

**NATIONAL SEMINAR ON
'RECENT INNOVATIONS AND CURRENT TRENDS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES'
(RICTBS – 2017)**

A four day National Seminar on **'RECENT INNOVATIONS AND CURRENT TRENDS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES'** (RICTBS – 2017) was organized by the **Post Graduate Department of Botany and Biotechnology, Bishop Moore College, Mavelikara**, with the financial support of **Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)**, Thiruvananthapuram. It was held at the Seminar Hall of Bishop Moore College from **8th to 10th February, 2017**.

The seminar started with a **pre-conference meeting on 7th February**. The pre-conference commenced with an **inaugural ceremony** presided over by **Dr. Dinesh Raj, Head Dept. of Botany and Biotechnology**, **Dr. S Jisha, convener RICTBS-2017** welcomed the gathering, **Principle of Bishop Moore College, Dr. Sabu George** inaugurated the meeting and the gathering concluded with the Vote of Thanks by **Ms. Saraswathy**. Pre-conference meeting included **two plenary sessions** exclusively devoted to **plant taxonomy**.

The **National Seminar on RECENT INNOVATIONS AND CURRENT TRENDS IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES'** commenced on **8th of February**, with an **inaugural Meeting**. The meeting was presided over by **Dr. Sabu George, Principal Bishop Moore College**. The welcome address was by **Dr. Dinesh Raj, Head Dept. of Botany and Biotechnology**. **Chief Guest** of this function, **Dr. P.S. Easa, Former Director, KFRI, Peechi** inaugurated the National Seminar and **felicitations** were given by **Dr. K. Santhosh Kumar, Scientist F, Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram**, **Dr. P K Varghese, Staff Council Secretary and Head, Department of Economics** and by **Dr. Ranjith Mathew Abraham, Convener, IQAC, Bishop Moore College**. **Rev. Binu Philip, Chaplin, Bishop Moore College**, blessed the gathering. Vote of Thanks for this function was by **Dr. Santhi W S, Convener, RICTBS – 2017**. The inaugural meeting was followed by **key note address by Dr. P.S. Easa, Former Director, KFRI, Peechi**.

In response to our **call for papers**, we received more than **55 abstracts** from various **Universities and colleges from Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu**. In this seminar there were **nine sessions**, including **twelve plenary lectures** and the sessions for delegate presentations. Including both pre-conference meeting and National Seminar, a total of **227 registered delegates** participated. The participants were from **36 different institutes across Kerala and Tamil Nadu**. Among delegates, 37 were teachers and research scholars and 190 delegates were undergraduate and post-graduate students.

The seminar concluded with a **valedictory meeting**. The meeting was presided over by **Dr. Sabu George, Principle Bishop Moore College**. **Dr. Dinesh Raj, Head, Department of Botany and Biotechnology** welcomed the gathering and the **valedictory address** was delivered by **Dr. Laly Jacob, former Head, Department of Zoology, Bishop Moore College**. **Dr. Thomas Kurien Award with a cash prize** was given for **best oral presentation** by Dr. Sabu George and Dr. Laly Jacob. **Dr. Santhi W S, Convener, RICTBS – 2017**, presented a brief report on National Seminar ‘Recent Innovations and Current Trends in Biological Sciences’ (RICTBS – 2017). Towards the end of the meeting, **Dr. Jisha S, Convener** of the seminar, proposed the vote of thanks.

This seminar became a platform for scholars and students to share their knowledge, experience and to explore the enormous potential for future study in various areas of biological sciences.