

Department of Microbiology

One day Programme on Scientific Social Responsibility

**Date:** 13.12.2021

**Place:** CSIR-CSMCRI, Mandapam Camp, Rameswaram

**Time:** 9.30 am to 2.30 pm

In the year 2021, 13<sup>th</sup> December, in total 45 students (both Postgraduates and Undergraduates) along with two staffs from the Dept. of Microbiology visited CSIR-CSMCRI, Mandapam camp for attending a one day Scientific Social Responsibility Programme. The programme was a part of DST SERB funded project and co-ordinated by Dr. Veeragurunathan, Scientist at CSMCRI. The Institute Director Prof. Ganesan, Senior principal scientist headed the programme and inaugurated the event.

After the inauguration, he gave a special keynote lecture on *Indian Seaweeds and its cultivation* along with its various applications. His lecture covered most important aspects of seaweed, global seaweed production, which was estimated around 31 million wet tonnes, and he added the economy of the seaweeds that are commercially valuable seaweeds in last 10 year's timelines. He listed the demographic details of people involved in seaweeds collection and cultivation, with the information of 1730 females and 405 males were involved in seaweed collection within 4 districts of Tamilnadu and making around the annual revenue about 4.2 USD million. Further, he elaborated the first seaweed cultivation *Gracilariaria edulis* at Krusadai Island in 1971.

Then he differentiated the cultivation types using various methods such as Vertical rope method, Raft method, Tube Net method used in seaweed cultivation. In addition, he emphasized the institute cultivated the seaweed *Gelediella acerosa* successfully in coral stone method, cement block method. He also mentioned that these methods are not complicated, can be easily trained, and cultivated. These methods even can be trained to the uneducated and below poverty line people in around the coast for their healthy economy. Further, He supplemented the importance of *Kappaphycus alvarezii* in various applications including bioethanol, biodiesel, pet foods, water gel, dairy products, meat processing etc. In addition, Tata Chemicals Ltd markets these products in collaboration with this institute. There are various cultivation programs and training given by this institute to the local coastal farmers, and many farmers were benefitted. For instance, each farmers earning around Rs.16, 875 monthly with the help of this seaweed cultivation. To encourage their training, Indian Government given the best award in rural development. With that, finally he concluded there are huge career and research opportunities in seaweed cultivation and invited students for their master and doctoral research projects.



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**Special note lecture by Dr Ganesan, Senior Scientist, CSIR-CSMCRI**

We had ten minutes break for refreshments and later, a project associate Ms. Gwen Grace, presented a most important topic “COVID DRUGS”. She emphasized about the origin of COVID- 19 Virus, historically and the current variants. She pointed about the emergence of OMICRON and its vulnerabilities among the public. She mentioned the importance of COVID vaccines and Drugs; also, she pinpointed who should? and Who Shouldn’t? take the vaccines. She also added the information’s on safety and precautions of COVID vaccines.



**Awareness lecture by Ms Gwen Grace, Project Associate, CSIR-CSMCRI**

Followed by, our students participated in various programme including essay writing, slogan writing and quiz competitions, and expressed their immense talents and won prizes.



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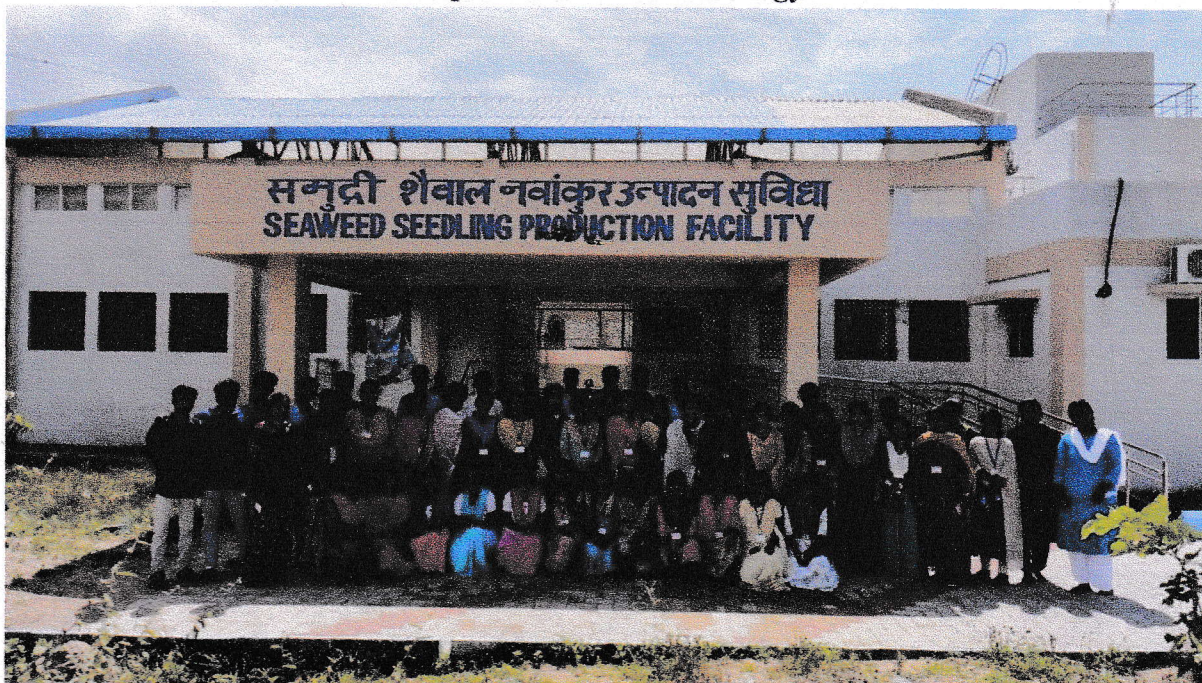
**Students in essay and slogan competitions**



**Students participating in Quiz Competitions**

Followed by the student competitions, they had a chance of visiting various facilities in the institute, including Seaweed seedling production facility, seaweed outdoor tank culture facility, culturing laboratory and the products produced using seaweeds (including, granule fertilizer, fortified fertilizers etc.). In addition, project assistants in the institute demonstrated the raft cultivation method for the students.

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Visiting Seaweed Seedling Production Facility



Seaweed based Products display by CSIR- CSMCRI



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**Seaweed Based Bioproducts**



**Visiting Seaweed outdoor tank culture Facility**

Dr. Veeraraghunathan, Scientist and Co-ordinator of the programme, offered the final presentation about the Research and Career Opportunities in CSIR. He gave a solid advise and suggestions about students participation in various entrance exams for obtaining the prestigious fellowships including, JRF, SRF and RAs. In addition, he mentioned about the skills improvements; objectives of the scientific field in the current scenario, also encouraged the students to become a future scientists by involving in various research programmes.

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To conclude the one-day programme, the prizes has been distributed to the students who won the respective competitions. The Institute Director Dr. Ganesan distributed the memento and Certificates to the winners.



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Finally, all the participants thanked the Institute director, Staffs and researchers for giving this wonderful opportunity and took a group photo for their wonderful remembrances.

  
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