

GUBS ACTIVITIES 2006-2007

The new academic year began with the announcement of new Post Graduate Diploma Courses. The courses, namely **Post Graduate Diploma in Bioinformatics and Post Graduate Diploma in Plant Tissue Culture** generated a great interest among students from all disciplines of biological sciences. The courses were formally inaugurated on Wednesday, 23rd August 2006 by **Dr. P. N. Bhatt**, Director, Sun Agrigenetics — Baroda. **Dr. P. H. Trivedi**, Vice Chancellor Gujarat University Ahmedabad delivered the Presidential address and Prof. U. C. Pande, Director, School of Sciences gave his blessings. The staff and students of the School of Sciences benefited from all the three eminent speakers.

Gujarat University Botanical Society (GUBS), a society of all those who are interested in the field of Botany, with staff and students as members, was inaugurated. **Prof. Savita R. Gandhi**, Head, Computer Science Department was present in the welcome function of this academic year. This year, Dr. Himanshu Pandya is the staff — in — charge for the various GUBS activities under the guidance of Dr. Yogesh Jasrai, Head, Botany Department and Patron, GUBS. The members were delighted to hear Prof. Savita Gandhi's guidelines on the issues pertaining to one and all. The students of Botany Department celebrated the Teacher's day on 5th September 2006 by felicitating and warmly greeting their teachers. They actively participated in the seminars that day and best speakers were selected in each class. The students and the faculty members also spent some quality time together to mark the occasion. On 7th September 2006, all the staff and students of the Botany Department gathered in the Seminar Room and sang the 'Vande Mataram' with a high patriotic spirit.

An invited lecture by **Dr. M. R. Almeida**, Director, Blatter Herbarium and an eminent Taxonomist was arranged. Dr. Almeida spoke on "Changing Trends in Taxonomy". The staff and students (more than 200) of not only the department but all colleges of Gujarat University participated and interacted with the speaker.

The First Refresher Course in Environmental Science was organized by the Academic Staff College from 26 September 2006 to 16 October. Prof. Y. T. Jasrai, Head, Botany Department and Prof N. K. Jain, Head, Life Science Department jointly co-ordinated the course. The course was inaugurated by Dr. Parimal Trivedi, Hon. Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University. The participants were from all the disciplines of science from Gujarat University and other Universities. The participants benefited from the speakers who delivered

lectures on an array of issues like Environmental deterioration, climate change, Remote sensing, EIA, Environmental disasters, Chemistry of water, Urban environment, Global Warming, Research methodology, Fluoride, Aflatoxin etc. concerning our environment.

The M Sc Part-II Students of Botany visited Kerala as part of their study tour with **Dr. Hitesh Solanki** as Excursion-in-Charge. The students visited various Institutes, Sanctuaries, Botanical Gardens, Plantations, Herbal/Spice Garden and National Parks in Kerala. Some of the prominent places they visited were TBGRI and CTCRI (Trivandram), KFRI (Pichi), NBPGR(Thrissur), Eravikulam National Park (Munnar), Spice Garden (Periyar), Rubber Plantations (on the way) Cardamum Research Institute, National Research Center on Banana (Thrissur). Shri R. B. Patel (Staff) who accompanied the group provided the much needed support to Dr. H. A. Solanki.



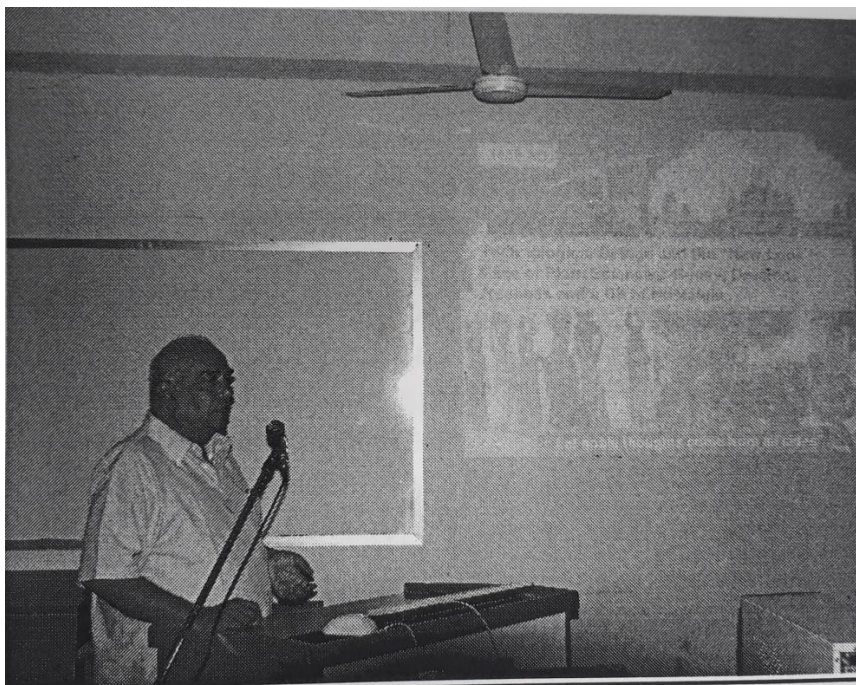
Dr. H. A. Pandya attended a training course at National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR), New Delhi, for a period of 8 days on Cartagena, Protocol / Decisions to diagnostics organized by GEF World Bank.

Dr. Archana Mankad was invited by Science City, Ahmedabad as a panel judge for selection of student projects for participation in National Children Science Congress to be held in Gangtok (26-30 December 2006).

Under Graduate Science Academy the Botany Department organized the state level test for the "**Minaxi Lalit Science Award**" for the year 2006 on Sunday 3rd December. A total of 355 students from all Science subjects appeared for the test at Ahmedabad Center. The toppers among the participants at the state level would be awarded these awards in various subjects during a special function later during this academic year. The Staff and Students visited the Indroda Nature Park as part of their GUBS activities. The Director of Geer foundation, Dr. C. N. Pandey took personal interest and facilitated the visit to the Dinosaur Park, Botanical Garden and other places of interest in the Park.

Dr. Archana Mankad attended a three-days training programme at IIAR, Gandhinagar organized by CIMAP, Lucknow. The training focused on various aspects of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Prof.N.S. Sankhala, from Texas Agriculture & Medical University Dallas, Texas, U.S.A., delivered the J.J. Chinoy Memorial Lecture on "Technological Deluge and the New look face of Plant Science: Genes, Dreams Realities and a bit of Nostalgia". Prof. Sankhala enthralled the students with his crisp oration and colorful and highly informative presentation on new facets of plant sciences.



The Staff and Students of the department visited Vijaynagar Forest as part of their GUBS activities. The One-day Botanical Excursion involved the study of

vegetation at the Vijaynagar Forest and study of medicinal plants at Antarsumba Ayurveda Garden.



As 2006, came to a close, GUBS celebrated "Unity in diversity", a week long thematic expression of celebration in the last week of December 2006.

The M. Sc — Part I Students of the Botany Department, Gujarat University had been on a **Botanical excursion to Uttaranchal**. They were accompanied by Prof. Y. T. Jasrai and Dr. H. A. Pandya as Teachers — in — charge. They visited Mussorie followed by FRI (Forest Research Institute) and WRI (Wildlife Research Institute) in Dehradun. In FRI, they visited the botanical garden, D. D. Herbarium, Bamboosetum and Carpological museum They also went to Nainital, and while trekking towards Naina Park they collected various plants.



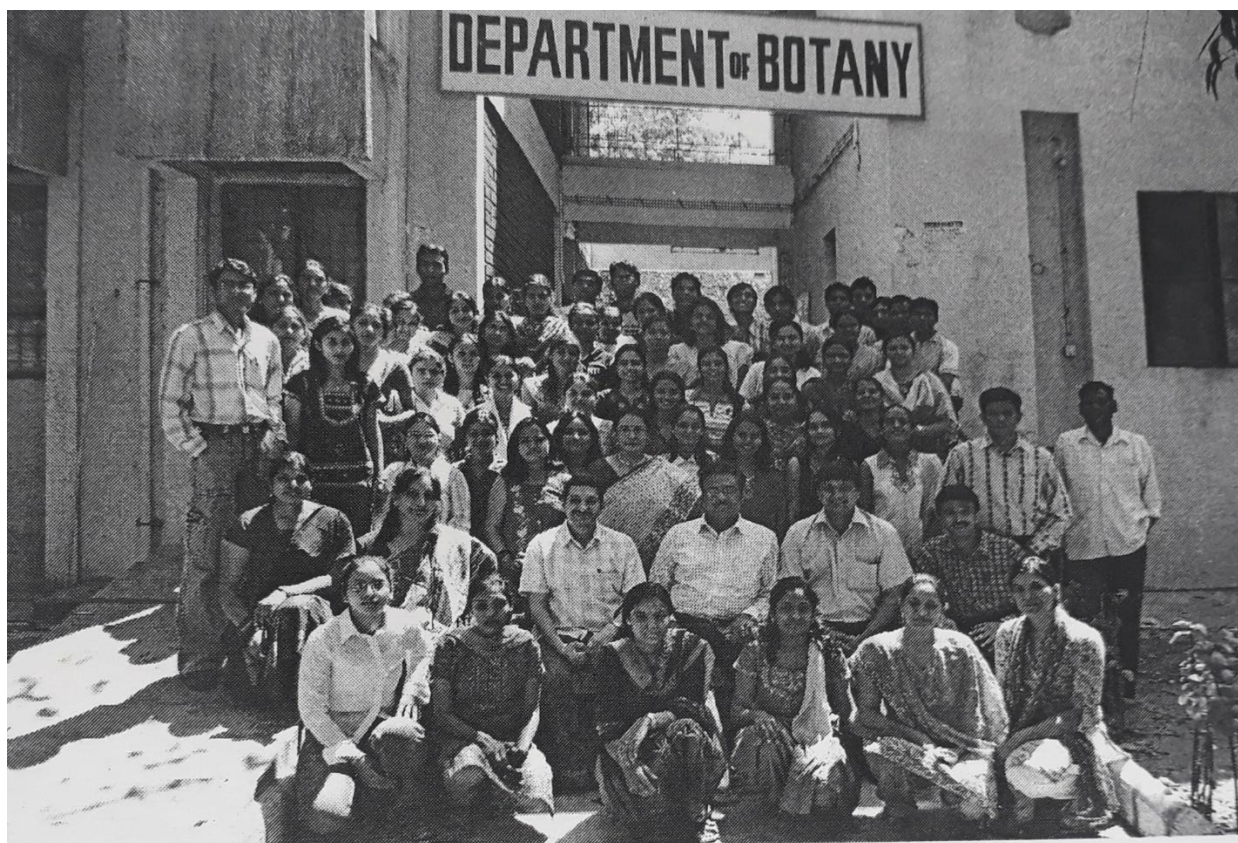
A **LEC DEM 2007 programme on Transgenics** was organized by the Botany Department during 17 — 20 February, 2007, for the staff and students of Biological Sciences. The Participants (numbering 145) included staff and students from the P G departments of School of Sciences, from various colleges of Gujarat University and from other University (Ganpat University, Mehsana). The invited speaker, Dr. Sanjeev Kumar from IVRI (Indian Vegetable Research Institute), Varanasi gave lucid lectures on Transformation, Transgenics and Applications of Biotechnology along with appropriate demonstrations. Mr. Naimesh Patel demonstrated the testing of cotton seeds for BT gene by ELISA technique. The best two participants were given prizes and all participants received certificates and photocopied lecture notes.

The staff and students (numbering 18) of the department actively participated in the State Level Seminar on Reproductive Biology of Angiosperms at Talod. Prof. Y. T. Jasrai and Dr. Archana Mankad delivered invited lectures on Plant Conservation and Floriculture respectively during the seminar. The research scholars made commendable power point presentations. Ms. Deepika Chandawat, M. Phil student working under the guidance of Dr. Hitesh A. Solanki was selected for the Young Botanist Award for her oral presentation on “Some Biochemical and Physiological Changes During Flowering of *Hydrilla verticillate*”. The other research scholars presented their research papers as

posters and had purposeful interaction with other participants during the seminar.

The staff and students of Botany Department actively participated in celebration of the World Forest Day on 21st March, 2007 at the Gujarat Environmental Education and Research (GEER) Foundation, Gandhinagar. Dr. Himanshu A. Pandya delivered an invited talk on Global Climate Change and befitting to the celebration.

The annual function of GUBS (Gujarat University Botanical Society) was arranged on 16th March 2007. Dr. B. K. Jain, Principal, M. G. Science Institute was the Chief Guest for the function. The members who had won prizes at various events and activities organized by the society in and outside the department, were given certificates and prizes. In his speech Principal Dr.B. K. Jain, being an alumnus of GUBS was nostalgic and recollected his student days in the department.



Dr. Y. T. Jasrai
Professor & Head,
Botany Department