

IIRR Scientist Delivers Lecture on GM Crops at SKUAST Jammu



Dr. S.M. Balachandran, Principal Scientist and Head, Biotechnology Centre, Indian Institute of Rice Research (IIRR), ICAR, and Hyderabad delivered lecture on “**Genetically Engineered Crops for Food and Agriculture**” at School of Biotechnology, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology Jammu (SKUAST J). Dr. Balachandran is an eminent biotechnologist involved in development of transgenics in rice for various biotic and abiotic stresses; and enhancement of vitamin-A content in Golden Rice. He is associated with the development of first biotech product in India in the form of "Improved Samba Mahsuri” resistant to bacterial blight in rice.

Dr. Balachandran discussed in detail the present scenario of genetically modified crops and the prospects and issues associated with them. He vociferously advocated the need of developing and popularizing genetically modified (GM) crop varieties for meeting the food and nutrition needs of burgeoning population in the country. He stressed the importance of GM crops in the developing countries to alleviate the poverty and hunger. Dr. Balachandran thoroughly discussed the biosafety issues concerned with use of GM crops. He encouraged the young researchers to take up research in this frontier area of biotechnology for future food security. Dr. R.K. Salgotra, Coordinator, School of Biotechnology introduced the guest and highlighted the importance of this research area in agriculture. Heads of divisions, senior faculty members and research scholars attend the talk and interacted with the visiting scientist. Dr. Manmohan Sharma, Associate Professor presented vote of thanks to the university authorities and the visiting scientist for the talk.