

Team ICAR-NRCG participated in AOAC INTERNATIONAL-India Section's 8th Annual Conference in Hyderabad on February 16-17, 2023

Dr Kaushik Banerjee, Director, ICAR-NRCG, Pune, and a team of young scientist and researchers participated in the 8th annual conference of the India section of AOAC INTERNATIONAL, which was held at ITC Kakatiya hotel in Hyderabad on February 16-17, 2023. The inaugural session commenced with Dr. S. Ayyappan's (Chairman-NABL and former Secretary-DARE and DG, ICAR) keynote address. This was followed by Technical Session-1, which had Dr. Kaushik Banerjee's reflective talk on current challenges in emerging contaminant analysis. The session focused on method development and validation for antibiotics, PFAS, and aflatoxins, among others. After a brief panel discussion, summary, and conclusions, the 2nd Technical Session had intriguing conversations about nutrition, dietary supplements, and official method harmonization for nutritional analysis, in which the team actively participated. Dr Nishant Deshmukh, a Senior Scientist from ICAR-NRCG had interacted with the participants from ICAR, ICMR and CSIR institutes, and explored the possibilities of collaborative projects, especially in relation to evaluation of health benefits for the institute's varieties.

The agenda of Day 2 comprised food fraud and adulteration and focused on how mass spectrometry is helping food scientists and analytical chemists trace authenticity of commonly traded items like spices, beverages, nuts, and products of animal origin. There, the team had an enlightening experience regarding the advanced applications of LC-HRMS and DNA based technologies in delineating food fraud issues.

The team also participated in the poster session both days. Three noteworthy research works were presented from NRL-NRCG, spanning plant metabolomics to pesticide residue analysis. One of them (presented by Dr. Jagruti Jankar and Dr Sandip Hingmire) was a novel, fit-for-purpose method to simultaneously analyse 490 multiclass pesticides in curry leaves, an important Indian culinary ingredient, which often faces MRL non-compliance issues in trade. The other two posters presented by Ms. Sujata Chatterjee and Mr. Nasiruddin Shaikh summarized how untargeted metabolomics can establish varietal authenticity in grapes and botanical herbs, respectively. Mr. Pratap Kadam, a staff of NRL-NRCG, ably supported the presenters in explaining the research data.

As the day came to an end, academic, and industry professionals with exceptional contributions to capacity building were felicitated. Mr. Nasiruddin Shaikh, Research Associate, NRL-NRCG, was recognised for his outstanding contribution to the development of analytical methods and capacity building in the field of plant metabolomics. Following that, Ms. Sujata Chatterjee, Project Assistant, NRL-NRCG, received the Best Poster Award in the academia category for presenting the metabolomics approach to differentiating the Manjari Medika grape from its parental varieties. Many participants from food testing laboratories also thanked NRCG staff members Dr Jagruti Jankar and Dr Sandip Hingmire for presenting a timely multiresidue method on curry leaves.

Overall, it was an illuminating experience for the team in terms of knowledge gain as well as sharing.



Inaugural Ceremony



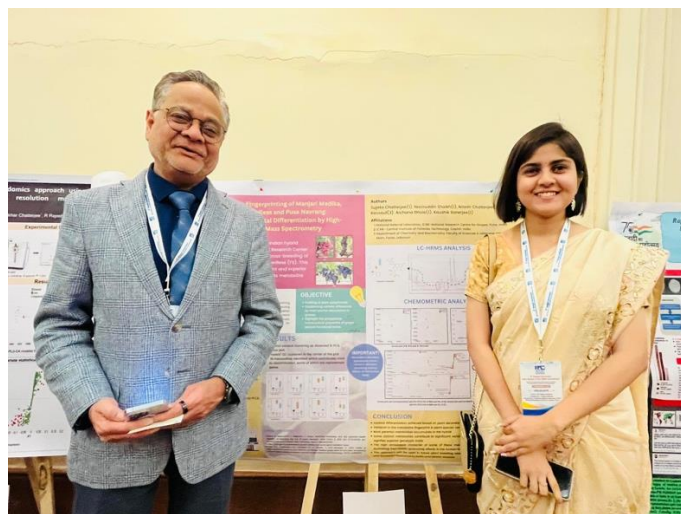
Dr Banerjee presenting his inaugural talk



L-R: Dr Niladri Chatterjee (ICAR-CIFT), Dr S. Ayyappan, Dr Kaushik Banerjee, Dr Anoop Krishnan (EIA, Kochi), Dr Nishant Deshmukh, Dr Muthu Kumar (ICAR-NRC Meat).



A. Nasiruddin Shaikh (who won an award for capacity building) with his poster



B. Dr Amit Chandra (USA) interacted with Sujata Chatterjee



NRCG presenters with a jury member



Team NRL-NRCG



Team NRL-NRCG



Ms Sujata Chatterjee receiving the best poster award from CEO-NABL Mr Venkateswaran