

**International WORKSHOP ON TISSUE CULTURE OF ECONOMIC PLANTS,
NATIONAL CHEMICAL LABORATORY (NCL), PUNE (INDIA),
APRIL 25-29, 1994**

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES : 7

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS : 12

The Workshop on Tissue Culture of Economic Plants was held at the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune (India) during April 25-29, 1994. The event was co-sponsored by the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS). Apart from 3 participants from India (Dr. N. M. Bhattacharya, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswa Vidyalaya, West Bengal, Dr. P. Farroqui from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India and Dr. S. Seeni of the Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute, Trivandrum), the workshop was attended by 9 participants from six other member countries of the NAM S&T Centre, viz. Bangladesh (Dr. M. Serajul Islam of the Institute of Food and Radiation Biology, Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission), Malaysia (Ms. Hafsa Jaafar of the Rubber Research institute, Kuala Lumpur, Dr. Nik Norulaini Nik Ab. Rahman of the University Science Malaysia in Penang and Dr. Radzali B. Muse of the University Pertanian Malaysia in Selangor), Nepal (Dr. S. B. Rajbhandary of the Royal Nepal Academy of Science and Technology and Dr. Hari Krishna Sainju of the National Herbarium and Botanic Laboratory in Lalitpur), Peru (Dr. Marcel Gutierrez Correa of CONCYTEC), Uganda (Mr. John Birikunzira of Kawanda Agricultural Research Institute) and Zimbabwe (Dr. Joseph M. Gopo of the University of Zimbabwe in Harare). Nominees from Cuba, Tanzania and Zambia could not attend despite the availability of finance from the NAM S&T Centre.

The resource persons for the workshop included Prof. H. Y. Mohan Ram of the University of Delhi, Dr. P. S. Rao and H. R. Heble of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Bombay, Dr. John Barnabas, Dr. Anthony F. Mascarenhas and Dr. K. V. Krishnamurthy of the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune and experts from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP), Lucknow, National Botanical Research institute (NBRI), Lucknow, the Centre for Biotechnology (CBT), New Delhi and Anna University, Madras.

After welcome to the participants and guests by the Acting Director of NCL Pune, Dr. Paul Ratnaswamy, the Workshop was inaugurated by the eminent agriculture scientist and former Deputy Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Dr. A.B. Joshi, who was the recipient of the Dr. Norman Borlaug Award in 1976. In his address Dr. Joshi mentioned that no single country

could do all that was needed to be done in the field of Plant Biotechnology. The area of tissue culture was one of the fastest developing ones with high economic potential and it was important to pool the resources to derive maximum benefit. He complimented the NAM S&T Centre and hoped that the efforts of the Centre will be successful in achieving objectives of the Workshop. Mr. K. N. Johry, Director of the NAM S&T Centre introduced the subject of the workshop and its importance for developing countries both from environmental and economic aspects. He conveyed the gratitude of the Centre to the Commonwealth Science Council (CSC) and the Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) for their support and co-sponsorship of the Workshop and also thanked Dr. R. A. Mashelkar, Director of the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL) for his kind offer to host the Workshop, giving shape to the proposal and placing all the facilities of the NCL towards organization of the workshop. Dr. T.N. Khoshoo, former Secretary to Government of India for Environment & Forests and former Secretary of Indian National Science Academy (INSA), who was the year's winner of the UNEP – Sasakawa Environment Award, delivered the keynote address entitled 'Biodiversity, Biotechnology and Bioproductivity'. Dr. K.V. Krishnamurthy, Head of the Plant Tissue Culture Division of NCL and Workshop Coordinator proposed a vote of thanks.

Besides lectures by experts and country presentations by the participants, the programme of the workshop included visits to the laboratory, tissue culture pilot plant and tissue culture commercial establishment. A concluding session was held to discuss the follow-up action and recommendations. The following recommendations emerged from these discussions:

- The Centre should bring out a publication on 'Technologies and Applications of Tissue Culture, including Gene Transfer Technology' for wider circulation to all the member countries.
- The NAM S&T Newsletter may give coverage to the developments in Tissue Culture in member countries and provide continuing link between the participants of the workshop.
- In view of the benefit derived by the participants from the workshop and the desire expressed by them, the Centre will explore possibility of arranging another workshop during 1996 to review latest developments in this field.