

FFSF organized FloraFauna Innovation Summit in collaboration with CSIR-NBRI and CSIR-CIMAP

To translate the outcome of research and innovation for the benefit of society and for the creation of entrepreneurial opportunities, FloraFauna Science Foundation (FFSF) organized the sixth Innovation Summit (FFIS-2025) through real time *In Village* mode on 15th February, 2025 in technical collaboration with CSIR-NBRI and CSIR-CIMAP. The venue chosen for holding this Summit was Mahayogi Dharmshala meeting hall located in the campus of Ma Chandrika Devi Temple, near village Kathwara falling under the block Bakshi ka Talab, Lucknow, which is well connected with the city of Lucknow as well as number of adjoining villages. FFIS-2025 had an active participation of about 150 participants comprising scientists, innovators, progressive farmers, start-ups, entrepreneurs, students, researchers, beneficiaries, besides a large number of members of the FloraFauna Science Foundation. At the outset in 'Aarambh' session, Founder Chairman of FFSF and Former Director CSIR-CIMAP, Prof Suman PS Khanuja in his initiation and theme lecture said that the current sixth summit was planned to have selected presentations on the innovations, ideas and exhibits by participants in 'Khoj' and 'Sakshat' sessions besides the interaction with the experts panel in 'Manthan' session covering various aspects of horticulture, aroma, and nutrition demonstrating beneficial outcome of technologies and direct positive impact on bringing happiness to the society and the planet in tune with last year's theme of FFSF "विज्ञान से मुस्कान: Science to Smile". Prof Khanuja thanked CSIR-NBRI and CSIR-CIMAP in having MoU with FFSF recently to have joint activities for reaching the unreached especially among the farmers and entrepreneurs in extending new knowledge and improved technologies, which can provide them entrepreneurial opportunities and enhance their income.



Dr Prabodh K Trivedi, Director, CSIR-CIMAP, delivered the technology lecture and apprised about the major achievements of the institute in the area of development of improved technologies and plant varieties of medicinal and aromatic crops which have gone a long way in increasing the production as well as income of the farmers. Dr Prabodh K Trivedi along with Prof Suman PS Khanuja and members of FFSF also planted Rudraksh, Chandan and Tulsi saplings near the venue to mark the inauguration of the Summit.



Thereafter, in the 'Khoj'session' 14 presentations were made by the participating researchers and students. Besides above, five stalls of exhibits of different types of plant products were arranged by the farmers under the concurrent 'Sakshat' session.



All the presentations were evaluated by a special Jury of scientists and finally, the best presentations were awarded cash prizes (First-Rs 1000; Second-Rs 700; Third-Rs 500) and certificates. The awards in the 'Khoj' and 'Sakshat' session were sponsored by M/s JKG Development Foundation and SKiES India, Lucknow, respectively. The details of the winners are given as under:

- A. 'Khoj' Awards under 'Science' Category: Ms Khushi Maheswari (First), Ms Tanuja (Second), Mr Ashis Singh (Third); Innovation Category: Ms Sabia Rabbani (First), Ms

Ayesha Usmani (Second), Dr Priti Mathur (Third); Entrepreneurship Category: Mr Nand Ram (First), Mr Durgesh Maurya (Second), Ms Menika Pandey (Third)

B. Sakshat Awards: Mrs Kusum Maurya (First), Mr Harakh Chand Verma (Second)



Under the 'Manthan' Session a face-to-face interaction of participants with experts drawn from various walks of life was held. Director CSIR-NBRI, Dr Ajit K Shasany also addressed the participants and exhorted them to adopt various floral crops suitable for cultivation in their areas for augmenting their income. He told that CSIR-NBRI is also making available the improved planting material of various floral crops to the interested farmers under the CSIR Floriculture Mission. Dr Shasany assured all the help and guidance by the institute to the farmers willing to take up production and marketing of the flowers.



A team of CSIR-NBRI scientists, Dr KJ Singh, Dr Sharad Srivastava, Dr Manish K Bhojar and Technical Officer Dr Daya Shankar conducted a workshop for the participating farmers and entrepreneurs of the Summit. A kit of tuberose bulbs was also presented to the participating farmers by Director CSIR-NBRI on the occasion.

A team of CSIR-CIMAP scientists, Dr Rajesh K Verma, Dr Sanjay Kumar and Dr Ramesh K Srivastava also interacted with the participants and apprised them about the economically important aromatic crops, which can be grown in degraded and poor soils. The essential oils derived from these plants have great demand in domestic as well as in the overseas market.



A team of SKiES India, Lucknow led by Prof Suman PS Khanuja and Dr Archana Suman highlighted the importance of biofertilizers in not only improving the health of the soil but also cutting down the requirement of chemical fertilizers and pesticides considerably. The kits of biofertilizers with method of its application etc were also distributed among the farmers by the team SKiES India on this occasion.

The 'Amrit' Session was chaired by Prof Suman PS Khanuja, Founder Chairman FFSF. Based on the presentations and interactions held during the Summit, following major recommendations have emerged:

- Integration of cereal and vegetable crops with floral and aromatic and medicinal crops should be promoted
- Technology for extraction of aromatic oils from the discarded or used flowers should be developed and popularized
- Innovative efforts are needed in agriculture by developing soil, water, air-friendly technologies together with organic cultivation to a certain level
- Linkage of the farmers and entrepreneurs with research institutions must be strengthened and vice versa

- Judicious and sustainable use of bioresources be made for the development of novel products
- Agriculture waste be utilized for the development of fertilizers/ manures, etc.
- Various rural enterprises such as honey-bee keeping, biofertilizer production etc. be encouraged under the training and outreach programme
- We should protect the nature, which is essential for our survival on this planet

FFSF Founder Chairperson Prof Suman PS Khanuja thanked both the collaborating institutes (CSIR-NBRI and CSIR-CIMAP) and Ma Chandrika Devi Mela Vikas Samiti for all the help and cooperation in organizing the sixth FFIS. He also thanked all contributors and participants for making the FFIS-2025 a great success. Prof Khanuja also announced that the theme for next year's FloraFauna Innovation Summit would be '*Prakriti Se Unnati*'.

Dr Anil Kumar Singh, Chairman Organizing Team of FFIS-2025 conducted the proceedings. Other dignitaries and scientists present on the occasion included Dr Ashwani K Srivastava, Dr Rashmi Srivastava, Prof Brijesh Pandey, Dr Birendra Kumar, Dr Daya N Mani, Dr DU Bawankule, Dr Ram S Verma, Dr RP Bansal, Dr Shuchi Srivastava, Dr Ashutosh Shukla, Dr Swaha Shee Chanda, Dr Priti Mathur, Dr Uma Shankar, Mrs Anita Yadav, Dr Amita Dubey, Dr Ram Suresh, Dr Rakshapal Singh among others.