

National Conference on “**Insect-Plant Biology in 21st Century**” organized by Department of Zoology of Deshbandhu College was held on 4th – 5th November 2019 in Swami Vivekananda Auditorium, Deshbandhu College under the guidance of **Patron, Dr. Rajiv Aggarwal (Principal), Organizing Secretary, Dr. Indrakant K. Singh, Convener Insect Biology, Dr. Kamal Kumar Gupta and Dr. Varsha Baweja and Convener Plant Biology, Dr. Archana Singh.**

The program commenced with the inaugural ceremony by invoking the Blessings of the Almighty in the form of Saraswati vandana and lighting of the auspicious lamp by the honorable chief guest Dr Pramod Kumar, Registrar, JNU and Prof Deepak Gaur followed by the welcome address given by the Principal, Deshbandhu College Dr. Rajiv Aggarwal. Prof Pramod Kumar in his inaugural address showed concern about the disappearance of insects especially insect pollinators honey bees due to rising levels of pollution. Prof. Deepak Gaur, Professor & Group Leader Laboratory of Malaria & Vaccine Research, School of Biotechnology (SBT), JNU delivered a talk on “Current Status of Malaria Control and Vaccine Development” in a very simplified and interactive manner which was immensely appreciated by the students and teachers.

First day of the conference was very fruitful and brain storming with four invited talks by eminent Professors and Scientists from reputed Universities and Institutions and oral and poster presentations by academicians, researchers, postgraduate and undergraduate students. Invited talks were delivered by:

Prof. M. V. Rajam, Department of Genetics, University of Delhi, South Campus on “RNA Interference and Artificial miRNA Technology for Development of Tomato Resistance to Fruit Worm (*Helicoverpa armigera*)”.

Dr. Jayendra Shukla, Assistant Professor (Biotechnology Department) Central University of Rajasthan, Ajmer, Rajasthan on “Dissection of sex determination pathway of *Tribolium castanum* using parental RNAi”.

Dr. Jyothilaxmi Vadassary, Staff Scientist IV National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR) on “Calcium to sense insects: Role of cyclic nucleotide gated channel in plant defence against insect herbivory”.

Dr. Anita Kamra Verma, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Kirorimal College, Delhi University on “Particulate Nano-insecticides: A novel concept in Insect Pest Management”.

Second day of the conference was also full of enthusiasm and scientifically rich. There were four invited talks, one plenary talk, oral presentations and poster presentations. Invited talks were given by:

Dr. Anjana Singha Naorem, Assistant Professor in department of Zoology, Cotton College State University on “Heteropteran Diversity of North East India: An area to be explored”.

Dr. Ashok P. Giri, Principal Scientist & Chair, CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune on “Peptides from Plant Protease-inhibitor Proteins for Plant Protection”.

Dr. Imtiyaz Hassan, Assistant Professor and Group Leader: Structural Biology Laboratory Center for Interdisciplinary Research in Basic Sciences, Jamia Millia Islamia on “Dietary phenolics as potential kinase inhibitors: A new paradigm of structure-based drug design and discovery”.

Prof. Renee M. Borges, Scientist, IISc, Bangalore on “What can studying natural microcosms teach us about community assembly in insect-plant interactions”.

Plenary talk was given by **Dr. Ramesh V. Sonti**, Director, National Institute of Plant Genome Research on “Basic biology of host-pathogen interactions in plants”.

All the dignitaries and speakers were duly felicitated at the end of their talk. Conference ended with the interactive question and answer session, distribution of prizes and certificates to all the winners and participants which motivate them to think out of the box, perform better and serve the society by innovative research methodologies.

The conference was concluded by vote of thanks given by the **Organizing Secretary, Dr. Indrakant K. Singh**. He also acknowledged the financial support provided by UGC and DBT Star college project without which this conference won't be possible. The event brought together some 150 participants from various institutions to review and discuss on the plant-insect interactions, their causes and effects. The reputed experts shared their experience and gave their valuable insights into the nature of challenges that the plants and insects faces in the near future.

