

**National Symposium on ‘Transgenic Crops in India: Progress and Challenges’
March 16-17, 2016**

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College of Basic Science & Humanities
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A National Symposium on ‘Transgenic Crops in India: Progress and Challenges’ was organized by the Department of Molecular Biology, Biotechnology & Bioinformatics, College of Basic Science & Humanities, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar on March 16-17, 2016. It was co-hosted by Society for Plant Biochemistry and Biotechnology, New Delhi. The function was inaugurated by the Worthy Vice-Chancellor, Dr. K. S. Khokhar as the Chief Guest and Dr. S. L. Mehta as the Presiding Guest on March 16, 2016. Dr. S. S. Siwach, Director of Research welcomed the guests and Dr. R. K. Jain, Dean, COBS&H proposed the vote of thanks. It was emphasized that genetic transformation is a powerful technology and shall go a long way to address the problems of food and nutritional security. The success story of transgenic Bt Cotton was highlighted and it was impressed upon that this technology can be used to address the current problems related to whitefly attack and losses caused by various viral diseases. It was pointed out that in India the only transgenic crop was released in 2002 and after that several other transgenic crops such as Bt Brinjal, GM mustard, Amal potato and golden rice have been held up due to regulatory and policy decisions. It was stressed upon that the decisions regarding the release of transgenic crops should be based on scientific data and not on moral grounds or emotions. This two day event involved deliberations by renowned scientists who are involved in all the aspects of transgenic development, their safety evaluation, testing and subsequent release.

The symposium was spread over seven different sessions which included inaugural function followed by four technical sessions with 12 scientific presentations by eminent scientists and a poster session by young scientists. In the end, a brain storming plenary session was held and various problems and challenges regarding transgenic research were discussed and several recommendations were made.



