

REPORT ON TRIP TO BIO-ENTREPRENEUR'S EXHIBITION

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Submitted by:

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Introduction

On 1st March 2023, 11 students from Botany department of Lady Keane College with 2 teachers visited the **Bio-entrepreneurs Exhibition** held during the **National Seminar on Emerging Trends in Biological Sciences: A North East India Perspective** organised by **Department of Biotechnology & Bioinformatics, NEHU, Shillong**.

Objective

The objective of the visit was to get the exposure about the emerging opportunities and business ideas from life science perspective and understand the products along with learning about various researches work the life science researchers have been doing.

Observation

The exhibition provided the unique opportunities by entrepreneurs (new, start-ups and established). With interactive experimental sessions, ideas generation, showcasing of businesses and peer learning opportunities, the exhibition kick-started a much needed and essential dialogue to expand the ideas of entrepreneurship among the students. During the visit, we jotted down some notes and interviewed the entrepreneurs about their products. There were 17 stalls exhibiting various products. Some of the stalls are discussed in detailed.

Eco –Ri was a start-up company by two post-graduation students who were making useful plastic products by reusing plastics, like flower vase, photo frame, coasters, wall decors etc, and promoting sustainable development by reusing plastics. They collect the waste plastic materials (in their case, raw materials), shred them, compress them and give them the desired shape and colour they want for the use.

Suhsieng, a company was selling essential oils extracted locally in Meghalaya at a very good price, they extracted the oils from natural sources and package them very nicely to be sold in market, and the quality is similar to the big brand products.

Nonglawi orchids conservation society had exhibit various beautiful orchids including native and imported which they grow on their own and sell them commercially. They are also working on conserving orchids they are needed.

Jong Ki and two other start-ups were selling locally made wine of various flavours are a very good price, the fruits that the wine were madeup of was cultivated by local farmers of Meghalaya

and processed by them and sold in market at a very decent price, the quality of wine was good, it ranged from 1 year old to 5 year old depending on the flavours.

There were many stalls which didn't have any names but their products were exceptional, there were selling honey without any artificial reagents. They were also showcasing the "living rocks" which are succulents imported from China. These look like rocks and dry flowers bouquets. Smoky falls was selling locally manufactured coffee, which was of very good quality and smell, have the potential to compete with brands like Nescafe.

Some products were also displayed by Bioresource Development Centre (BRDC, Shillong) consist of medicinal plants products for various diseases and disorders like heart inflammation, kidney stones, gastric, diabetes, blood pressure etc along with ointments, which were made up by using ethnobotanical plants such sangkhor, soh thud, jebung, ler um, salahbyrheh, dieng saw etc, various part of those plants were used such a tuber, bark, fruit, leaf, creeper etc. She also had soaps made up of oils she herself extracted. There was vermicompost at Rs.30 who the seller themselves decomposed, along with non-soil organic decay. They also presented tissue culture of *Cymbidium aloifolium* and *Musa acuminata* in Murrashige and Skoog medium

Chroma biotech LLP. had presented *Bambusa tulda* grown by clonal propagations; they showed the various stages and the media they were growing in. The bamboos are used for bioethanol production.

Company like Zemax had exhibit their machine which can be used to see the 3D structure of a surface, be it a leaf or a retina, they send a ray to the object which penetrates through it and gives the reading, as they increase their wavelengths one can get better images on the screen and can see more layers, the technology is not just limited to plants, it's safe to use in human body and other animals.

Traditional clothing materials were also being sold, beautiful wearable woven by the locals, they were of various colours and designs.

Due to time constraint as there were many things to watch and ask, we tried to get their contact numbers of the entrepreneurs for future inquiry .

We learned various things about the plants and their products.

Conclusion

Our trip ended about 3 pm. It can be concluded that the trip was successful and we believed our objective of learning about new life science based products was achieved. We have learnt a lot new and beneficial for us. We're very grateful for the opportunity of visiting there.





Stalls in the Bio entrepreneurs Exhibition



Handmade soap and ointments



Group photo with Dr. A. K. Chaliha from Chroma Biotech LLP



Medicinal products



Living stone



Eco-Ri showcasing reused plastic



Nursery



Poster presentation