

Scientists and technicians trained in tissue culture of orchids

ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Sikkim, trained eight scientific and technical staff DBT-APSCS &T, Centre of Excellence for Bio-resources and Sustainable Development, Kimin, Arunachal Pradesh in tissue culture of orchids. The training programme was organised under the MoU signed between ICAR-NRC for Orchids and DBT-APSCS &T CoE for BRSD, Kimin Arunachal Pradesh. The 10-day training programme "Hands on Trainings on Tissueculture of Orchids" started on June 6th and ended on June 16th, 2022. In his inaugural address, Dr Ram Pal, Director ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Sikkim said that Arunachal Pradesh is the state with the highest biodiversity of orchids in India. There are ~550 orchid species known from the state, many of which are threatened in their habitat. It is high time to propagate rare and endangered species, which are important as ornamental plants and for medicinal purposes, for conservation and commercialization. Eight participants, including 6 women and 2 men, attended the training programme. The training covered basic laboratory techniques as well as advanced techniques for propagation of orchids in tissue culture. Apart from tissue culture of orchids, the participants also learnt about hand pollination and seed setting of orchids, orchid breeding techniques, isolation and characterisation of biomolecules from medicinal and aromatic orchids and statistical methods for plant tissue culture experiments. Since DBT-APSCS &T CoE for BRSD, Kimin Arunachal Pradesh is already engaged in propagation of orchids, emphasis was laid on learning by doing and solving the problems they face in tissue culture of orchids. Dr Ram Pal, Principal Scientist (Horticulture), Dr M Dayamma, DST Woman Scientist, Dr Siddhartha Sankar Biswas, Scientist, (Soil Science), Mr Bharat Kumar Alam Scientist, (Genetic & Plant Breeding), Mr Suman Natta Scientist, (Pant Biochemistry) were the resource persons. In his valedictory address, the Director of ICAR-NRC for Orchids, Sikkim said that the orchid conservation initiative coupled with mass propagation techniques in the orchid rich states will not only help in the conservation of orchid biodiversity but will also help in the commercialisation of the genetic resources of the country. He said that in the 26 years of its existence, ICAR-NRC for Orchids has accumulated vast expertise on various aspects of conservation, culture and propagation of orchids, which needs to be utilised to achieve the goals of conservation as well as commercialization of orchids. He expressed the desire to collaborate with other states of the country, which have a large biodiversity of orchids, in the conservation, cultivation and commercialization of orchids in the country.

