
SCIENCE NEWS

SEVENTH NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM OF ACADEMY OF ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY—MAN, BIORESOURCES, DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

Seventh annual session of the Academy of Environmental Biology (AEB), India was held at Dr H. S. Gour Vishwavidyalaya, Sagar (Madhya Pradesh) from 26 to 28 December, 1986. On this occasion, a National Symposium on "Man, Bioresources Development and Environment" was organized by Dr Y. N. Sahai of Department of Zoology, Gour Vishwavidyalaya under the Presidentship of Prof. Dalela. The session focussed mainly on the review and analysis of the outstanding problems of the environment besides providing the scientists a forum for exchange of the ideas and updating of the current knowledge of environmental pollution and toxicology.

Recently the deterioration of environment has become a severe problem in many regions of the country. The consequence of such degradation of environment has resulted in ecological imbalance in every sphere. Hence it has become very imperative to judiciously manage and protect the ecology of environment.

The session covered a wide range of topics on the impact assessment of environmental pollution, response of fauna and flora to pollutants, impact of agriculture and industrial development, bioresources utilization and its impact, detection, characterization and toxicity of chemicals, and resources plans, environmental management and education.

On the opening day of the session, first young scientist award of Journal of Environmental Biology (JEB) for 1985 has been awarded to Dr C. Sreeramulu Chetty of Department of Zoology, S. V. University, Tirupati in recognition of his outstanding contribution and research in the field of Environment and Toxicology. Also, AEB honoured him with a gold medal and a cash award of Rs. 1000/- for his rare distinction.

Welcoming the gathering, Prof. Dalela, Presi-

dent, outlined the present global problem of population explosion and its impact on the environment. He also urged the need for the maintenance of ecological balance and check on the indiscriminate use of pesticides. Concluding his lecture, he emphasized the need of environmental pollution education.

On this occasion Dr Chetty, Young Scientist awardee gave a lecture on "Neurotoxic effects of chlordecone—An organochloride". He explained the effect of organochlorides on the energy metabolism of brain. He also touched some of the new areas such as interaction of lipophilic neurotoxicants with calmodulin—a major calcium binding protein.

Several eminent scientists delivered keynote addresses. P. K. Gupta, Division of Pharmacology and Toxicology, IVRI, Izatnagar, while giving a lecture on "Hazards of pesticides: Development versus developing countries" described the economic benefits of pesticides in agriculture and their hazardous effects. He recalled several food poisoning events in the country. Finally, he urged the Government to formulate "National Toxicology Programme" in India.

K. P. Krishnamoorthi of National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Nagpur while delivering his key note lecture on "Environmental ecological managements" discussed the problems relating to sewage disposal and stressed the need for "bioassay" studies which are useful tools in the hands of researchers to advise the industry and civic body for the control and abatement of pollution and consequently conservation of aquatic ecosystem.

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