

Press Release

SKUAST-Jammu holds First Institutional Biosafety Committee Meeting



The first Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC) meeting of SKUAST-Jammu was held on 18-09-2017 under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Razdan, Professor (Plant Pathology) in the Central Library, Chatha. The IBSC, SKUAST-Jammu is registered with Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India and is framed to advise on feasibility of conducting recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology research for developing genetically modified crops/animals/microbes. The IBSC is authorized to monitor the implementation of biosafety norms in the institutes/universities carrying out recominant DNA technology research.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Kuldeep Singh, DBT nominee and Director, National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New-Delhi; Dr. Dilip Mondhe, Head, Division of Cancer Pharmacology, IIM, Jammu, as external expert member; Dr. S.A. Mallick, Dean, Faculty of Basic Sciences, SKUAST-Jammu; Dr. Anil Taku, Professor, Veterinary Microbiology and Dr. S.K. Kotwal, Professor, Public Health and Epidemiology, as internal experts; Dr. Anil Gupta, Medical Officer, as Biosafety Officer and Dr. R.K. Salgotra, Coordinator, School of Biotechnology, as Member Secretary, IBSC. Professor J.P. Sharma, Director Reearch was special invitee in the meeting who interacted with experts to work out mechanism for evaluation of GM crops and feasibility for carrying out research on genetically modified organisms.

Dr. V.K. Razdan briefed about the mandates of the IBSC and outlined the agenda items scheduled to be discussed in the meeting. Dr. R.K. Salgotra delivered a talk on the Biosafety issues and guidelines as laid down by Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India; and emphasized the role of IBSC in implementing the guidelines. Thread bare discussions were held on J&K State Govt.'s queries regarding conduct of limited field trials on GM crop varieties in maize, rice, pigeon pea, mustard, chickpea, etc. with respect to different transformation events.

The Committee members stressed upon all the researchers engaged in recombinant DNA technology research to strictly follow DBT guidelines and seek permission of IBSC before starting research work involving rDNA. In the second technical session, Dr. Kuldeep Singh delivered an expert lecture on conservation of genomic resources for food security. The proceedings of the meeting were recorded by Dr. Manmohan Sharma and Dr. Susheel Sharma.