

## Do we really need to lure overseas Indian scientist?

'Looking outward may be attractive and fashionable. Looking inward may be desirable and essential<sup>1</sup>.' We see enormous potential among the young students enrolled in Master's degree programmes, with interest in research and academics. Many of these students write GRE/TOEFL/ILETS and fly to realize their dreams, with 'quality teaching and research' being the main reason for this. The remaining students either write UGC-NET and/or join some national institution or university, where they work for a predefined funded project and use a part of this as their Ph D thesis. Scholars not working for funded projects are often bound by supervisors' research priority. Thus they are often lost in the same old-fashioned, routine, time-bound project-based research. In this, we lose great

talent in the most productive age group, which could be tapped and brought to the mainstream of independent and innovative research and education.

Rather than spending on luring overseas Indian scientist, we should strengthen the available talent within the country. We need to identify some mechanism to support Master's and Doctoral research thesis, where students could develop their own research proposals for funding from agencies like MoEF, MoES, MNRE, DST, DBT, etc. including industry/corporates and foundations. Various datasets generated by different organizations should be freely available for research. This would set a precedence in evaluating such available database and identifying gaps for further research. Of course, such a support should be periodi-

cally monitored and encouraged for peer-reviewed publications. This will bring a new confidence among the youth (including those overseas) to work in India and we would build a new cadre of researchers from our own soil, contributing to academia.

- 
1. Balaram, P., *Curr. Sci.*, 2011, **100**(7), 957–958.
- 

P. K. JOSHI

*Department of Natural Resources,  
TERI University,  
10 Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj,  
New Delhi 110 070, India  
e-mail: pkjoshi@teri.res.in*

## Mosquito control

This refers to the note on mosquito control in India by Rajagopalan<sup>1</sup>. There is no doubt that mosquito control by microbial method (*Bt*) is an important and much needed technology as it is ecofriendly, cost-effective and addresses major issues like malaria.

There have been several attempts around the world regarding mosquito control and the development of a technology for this by the Vector Control Research Centre, Puducherry is encouraging.

Attempts to commercialize this technology through organizations like National

Research and Development Corporation and others, have not been successful, and as rightly pointed out by Rajagopalan, there have been several problems in inter-government departments or perhaps there is also the possibility of vested interests of some commercial firms.

On the other hand, we note that all Municipal Corporations spend huge sums on hazardous chemical insecticides, including DDT, though the quality and effectiveness have been poor and sub-standard. We need to take up the commercialization of this technology, if need

be, through a consortia approach in a big way.

- 
1. Rajagopalan, P. K., *Curr. Sci.*, 2011, **100**, 448.
- 

M. H. MEHTA

*The Science Ashram/Gujarat Life  
Sciences,  
9, Krishna Estate, Gorwa,  
Baroda 390 016, India  
e-mail: chairman@glbsbiotech.com*