

DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

2018 – 2019

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY CELEBRATION 2018

The theme for the World Environment Day 2018, "Beat Plastic Pollution". World Environment Day is the "people's day" for doing something to take care of the Earth. On behalf of this, Department of Biotechnology, St. Mary's college had organized a talk by Mr. S. Sreelal, District Coordinator, Clean Kerala Company Limited on the theme "Plastic Waste Management" at Chavara Seminar Hall on 5th June 2018. An exhibition on refurbished worn out plastic was also arranged at the same venue.



2. OBSERVATION OF 102nd BIRTHDAY OF FRANCIS CRICK

Signing of MoU and Research Talk

Francis Harry Compton Crick (8 June 1916 – 28 July 2004) was a British molecular biologist, biophysicist and neuroscientist, most noted for being a co-discoverer of the structure of the DNA molecule in 1953 with James Watson. Together with Watson and Wilkins, he was jointly awarded the 1962 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discoveries concerning the molecular structure of nucleic acids and its significance for information transfer in living material.

To commemorate his valuable contribution towards the general community, a Seminar was organized by Department of Biotechnology on June 8th 2018 by Mr. Suresh Lingam, project manager, yaazh xenomics, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu. The talk was on “new generation sequencing”. On the same day, a milestone was set by department of biotechnology by signing memorandum of understanding with yaazh xenomics, Coimbatore, Tamilnadu. About 80 post graduate students from various life science department had attended the session. The MoU provides knowledge transfer between the two entities as well as project assistance in terms of instrumentation facilities and various other resources. The venture would be of great help for the budding biotechnologists as well as for students of other streams. Beneficiary: students



Voluntary Blood Donation Camp

A blood donation camp was organized on 12th July 2018 at St. Mary's College, Thrissur, in association with Red Ribbon Club and NSS in collaboration with Indian Medical Association, Thrissur. A strict diet chart was given to students before two weeks of blood campaign. In this camp overwhelming number of volunteers of different department of college has participated with vivacity. Refreshments were provided to the students who were part of the camp. The Volunteers took immense care to meet the requirements of students after donating the blood, so as to avoid any mishaps in the campus.



SCIENCE POPULARIZATION PROGRAMME NATIONAL SEMINAR

The Science Popularization Programme “Swastha Shudhi” – Sustainable, Innovative and Scientific solid waste management was carried out by Department of Biotechnology, St. Mary’s College, Thrissur. This program, funded by KSCSTE for an amount of 2.5 lakhs organizes various seminars, exhibitions and competitions, throughout this academic year, to create awareness among the public about the importance of in situ waste management.

As part of this program, the department organized a National seminar on Solid Waste and its Sustainable Management on 27th July, 2018. The one-day seminar was inaugurated by the principal Sr. Dr. Magie Jose and the souvenir titled “SWASM” was also released. The speakers Dr. Ignatius Antony, Principal, St. Thomas college, Thrissur; Dr. S. Vijayanadh, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Thiruvalluvar University, Vellore and Dr. E.V. Ramasamy, Director, School of Environmental Sciences, Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam had delivered talks on various thrust areas.



Glimpses from the seminar

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY ACTIVITY

International Youth Day 2018: Every year the 12th of August is observed as the commemoration of International Youth Day (IYD). The theme for International Youth Day 2018 is “Safe Spaces for Youth”. UNDESA and UN Habitat encourage youth and young people, youth structures, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to come together and celebrate the role of “Safe Spaces for Youth” in their local communities. International Youth Day began in 2000 and was organized by the United Nations to celebrate the contribution of young people in education, employment, conflict resolution and social justice. To create awareness on this, Department of Biotechnology in association with Red Ribbon Club has organized an inter-department debate competition on the topic “Safe space for youth” on 14th August, 2018. Students actively participated in competition and a talk was also delivered by the judges.



INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE OZONE LAYER (2018 -19)

The ozone layer, a fragile shield of gas, protects the Earth from the harmful portion of the rays of the sun, thus helping preserve life on the planet. Since 1994, 16th of September is annually celebrated as the International Day for the preservation of Ozone layer with a lot of enthusiasm in all the countries. The theme for this year was “keep cool and carry on” by celebrating the work so far, continuing to protect the ozone layer and accelerating action to take an even bigger bite out of climate change.

As part of this, Department of Biotechnology has organized a poster exhibition on the importance of ozone layer on 19th September 2018. The exhibition was arranged at the corridors of biotechnology lab. Several students had participated in the same with great enthusiasm. Posters of high standard was produced by the students of the department.



TALK ON “WOMEN –THE MULTITASKER”

Red Ribbon Club in association with Department of Biotechnology, St. Mary’s College, Thrissur had organized a talk for the students and staff on 28th September, 2018. The talk was delivered by Dr. Vineetha S, Consultant Gynecologist, District Hospital, Thrissur. The talk was on the topic “Women –The Multitasker”.

The talk emphasized on the different roles of women in the society. Woman as the homemaker, professional, academician, athlete, scientist etc. decorates various glorified position in our society. The talk also stressed on the need to take care of the mental and physical health of every individual. There was active participation by the students and they raised many questions which was happily answered by the doctor.



ALZHEIMER’S DAY OBSERVATION (2018 -19)

World Alzheimer's Month is the international campaign every September to raise awareness and challenge the stigma that surrounds dementia. September 2018 marked the 7th World Alzheimer's Month. The campaign was launched in 2012: World Alzheimer's Day is on 21 September each year. To overcome, the stigmatization and misinformation that surrounds dementia, department of biotechnology organized a visit to Alzheimer’s day care center, “Smrithipatham”. This government Alzheimer’s day care center provide consolation to the local Alzheimer’s patients residing at kurukkanpara, Kunnamkulam. On prior consent from the authority, the students accompanied by teachers had visited “Smrithipatham” on 3rd October 2018.

The visit has led to a sound interaction between the students and the inmates. The students created a quality time with the inmates by singing songs and performing dance. The inmates were given food packets and other eatables like biscuits. Photographs of the national leaders, politicians and film actors of yesteryears were handed over to the trainers for the brain exercises of the inmates. The inmates were very happy and they thoroughly mingled with the students, on the other hand students had a quality time with Alzheimer’s patients. This visit had helped to create awareness among students about the complications in the life of Alzheimer’s and dementia patients and measures for palliative care of such patients.



SCIENCE POPULARIZATION PROGRAMME

Lecture series on Solid waste management

As an initiative towards sustainable environment, the Department of Biotechnology planned to generate awareness among the students, academia and general public through a series of lecture.

The lecture series on Solid waste management, a part of Science popularization programme supported and sponsored by KSCSTE was conducted on 16th November 2018 at Chavara seminar hall. Mr. Amal C. J., Assistant Co-coordinator, Solid-Liquid Waste Management Division, Suchitwa Mission, Thrissur, Dr. Arun Babu, Asst. professor, ADHOC, Faculty of Basic Science and Humanity, Indian Naval Academy, Ezhimala, Kannur; Mr. Gopinathan C, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology, Calicut University and Dr. Linto Alappat, Head, Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences, Christ College (Autonomous), Irinjalakkuda, Thrissur were present.



TRAINING ON REMODELING OF WORN OUT PLASTICS

As part of Science popularization programme supported and sponsored by KSCSTE, a hands on training for the house wives in the remodeling of worn out plastics was conducted on 23rd November 2019 at Chavara seminar hall. Plastic being deposited in and around the surrounding is a major issue most people face today. People literally don't have any idea on what to do with the used plastic. In this scenario, Department of Biotechnology had conducted a class on remodeling this plastic into beautiful craft products. From the worn out plastic, flowers, flower pot, dream catcher etc. were made. The training was meant for matured house wives who can spent time for this craft making.

The class was taken by Ms. Kunjumary, a specialist in clay craft and surface ornamentation. A huge participation of kudumbashree members was a key element of this training program. Refreshment was provided to all the participants. Memento was given to Ms. Kunjumary, as a token of love and appreciation by the principal, Sr. Dr. Magie Jose. The program was concluded with vote of thanks by Ms. Fyna Sebastain, Assistant professor, Dept. of Biotechnology, St. Mary's College, Thrissur.



FOOD PACKETS

“Food for The Poor” provides, as its main objective, nourishment to the poor. It also focuses on erecting homes for homeless families, supplies medicine and health care in hospitals and clinics, subsidizes orphanages, and teaches children and adults by providing training. The flood that devastated Kerala had produced more people homeless and poor. Partnering with Food for The Poor to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of the poor — one person, one family at a time, Department of Biotechnology, St. Mary’s College, Thrissur participated in the food packet distribution for the poor and homeless.

The food packet distribution was conducted under the name “Karunaardram” on 23rd November 2018. The students and staff of the Department of Biotechnology had contributed more than 100 food packets on. There was positive response from the side of both the students and staff towards this humanitarian cause.



COMMEMORATING HAR GOBIND KHORANA

Har Gobind Khorana is an Indian-born American biochemist. He was an organic chemist who specialized in the study of proteins and nucleic acids, shared the Nobel Prize in Medicine with Robert W. Holley and Marshall W. Nirenberg in 1968 for discoveries related to the genetic code and its function in protein synthesis. To commemorate the birthday of Har Gobind Khorana, a cover page design competition for the students was held on 9th January 2019.

There was active participation from the students. The best design was awarded a cash prize of 1000 INR and consolation prize of 250 INR per student was given to 4 students. Aysha Razia, III DC Biotechnology bagged the first prize. Consolation awards were given to Brigit Benny, Suhaani Yasmeen (I DC Biotechnology), Sneha A.P.K. and Mariya Joy (II DC Biotechnology).



**SCIENCE POPULARIZATION PROGRAMME
AWARENESS CLASSES & BIOBIN DISTRIBUTION**

Awareness classes and biobin distribution to selected apartments at Pushpagiri Brahmama Samooam, Poonkunnam, Thrissur was organized on 16/1/2019. Sr. Dr. Magie Jose, Principal, St. Mary's College, Thrissur; Smt. J. Lalithambika, Muncipal Councilor; Sri. Vishwanatha Iyer, Kerala Brahmama Samooam Town Secratory; Sr. Dr. Meena K. Cheruvathoor, Vice- Principal, St. Mary's College attended the function. Awareness class on various methods of composting was carried out by Dr. D. Girija, Professor and Head, Department of Agricultural Microbiology, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur. The distribution of biobins for composting was distributed by Sr. Dr. Magie Jose, Principal, St. Mary's College, Thrissur to the representatives of apartments – Omega Ramarajyam, Temple View, Saketh, Narayana Homes.



NATIONAL YOUTH DAY OBSERVANCE

National Youth Day is celebrated in India on 12th January on the birthday of Swami Vivekananda. The theme for 2019 is “Channelizing youth power for nation building – attainment through resolve”. In 1984 the Government of India declared the day as the National Youth Day and since 1985 the event is celebrated in India every year. The National Youth Day is observed all over India at schools and colleges, with processions, speeches, recitations, music, youth conventions, seminars, yogasanas, presentations, competitions etc.

To ignite the minds of youth of our college, the Red Ribbon Club in association with the Department of Biotechnology has organized a talk on 17th January 2019 by Sr. Stenny Grace, psychologist and a member of campus ministry for the formation and counselling of children and youth. She has been constantly taking classes and doing counselling in schools and colleges at different states of India. The talk was very inspiring and powerful and also inspired the students to embark on a successful journey.



SCIENCE POPULARIZATION PROGRAMME VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

The official valedictory ceremony of Science Popularization Programme activities for the year 2017-2018 was on 29th January, 2019. The valedictory function was a recall of our continuous efforts to think and work together towards efficient waste management. A documentary show “Naal vazhikaliloode” comprising the entire activities of SPP was exhibited.



GENDER SENSITIZATION PROGRAM

Talk on “Women's rights”

Department of Biotechnology conducted a talk on “Women’s Right” by Adv. Kavitha K L, related to gender sensitization program at St. Joseph Hall on 15th February 2019. Women's rights under the constitution of India mainly include equality, dignity, and freedom from discrimination. The heinous acts against women like acid throwing, domestic violence, dowry, female infanticide and sex-selective abortion, honor killings, rape, sexual harassment, trafficking etc. was seriously discussed with the students. The students were also made aware of the numerous statutes governing the rights of women in India. The talk was very much inspiring and it had helped in penetrating a positive attitude among the students and made them realize their inner strength.



Bio zest magazine release

The department magazine is a symbol of pride and a miniature representation of the department. Any individual going through the magazine would clearly gauge the principles, values and ideology of the department. The benefits of a magazine are immense. The magazine promotes creativity and nurtures the latent skills of young minds. The articles, artwork and the latest discoveries in the field serves as a source of encouragement for the budding biotechnologists. The magazine was a collective team effort and the entire student community of Department of Biotechnology had enjoyed in functioning as a team.

The students have utilized the magazine as a platform to express their academic, extra-curricular and co-curricular index. The magazine was released on 29th March 2019 by Sr. Dr. Magie Jose, Principal, St. Mary's College, Thrissur.

