Event Report

One-Day Regional Seminar on

Frontiers in Plant Science Research

Organized by:

Department of Botany, SoAS, CUTM in collaboration with Odisha Botanical Society (OBS)

Date: 25th August 2025

Venue: Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), School of Applied Sciences (SoAS)

Anchored by: The entire seminar was anchored and smoothly conducted by Ms. Ipsita Priyadarsini Samal, whose coordination ensured the programme proceeded systematically.

Introduction

The Department of Botany, School of Applied Sciences (SoAS), Centurion University of Technology and Management (CUTM), in collaboration with the Odisha Botanical Society (OBS), organized a One-Day Regional Seminar on "Frontiers in Plant Science Research" on 25th August 2025 at CUTM.

The seminar provided a vibrant academic platform for scientists, academicians, research scholars, and students to engage in meaningful discussions on the advancements, challenges, and future prospects in plant sciences. It aimed to inspire young researchers and to create avenues for collaboration across institutions.

Inaugural Session

The seminar commenced at 10:00 am with programme briefing and invitation of guests to the dais by Dr. Gyanranjan Mahalik, Head of the Department of Botany, SoAS.

This was followed by the presentation of flower bouquets (10:10 – 10:15 am) and the lighting of the holy lamp (10:15 – 10:20 am), symbolizing the spreading of knowledge and wisdom.

The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Kunja Bihari Satapathy, President of OBS & Emeritus Professor, Department of Botany, CUTM. In his address, he highlighted the crucial role of plant science in addressing issues of food security, biodiversity conservation, and climate change adaptation. He also encouraged young scholars to actively engage in research and innovation.

Dr. Rukmini Mishra, Associate Professor, Department of Botany, CUTM and Convener, Seminar, formally introduced the distinguished guests, setting the stage for the inaugural addresses.

Address from Dignitaries

Several eminent guests graced the occasion with their inspiring words:

- Dr. Supriya Pattanayak, Vice-Chancellor, CUTM, spoke about the university's vision of promoting research, innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration in plant sciences.
- Dr. Susanta Kumar Biswal, Director, SoAS, CUTM, emphasized the need to integrate modern technologies with traditional plant science research for societal benefit.
- Prof. Rama Chandra Mohanty, Former Head & Professor, Botany, Utkal University, the Chief Guest, delivered an inspiring address on the evolution of plant science research in Odisha and its relevance to global ecological challenges.
- Prof. Pradeep Kumar Chand, Former Vice-Chancellor, North Orissa University, the Guest of Honour, highlighted the importance of translational research in botany, urging researchers to link laboratory findings with field applications.

Technical Session

The technical session began at 11:40 am with the invited lecture by Dr. Pradipta Mohapatra, Former Head & Professor, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack.

Dr. Mohapatra delivered an illuminating lecture on "Photosynthetic Fluorescence and Plant Physiology", covering:

- The concept of photosynthetic fluorescence as a diagnostic tool in plant research.
- The role of plant pigments (chlorophyll a, chlorophyll b, carotenoids) in light harvesting.
- Photochemical efficiency as a measure of plant productivity and stress response.
- Functions and energy transfer processes in Photosystem I (PS I) and Photosystem II (PS II).
- Applications of fluorescence techniques in studying plant stress physiology, crop productivity, and climate resilience.

The lecture was followed by an interactive Q&A session, where students and scholars actively engaged with the speaker, making it one of the most enriching parts of the programme.

Felicitation Ceremony

The seminar featured a special felicitation ceremony where eminent academicians honoured each other, symbolizing academic respect and scholarly exchange:

- Prof. Rama Chandra Mohanty felicitated Prof. Kunja Bihari Satapathy.
- Prof. Kunja Bihari Satapathy felicitated Prof. Rama Chandra Mohanty.
- Prof. Rama Chandra Mohanty felicitated Prof. Pradeep Kumar Chand.

- Prof. Rama Chandra Mohanty felicitated Prof. Pradipta Mohapatra.

This gesture of mutual recognition created a warm and collegial atmosphere, reflecting the unity of the academic community.

Concluding Session

The programme concluded with the Vote of Thanks (1:00 - 1:30 pm) delivered by Dr. Gyanranjan Mahalik, Head, Department of Botany, SoAS. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Chief Speaker, Vice-Chancellor, organizing committee, OBS members, faculty, students, research Scholars and volunteers for their contribution to making the seminar a grand success.

The seminar formally ended with lunch at 1:30 pm, which provided an informal setting for networking and further academic interaction among the participants.

Outcomes of the Seminar

The seminar was highly successful in fulfilling its objectives. The key outcomes include:

- Enhanced understanding of photosynthetic fluorescence and its applications in plant science research.
- Provided a platform for academic interaction among senior botanists, researchers, and students.
- Encouraged young scholars to adopt modern fluorescence-based techniques in plant research.
- Strengthened collaboration through the Odisha Botanical Society.

Conclusion

The **One-Day Regional Seminar on "Frontiers in Plant Science Research"** emerged as an intellectually stimulating event that celebrated the contributions of senior botanists and paved the way for future scientific exploration.

The deliberations not only enhanced participants' knowledge but also underlined the vital role of plant science research in achieving sustainability, addressing global ecological challenges, and ensuring food and nutritional security.

This seminar will be remembered as a milestone event in strengthening plant science research in the region.

Photographs of Event


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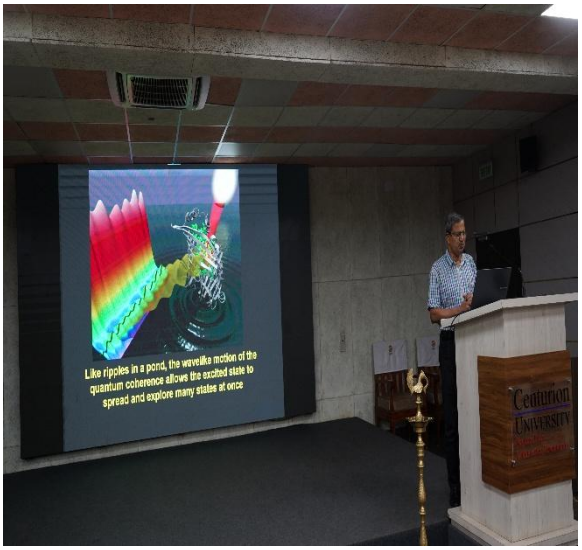
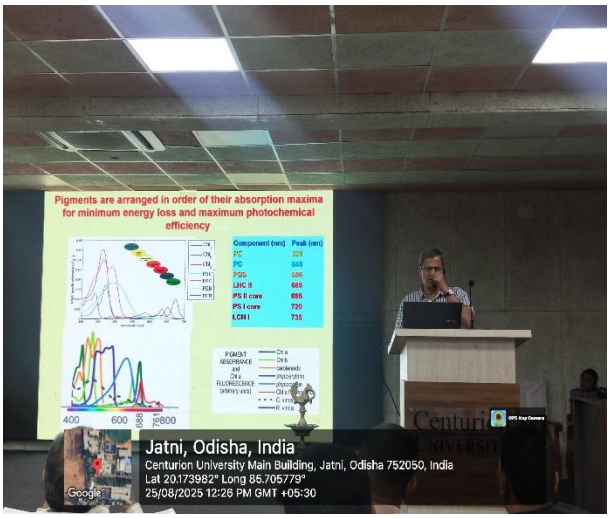

Like ripples in a pond, the wavelike motion of the quantum coherence allows the excited state to spread and explore many states at once


Pigments are arranged in order of their absorption maxima for minimum energy loss and maximum photochemical efficiency
Component (nm) Peak (nm)
PC 629
PC 649
PSII 695
LHC II 685
PS II core 695
PS I core 720
LCH I 735
400 600 800
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