



CROP AND WEED SCIENCE NEWS

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2016

The International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

The pictures of dead whales in a beach of Germany arrest the eyes on a social site. The stomach of the whale contained plastic garbage and motor parts. This little piece of information has an astronomical dimension of what we do to Mother Nature to alleviate our greed for comfort. Everyday practices in our daily lives may not directly concern agriculture but make sustainability further vulnerable.

Tourism being one of the driving forces of global economic growth currently accounting for 1 in 11 jobs worldwide, makes things difficult. Visits to the tropical coastlines of Thailand, Malaysia and Srilanka and exposure to climate programmes perceived that youth, women and rural communities are the predominant workforce in this sector. Astounding to find different tourist places of UK, Spain, Czech Republic, Germany and Austria, enjoying a developed economies, despite better standards the issue of sustainability looms large. In Europe, tourism contributes a greater share to national economy and revenue earnings. Coastlines contribute the major share to the kitty of tourism revenue and sustainability concerns compound with climate change scenario make it more vulnerable. There is a need for developing a framework in collaboration with Governments, relevant organizations, the UN's other international and regional organizations and all other relevant stakeholders. The framework should address the tourism with inclusivity of local people, their culture and cuisines as well as promoting sustainable growth and development and advancing corporate social responsibility.

Besides, its impact on economic growth and sustainable development, tourism is one of the sectors better positioned to deliver on jobs, perhaps the single most common issue of concern at this time. Tourism creates opportunities for entrepreneurship and provides millions of direct jobs worldwide, as well as countless more through its multiplier effects on related sectors such as agriculture, trade, manufacturing and construction. So the decision to adopt 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development comes at a particularly important moment as the international community embraces the new Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), approved by the UN General Assembly last September. Tourism is included as targets under three of the SDGs: (i) Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all; (ii) Sustainable Consumption and Production and (iii) Conserve and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

The United Nations' specialized agency for tourism, UNWTO is committed to demonstrate the value of the sector while promoting tourism development that is responsible, sustainable and universally accessible, paying particular attention to the interests of developing countries.

Prof P Bandopadhyay and Prof K Brahmachari
(Editors)

The Bengal Science Lecture Programme on "Intellectual Property Rights" at BCKV

Bengal Science Lecture on "Intellectual Property Rights" was organized by the BCKV with the initiative of Dean, Faculty of Agriculture, BCKV in the Seminar Hall of the Director of Extension Education building, BCKV on 13 December, 2016 in collaboration with the West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology.

The programme was started with the welcome address by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of BCKV, Dr D D Patra. After the keynote address from Dr Maitreyi Banerjee, Sr Scientist, West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology, two renowned scientists, Dr Indira Banerjee and Dr Prabuddha Ganguly delivered their lectures respectively on "Protection of Biotechnological Inventions & related issues" and "Innovations in Biotechnology, Developing Plant Varieties and Strategies for their Protection using Intellectual Property Rights".

Besides the speakers and others dignitaries from the West Bengal State Council of Science & Technology, the heads of the teaching departments, faculties, scientists, Ph D scholars and other hierarchies of BCKV attended the programme in a large number and made the programme successful and meaningful.



The XIX Convocation of BCKV was held on 16 June, 2016. His Excellency Chancellor of the University Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi presided over the Convocation. The Hon'ble Chief Guest Dr Trilochan Mohapatra, Secretary, DARE, Govt. of India and Director General, ICAR delivered the Convocation address. Presence of leading personalities in the field of Agriculture and allied sciences including esteemed former Vice Chancellors of BCKV and distinguished Senior Professors, guests, recipients of degrees, medals and prizes graced the occasion.

