THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER

DA 5 SATURDAY DECEMBER 24, 1994 Poush 10, 1401 Rajab 20, 1415 10 Pages

IUBAT seminar on plant genetics today

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) is organizing a seminar on "Plant genetic Engineering" today (Saturday) at 4:30 pm for about two hours at the IUBAT Seminar Hall, House-135, Road-9A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1209, says a Press release.

Dr. Rafiqul Islam Khan. Visitor to IUBAT from Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organizawtion, Canberra, Australia will conduct the seminar.

Invitation is also extended to all interested researchers, practitioners and academics. However, to facilitate planning interested persons and organizations are requested to inform us by mail: GPO Box-2857, Dhaka-1000 or by telephone: 816064, 816074.

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IUBAT seminar on plant genetics

Plant genetic engineering was the subject of a seminar on December 24 organised by the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT). Dr Rafiqul Islam Khan, from CSIRO Division of Plant Industry, Australia and a visitor to IUBAT gave the seminar, says a Press release.

Dr Khan highlighted that the genetic engineers have made this technology easier at the present moment and it has been adopted in thousands of laboratories. Genes are the DNA particles which control all the activities in an organism. Genes can be isolated form a plant material modified and transferred to antoher plant. This procedure is knwon as plant genetic engineering. A foreign gene from a donor plant can be transferred and expressed in a recipient plant.

By using plant genetic engineering technique, more than 400 plants have been developed with new character. To mention a few of the characters are tolerance to freeze; resistance against herbicides, insects, fungi, viruses; modification of ripening or softening of fruits; shelflife of flower or fruits and sweetening of fruits.

Dr Khan's group at the CSIRO Division, led by Dr TJ Higgins has developed insect resistant pea by inserting insect resistance gene from bean and virus reistant subterranean clover by inserting coat protein gene of a virus. They also have improved the seed protein quality of lupin and leaf protein quality of subterranean clover by inserting a high sulphur protein gene from sunflower, The genetically engineered subterranean clover has been developed to increase wool production of grazing sheep. A field trial of transgenic subterranean clover is being presently conducted in Australia to evaluate the stablity, spread and performance of foreign gene in the transgenic subterranean clover.

Dr Khan is cooperating with the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission to develop gene insertion technique for jute to introduce into jute an insect resistance gene in order to make it resitant to jute hairy catterpillar. He is also cooperating with the Botany Department of the Dhaka University to develop a lentil variety with balanced nutrition by introducing a high sulphur protein gene. He emphasised that the Bangladeshi genetic engineers employed in developed countries could play a useful role in helping scientists working inside Bangladesh in the development of crop varieties suitable for Bangladesh or teach genetic engineering to develop skilled manpower.

A lively dicussion followed the presentation on how Bangladesh could benefit from this emerging technology. Prof M Alimullah Miyan, VC of IUBAT summed up the discussion and emphasised on developing a close contact among Bangladeshi scientists and expatriates for mutual benefit. The seminar was attended by Mr KM Rabbani, Executive Director of the International Jute Organisation (IJO), scientists from Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, the BSCSIR, Bangladesh Jute Research Institute, teachers and students from the IUBAT and Dhaka University. IUBAT plans to explore the field of plant genetics within the wider context of bio-technology.

Times

23rd April, 1993

Lecture on tissue culture held

A lecture on "Use of Tissue Culture in Genetic Engineering was held at the seminar room of the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) of BCSIR, Dhaka on Wednesday, says a press release.

Organised by BCSIR Labs, Dhaka the main speaker of the lecture programme was Dr. Rafiqul Islam Khan, Molecular biologist from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) of Australia based in Canberra.

Dr. Khan gave a detailed account of how he developed a technique to genetically engineer subclover plant, a major fodder crop of Australia. He informed that this technique of genetic engineering can be employed in the production of protein rich lentil (Mushuri dal).

The lecture was attended, among others, by Dr. M. Wahiuzzaman, Chairman of BCSIR, Prof. Ahmed Shamsul Islam of the Department of Botany, University of Dhaka, Dr. Sirajul Islam of the Atomic Energy Commission, Dhaka.

The lecture was followed by opening of tissue culture labs. of BCSIR which was inaugurated by the Chairman.