

COMMEMORATION OF AZADI KA AMRIT MAHOTSAV

Chemistry and Bioprospecting Division, FRI, Dehradun

Webinar on “Current Trends and Future Prospects in Extraction and Utilization of Natural Fibres

To commemorate *Azadi ka Amrit Matotsav*, a Webinar on “Current Trends and Future Prospects in Extraction and Utilization of Natural Fibres” was organized by Chemistry & Bioprospecting Division, Forest Research Institute, Dehradun on October 29, 2021. The webinar was attended by over 100 participants representing academic and research organizations, other Govt. and Non-govt. organizations, PCCFs of Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh states, Senior officers from Uttarakhand Bamboo and Fibre Board, Dehradun, Khadi and Village Industries Board, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh Biodiversity Board, Bhopal, entrepreneurs, Scientists, researchers from ICFRE and its institutes, IARI, New Delhi etc. Sh. Arun Singh Rawat, Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education, Dehradun inaugurated the webinar as chief Guest and emphasized the need for utilization of abundant bioresource as a source of natural fibre and expanding the range of source plant species through appropriate R&D interventions in his inaugural address. Highlighting the research on natural fibres he specifically mentioned about the exemplary work done by Chemistry & Bioprospecting Division on isolation of pine fibre.



In the Technical Session of the Webinar Dr. L.K. Nayak, Principal Scientist, National Institute of Natural Fibre Engineering and Technology (NINFET), Kolkatta gave an overview of the fibre yielding plants and recent upgradation in the extraction methodology for obtaining better quality fiber in higher yield. Dr. Kartick Samantha from NINFET discussed the diverse properties of

fibres and associated end uses. Dr Vineet Kumar discussed the journey of isolation of natural fibre from pine needles. Dr. Y.C. Tripathi talked about ecofriendly process for isolation of fibre from Sisal leaves with higher yield and better quality. Mr. Anil Chandola from Bhartiya Gramothan Sansthan, Rishkesh discussed the blending of different natural fibres in fabric weaving. In the panel discussion session various aspects related to research, development and entrepreneurship in natural fibre sector was discussed among the participants. Some key issues were emerged out of the deliberation that need further research and sincere steps for increasing production, popularization and promotion of natural fibres so that this valuable resource could be utilized in livelihood and income generation for the benefit of all concerned. The webinar ended with the vote of thanks proposed by Dr. V.K. Varshney.