

**Report on National Workshop cum Seminar
Current Trends of Research in Biological Sciences
(December 29-30, 2023)
Organized by the Department of Bio-Sciences, H.P. University, Shimla**

Two days National Workshop cum Seminar on “**Current Trends of Research in Biological Sciences**” sponsored by **Rashtriya Uchtar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** was successfully organized in H.P. University by the Department of Bio-Sciences in association with H.P. University Biological Society on 29-30 December 2023.

In this event, there were 07 lead talks and 02 technical sessions. Approximately 150 participants including 100 M.Sc. students attended the event. They also visited various research laboratories and the Incubator center. All the participants interacted with each other and enjoyed the lectures as well as the technical sessions.

The workshop was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Prof. Balkrishan Shivram, Hon’ble Dean of Studies, H.P. University, Shimla, Guest of Honour, Prof. Duni Chand, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences, Dr. H.S. Banyal, Chairman, Department of Bio-Sciences and Dr. Mahender Thakur, Chairman, Department of Forensic Sciences and Environment Sciences.

Dr. H.S. Banyal, Chairman, Department of Bio-Sciences welcomed all the guests. He briefly introduced the chief guest and guest of honor to the audience and highlighted the expected outcomes of the event.

Prof. Balkrishan Shivram, Hon’ble Dean of Studies stimulated the audience with his very influential speech. He emphasized that the classroom teaching should be student-centric rather than teacher-centric.

Prof. Duni Chand, Dean, of the Faculty of Life Sciences motivated the students to opt career in research. He shared his experiences and encouraged the students to be focused and dedicated to achieving their goals.

Dr. Avtar Kaur Sidhu, Scientist, ZSI, Solan (H.P.) delivered a lecture on “Current Trends of Research in Animal Taxonomy”. She discussed various scientific issues related to Taxonomy. She described different tools and techniques for the collection, preservation, and identification of samples.

Dr. Murari Lal Thakur, Project Coordinator, State Biodiversity Board, H.P. delivered a talk on Biodiversity Conservation: Importance and Scope. He suggested various areas of research as well as research gaps in the field of Biodiversity.

Dr. Kuldip Dogra, Scientist, BSI, Solan explained the “Basics of field survey and herbarium techniques”. He practically demonstrated the methods of herbarium preparation. He also described the requirements as well as precautions for field surveys.

On the second day, a highly informative talk was delivered by **Dr. Santosh Wapde**, Scientist, ICAR-IARI, Shimla. His lecture was on “Recent Advances in the Detection of Plant Pests and Diseases”. He demonstrated field methods and lab techniques for the detection and diagnosis of plant diseases including ELISA, PCR, and other molecular diagnostic techniques.

Prof. S.P. Bhardwaj, Former Vice Chancellor, MBU, Solan (H.P.) elaborately described various technical tools used in Entomology. His lecture was on “Current Trends of Research in Entomology”.

Dr. Pawan Rana, Scientist, HFRI, Shimla delivered a talk on “Application of modern tools and techniques in insect identification and characterization”. He demonstrated the methods of field study and techniques for insect identification.

Dr. Vaneet Jishtu, Scientist, HFRI, Shimla delivered a talk on “Rudiments of Plant Taxonomy” He gave a descriptive account of the origin, importance as well and scope of Taxonomy.

All the technical sessions were highly informative and interactive. Students actively participated in the technical sessions and cleared their doubts and queries. They were asked questions by the experts and other participants.

Department of Bio-Sciences is thankful to **Rashtriya Uchta Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA)** for providing funds to organize this Workshop cum Seminar.

