

Report on

ABC OF DNA - 2018: A Course to Inspire Young Biologists

The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (2013), Government of India states that Science, Technology and Innovation are the major drivers to National development globally. India has declared 2010 – 2020 as a decade of innovation. In furtherance, synergising **Science, Technology and Innovation for people** is expected from public Institutions. Promoting scientific skills amongst all sections of the society and enhancing talents for applications of science among the young from all social strata are the key strategies of STIP-2013. It is pertinent that, in order to inspire young minds, opportunity needs to be created by public institutions so that the future generation gets primed up in Science, Technology and Innovation.

Since 2010, the Institute offers the hands on course “**The ABC of DNA**” to the 11th and 12th grade students. The course has theoretical and practical sessions within the academic framework of Matric, CBSE and ICSE syllabus systems. The aim of the program is to expose students to a rapid crash course in comprehending the structure, function and services of DNA. During the course students are provided knowledge on DNA Markers, Cloning, Transformation Techniques, Tissue Culture and Tree Propagation. Scholars are encouraged to conduct wet lab experiments in extracting, quantifying DNA and to conduct PCR reactions individually. Over twenty schools within the Coimbatore educational district have participated till date. The "**ABC of DNA – 2018**" conducted during 1-2 November, had twenty eight registered participants. The course had ten field and lab lectures from resource persons within the Institute. All the laboratory sessions and wet lab procedures were handled by the Research Scholars of the division. The program had one external expert, Dr.Hema Jagadesan, Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology, PSG college of Technology with two sessions in the field of DNA Bar-coding and *RNai* technology.



Students performing DNA extraction and electrophoresis



Students attending a session on Microscopy procedures

In appreciation of the knowledge assimilated the participants appeared for written and oral quizzing on DNA sciences on the Day 2 by professional quiz expert Sh. Suryanarayanan Messrs. Quiz Corporation, Coimbatore. Six prizes were distributed among the participants. Ms. Roopal Raveendranathan, Chinmaya International School, Coimbatore and Ms. S. Balakannika, PSPB Millenium School, Coimbatore emerged as the Champion Quizzers.



Ms. Roopal Ravindranathan, Chinmaya International School receiving the Quiz Winner Prize from Dr. Mohit Gera, IFS, Director, IFGTB

The valedictory session was chaired by Dr. Mohit Gera, Director IFGTB and the talk of departing was made by Dr S. Murugesan, Group Coordinator Research. The note of thanking was made by Dr. B. Nagarajan. The course concluded with visit of students to the Gass Forest Museum.