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Dr. R. Rajalakshmi

Participants
The workshop is primarily targeted to Researchers and Faculty members in the University who are involved with molecular biology research, pertained to plant science. Participants are expected to get an insight in make use of RNAi and miRNA tools to improve the crops. The participants to the workshop are limited to 30. Those who interested to participate in the workshop may submit their application to Dr. T.S. Swapna, Associate Professor (Email ID: swapnats@yahoo.com) alongwith a brief write up on how this training is relevant to their current or future research programmes.

Workshop on
RNAi and miRNA in Crops
(Erudite-Scholar in Residence Programme)

16-18 January 2018

At
Seminar Hall
Department of Botany

(Re-Accredited by NAAC with 'A' Grade)

Jointly Organized by

DEPARTMENT OF BOTANY
UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India

And

The Kerala State Higher Education Council

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RNA silencing (commonly known as RNA interference or RNAi) refers to the sequence specific reduction in gene expression mediated by RNA. Small RNA's known as microRNA (miRNA) are naturally occurring mediators of gene regulation by RNAi and have been shown to play important roles in development and productivity of crops.

In this workshop a combination of lectures, discussions and guided group activities will be used to explore the roles of RNAi and miRNA in crops. By the end of the three-day workshop, participants can expect to have:

- Improved understanding of gene regulation by miRNA and RNAi
- Knowledge of specific examples of miRNA / RNAi in crop plants
- A draft proposal for miRNA investigation / RNAi application for a crop of their interest
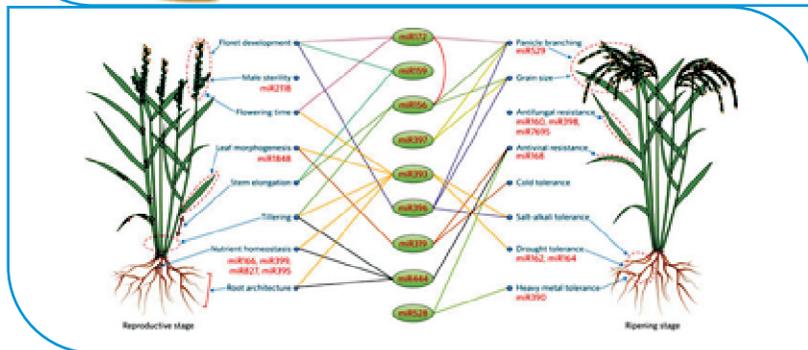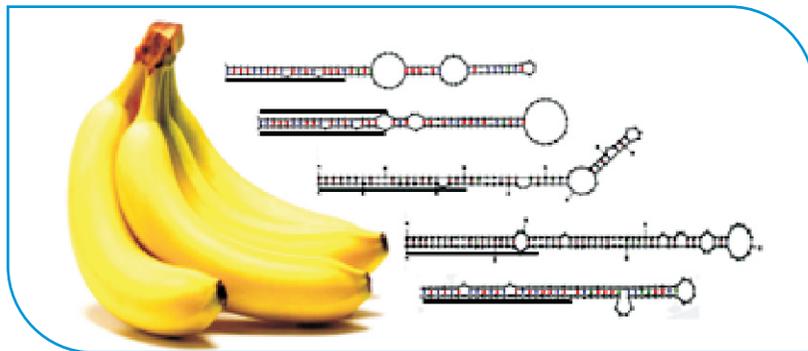
BIODATA OF WORKSHOP FACILITATOR

Professor Dr. Jennifer Ann Harikrishna
Director
Centre for Research in Biotechnology for Agriculture (CEBAR)
Professor, Genetics & Molecular Biology,
Faculty of Science, University of Malaya
Malaysia

Originally from the UK, Prof. Dr. Jennifer Ann Harikrishna completed her Bachelor of Sciences degree in Microbiology at the University of Surrey, U.K. then was awarded a Whitbread Scholarship to pursue her doctoral thesis on the molecular genetics of industrial yeast at the Cranfield Institute of Technology, Cranfield University, U.K. for which she was awarded Chancellors Gold Medal for the most outstanding graduate student of the year in 1990. She followed this with a two year post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California in San Francisco (UCSF) before moving to Malaysia. She held positions at TropBio Research Sdn. Bhd., University Putra Malaysia and the Malaysia University of Science and Technology before returning to work at the University of Malaya in 2006.

Prof. Jennibecame a full Professor at the University of Malaya in 2011 and holds dual posts as a Professor of Genetics and as the Director of the Centre for Research in Biotechnology for Agriculture (CEBAR) at the University of Malaya. CEBAR was upgraded to a University of Malaya Institute in April 2013 and comprises five major research groups with over 80 associated graduate students. CEBAR manages the University of Malaya Plant Biotech Facility, which is built to international biosafety requirements for research with Genetically Modified plants; a Plant Biotech Incubator Unit, which works closely with local industry and a molecular biology laboratory that offers DNA sequencing and quantitative PCR services.Prof. Jenni's current research focus is on the molecular biology, biotechnology and biosafety of moncotolydenous plants including orchid, banana, medicinal ginger and oil palm and she has widely published in this research field.