

BITS PILANI HOLDS WORKSHOP ON 'BIO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP, GRANT WRITING AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

reporters@gomantaktimes.com

Panaji: BITS BIRAC BioNEST, at BITS Pilani, K K Birla Goa Campus organised a full day workshop on 'Bio-Entrepreneurship, Grant writing and Funding Opportunities'.

Participants were addressed by Dr Srinivasa Kaveri, Director, CNRS Office in India, Embassy of France, Service for Science and Technology New-Delhi, Dr Sangam A Kurade, Founder, Zuari Foods and Farms Pvt. Ltd, Goa and Amruta Gore, Assistant Manager - Impact Projects, Venture Center, NCL Innovation Park, Pune.

Faculty Mentors from BITS Pilani - K K Birla Goa Campus included Prof Mridula Goel, In-charge, BITS

BIRAC BioNEST and Faculty In-Charge, CIIE; Prof Sunil Bhand, Technical Director, BITS BIRAC BioNEST, and Dean, Sponsored Research and Consulting Division (University wide); and Prof. Sri-



Participants seen at the workshop on Bio-Entrepreneurship, grant writing and funding opportunities.

kanth Mutnuri, Technical Director, BITS BIRAC BioNEST, and Partner, Bactreat Environmental Solutions.

Dr. Srinivasa Kaveri emphasised that "Research grants should be applied for not only money but for the prestige associated with it". He presented a detailed guideline/basic rules to apply for grants. He stressed that having a person specialised in reading the guidelines regarding the project can also be considered. He introduced the students to different or-

ganisations like European Research Council (ERC), National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) and Sorbonne University, France.

The session started with the presentation of Prof Srikant Mutnuri, founder Bactreat Environmental Solutions. His organisation works with the objective of isolation and production of specific microorganisms and development of enzymes from lab scale to large scale production and subsequent application for the decontami-

nation of polluted sites.

The company provides solutions for treating contaminated sites and has focused on wastewater treatment. Prof Srikant in his presentation drew the 10 steps that every researcher has to pass before reaching to the level where the product can be brought to the consumer.

The presentations during the workshop included current research, ideas and projects which the participants wanted to take to the market. Out

of 16 participants 9 participants made their presentations to seek guidance from the experts related to making their researches/projects/ideas more appealing for applying for grants. They looked for advice related to other technical, administrative and management aspects in converting the proposals to entrepreneurial start-ups.

Amruta Gore from Venture Center, NCL Innovation Park gave a detailed presentation of current grants available for

incubation and innovative products. She explained the role of venture center and NCK Innovation Park in supporting the start-ups. She further provided a comprehensive guideline regarding the DBT-BIRAC's BIOTECHNOLOGY IGNITION GRANT (BIG) which was of great help to the participants.

The sessions were summed up by Dr Sangam A Kurade who said the failures are the best

teachers. He appreciated the efforts of the participants who presented their ideas and

commented on the individual requirements of the projects. He also added that research is a

great opportunity and research and business may rarely go hand in hand. He motivated the

researchers to continue doing research and help the entrepreneurs to make new products

available to the market. The workshop was concluded with vote of thanks by Dr. Dhanya V Ram.