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The collective face of the Indian Biotech Industry



The e-newsletter for the Indian Biotech industry

April 2012 Vol 9 Issue 4

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Dear friend,

Welcome back.

Agricultural productivity is one of those rare subjects that catches the imagination of different classes of people - sociologists, farmer leaders, politicians, bureaucrats, reporters, economists, fertiliser companies, film makers, agri entrepreneurs and of course, the scientific community

which is seriously engaged in making a real contribution on the ground.

Though the intervention of Biotechnology in agriculture is many decades old, it has come to attract a certain enigma only in the recent times, thanks to a multitude of opinions from varied sections.

However, irrespective of opinions, informed and otherwise, the benefits of Biotechnology in agricultural productivity has been proved beyond doubt. This issue covers some of those aspects.

The latest edition of Genepool - the informal forum to exchange ideas and share experiences among the Biotech fraternity, was conducted recently. We carry a review of the same.

[Do write](#) when you get the time.

Sincerely,

[ABLE Team](#)

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ABLE News

Genepool: ♦ Creating Innovative Products to deliver Affordable and Accessible Healthcare Services ♦ a Business Proposition♦

Off Beat





Happiness: No longer the dismal science?

One of the more surprising growth industries to have taken off during the current period of economic downturn and austerity has been "the happiness industry" - the increasing activity of economists (not philosophers) who study what constitutes happiness and make recommendations to governments about how best to increase it.

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The latest edition of Genepool was held on 27th April at the pleasant, campus-like headquarters of Advinus Therapeutics Ltd., and attended by 25 enthusiastic participants.

Helmed by Dr. B V Ravi Kumar, Chairman & Managing Director of Xcyton Diagnostics Ltd., the event touched upon issues like the distinction between invention and innovation, the atmosphere and ecosystem required to foster invention.

Dr. Ravi Kumar emphasised that creating a culture of risk-taking among scientists, along with funding support and industry acceptance will lead to a healthy invention ecosystem.

He also shared the challenges he faced in building his own entrepreneurial venture, adding that determination and belief, with proper strategic planning can help in reducing risk in new start ups.

Dr. Ravi Kumar touched upon the unmet medical needs persisting in the society and how innovative diagnostics kits and devices can help address them. He pointed out how Xcyton's products have helped cut down the time taken to diagnose eye and brain related diseases, from 72 hours to 7 hours, and the subsequent benefits they brought about.

The talk was followed by an interactive question and answer session.

Bioscape

How to Feed the World in 2050

By 2050 the world's population will reach 9.1 billion, 34 percent higher than today. Nearly all of this population increase will occur in developing countries. This report argues that the required increase in food production can be achieved if the necessary investment is undertaken and policies conducive to agricultural production are put in place.



Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC
Attorneys & Government Relations Professionals

Member News

[Shantha Bio to supply cholera vaccine to Haiti](#)

Haiti is all set to start vaccinating one lakh people with an oral cholera vaccine ◆Shanchol◆ developed by the Hyderabad-based Shantha Biotechnics. According to a news report in the British Medical Journal (BMJ), the first phase of the campaign will be targeting 50,000 people living in Port-au-Prince and will be followed by a further 50,000 in the Artibonite River valley.

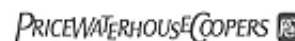
[Research centre opened at Biocon](#)

A Rs. 200-crore integrated research and development centre was inaugurated on Thursday at Biocon. The state-of-the-art research centre is aimed at conducting research on biologics that will address unmet medical needs.

[Monsanto opens Rs 28 cr seed conditioning facility at Shamirpet](#)

Monsanto India has opened a hybrid seed vegetable conditioning unit at Shamirpet near here. The Rs 28-crore facility, built on 32 acres, deploys latest techniques in seed conditioning, treatment, drying and packaging.

Affiliate Members



Trends

[Bio-Revolution](#)



Developing countries have joined the front lines of the biotechnology revolution in health and agriculture. We are living through an unprecedented era of progress in biotechnology.

Consider what has already been achieved. Thanks to an extraordinary international effort, scientists have sequenced the genomes of humans, plants and animals. This has led to the discovery of DNA signatures for a growing number of human and plant diseases.

Analysis

[Biotechnology: Is it really new?](#)



Today, pioneers of biotechnology are discovering new solutions for better feed, food and consumer products.

They are building on the knowledge we gained through the scientific innovations of earlier pioneers.

Check another interesting [agricultural biotechnology timeline](#).

Knowledge Zone

[Frequently Asked Questions about Biotech Foods, Safety and Labeling](#)



Since the first biotech crop was commercialized in 1996, questions have been raised about why farmers are adopting biotechnology (it's more sustainable, more environmentally friendly and less costly) whether or not biotech crops are as safe as conventional crops (they are), and why foods derived from biotech crops don't require special labels.

