

## Seminar to discuss the latest in biotechnology

- Special Correspondent

The National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), Thiruvananthapuram, under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and the Biotech Research Society (BRSI) India, are jointly organising an international conference on the latest developments in the frontier areas of biotechnology here from Sunday.

The conference, which would cover areas such as industrial biotechnology, bio-fuels and bio-energy, agricultural biotechnology, biotechnology in diagnostics and therapeutics, biotechnology in environmental remediation and waste management, would be formally inaugurated by Asis Datta, distinguished professor, National Institute for Plant Genome Research, New Delhi.

The conference, spanning four days, would bring together leading scientists and technologists from industry and academics in the area of biotechnology and allied subjects to share their thoughts and views on various topics and to develop possible collaborative linkages in cutting edge areas of biotechnology. The highlight of the conference would be two major symposia – one on biomass and bio-refineries, and the second on mycobacterium and infectious diseases.

The conference would be attended by close to 600 delegates from across the world. The line-up of speakers consist of international experts like Patrick Hallenbeck from University of Montreal, Canada, Robin Anderson from the US Department of Agriculture, Mohamed Taherzadeh from University of Boras, Sweden, G.R. Castro from University of La-Plata, Argentina, Claude Guilles Dussap from University Blaise Pascal, France, Michael Bott from Institute of Bio and Geo Sciences, Germany, Andres Floto from University of Cambridge, UK, DJ Lee from National Taiwan University Taiwan, HaoHuu Ngo from Australia, Christian Larroche and Philippe Michaud from France, and Michael Herrmann from Germany.

Renowned Indian scientists, including Javed Agrewala from IMTECH Chandigarh, S. Venkata Mohan from IICT Hyderabad, T. Bhaskar from IIP Dehradun, PramodWangikar from IIT Bombay, Swaroop Sarangan from Reliance Industries Ltd., and Sangeeta Srivastava from Godawari Refineries would also attend the meet.

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