changing climate

Lead lectures

1. Dr. Jagdish Rane, Principal Scientist, NIASM, Baramati on 'Molecular and breeding approaches for abiotic stress – drought'.

2. Dr. K. V. Hippalgaonkar, ex-Head, Botany, Mumbai University on 'Biochemical changes and ripening enzyme activity during spongy tissue formation'.

This was followed by 8 oral presentation by delegates.

Emerging and Established Avenues in plant protection

Lead lecture

1. Dr. D. K. Ghosh, Principal Scientist, NRC-Citrus, Nagpur on 'Biotechnological tools for diagnosis, characterization and management of systemic diseases of citrus'.

This was followed by 7 oral presentations by delegates.

Cost-efficient production technologies through engineering interventions

Lead lectures

1. Dr. N. G. Shah, CTARS, IIT, Powai on 'Doing research in food, nutrition and health'.

2. Dr. Swami Anantheswaran, Pennsylvania State University, USA on 'Industry-University-Government collaboration for better product development'.

3. Dr. D. M. Mahale, Director of Farms, DBSKKV, Dapoli on 'Engineering interventions for water conservation'.

4. Dr. U. S. Kadam, Head, CAET, Dapoli on 'Efficient utilization of land and water for enhancing productivity in Konkan region'.

This was followed by 11 oral presentations

by delegates.

Advances in horticulture, spices and forest crops for sustainable productivity

Lead lectures

1. Dr. Prakash Patil, IIHR, Bengaluru on 'Variability in jackfruit'.

2. Dr. P. M. Haldankar, Associate Dean Horticulture College, Mulde on 'Significance of canopy management for sustainability of perennial fruit crops in the era of changing climate'.

3. Dr. R. G. Khandekar, Scientist, DBSKKV, Dapoli on 'Advances in horticulture for sustainable productivity especially tree crops'.

A presentation on power generation and social activities carried out by Mr. Mule, JSW, Jaigad, Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. This was followed by 9 oral presentation by delegates.

Latest trends in profitable aquaculture and livestock management

Lead lectures

1. Dr. R. G. Burte, Dean, DBSKKV, Dapoli on 'Management of top-feed resources fodder on goat cultivation'.

2. Dr. A. K. Reddy, CIFE, Mumbai on 'Inland saline aquaculturing in India: opportunities and challenges'.

3. Dr. Hukamsingh Dhaker, SSO, MBRS on 'Marine ornamental aquaculture'.

4. Dr. Raghvendra Pai, Associate Dean, Fisheries on 'Fisheries scenario of Maharashtra'.

This was followed by 13 oral presentations by delegates.

Poster Session

Total 159 posters were presented under various themes as detailed below:

» Judicious management of natural resources for enhanced agricultural production: 30 posters,

- » Advances in horticulture, spices and forest crops for sustainable productivity: 25 posters,
- » Conventional and molecular approaches for crop improvement and physiological interventions for mitigating biotic and abiotic stresses under changing climate: 41 posters,
- » Emerging and Established Avenues in plant protection: 30 posters,
- » Latest trends in profitable aquaculture and livestock management: 27 posters, and
- » Cost-efficient production technologies through engineering interventions: 6 posters.

Plenary Session

The plenary session was chaired by Dr. S. S. Magar, former Vice Chancellor and co-chaired by Dr. K. E. Lawande, former Vice Chancellor. Theme-wise proceedings were presented by the rapporteurs and awards for best oral presentation in each theme were given away. Similarly, best two posters under each theme were awarded.

Annual General Meeting of members of ISASaT

An annual general meeting (AGM) of the ISASaT was scheduled on 18th

March 2017 at 09:00 to 11:00. The meeting was chaired by Dr. Tapas Bhattacharyya, President ISASaT. Nearly 150 members of ISASaT were present for the AGM.

Chairman welcomed and congratulated all the members of ISASaT for having come together and formed a vibrant society. He also appreciated the growth of the society within a short span of time to more than 350 members. Thereafter, Dr. N. B. Gokhale, Secretary presented the items on agenda of the meeting. Each issue was discussed thoroughly by the members and following decisions were taken:

Proposed programmes to be undertaken during the year 2017-18

- It was decided that the society will organize International Mango Conference in collaboration with Dr. Balasaheb Sawant Konkan Krishi Vidyapeeth, Dapoli and others in May, 2018. The venue was decided as Vengurle Fruit Research Station, DBSKKV, Dapoli due its proximity to Goa for the International delegates. Dr. P. M. Haldankar was assigned the responsibility as Secretary General and was asked to build a team for

successful organization.

- It was decided to award Fellowship of the Society to the eminent scientists in future from amongst the life members of the Society. The secretary was assigned the task to devise modality for the same.

- The possibility of awarding the Best Thesis award be explored and in the next AGM the proposed modality may be presented for approval. Instituting an award for best research article as well as young scientist needed to be explored.

- Some scientific societies for smooth functioning and representation to all the zones may be requested to nominate/ elect Councillors. On the same lines the possibility of Councillors to be nominated for ISASaT need to be given a thought.

Budget finalization for the year 2017-18

Printing of AARJ: Although Society's journal is envisaged as an online journal, it is necessary to print several copies of initial issues required for popularization and submission for NAAS rating. Therefore, the general body decided that sufficient copies be published after online release of each issue of AARJ.

The AGM concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. J. M. Talathi, Treasurer of ISASaT.

1st Convention of Interdisciplinary Society for Advancement of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (ISASaT) 16-18 March 2017



Inaugural function of the 1st Convention of ISASaT



Delegates at the Inaugural function of 1st Convention



Felicitation of the Chief Guest of the 1st Convention



Launch of the 1st issue of AARJ



Dignitaries and Delegates of the 1st Convention of ISASaT