



## THE INDIAN SOCIETY OF PLANT GENETIC RESOURCES (ISPGR) AWARD FUNCTION

VENUE: DR. B.P. PAL AUDITORIUM, ICAR-NBPGR,

PUSA CAMPUS, NEW DELHI 110012

(AUGUST 14, 2023 AT 10.30 a.m.)

### FIFTH DR. A.B. JOSHI MEMORIAL LECTURE

To be delivered by: **SANJAY DESHMUKH**, PhD, DSc (h.c.), LLB, DSc (h.c.), LLM  
Professor of Life Sciences; formerly- Vice-Chancellor, University of Mumbai, Mumbai, India.



### TITLE: "Preserving the Green Sentinels: The Imperative of Conservation of World's Mangrove Forest Genetic Resources for a Sustainable Future"

In the grand tapestry of ecological harmony, the A B Joshi Memorial Lecture would emerge as a beacon of enlightenment and commitment. To be delivered by Professor Sanjay Deshmukh on August 14, 2023, this Memorial Lecture would take center stage as an embodiment of reverence for both nature's treasures and the indomitable spirit of Dr. A B Joshi, an icon whose contributions to plant genetic resources continue to resonate.

**The journey will commence with a profound acknowledgement of nature's silent guardians - the mangrove forests.** These enigmatic ecosystems stand sentinel at the juncture of land and sea, their significance unraveling like a captivating mystery. Simultaneously, the lecture pays homage to the luminous legacy of Dr. A B Joshi, an architect of innovation and preservation in the realm of plant genetic resources. The stage is thus set for a discourse that interweaves the wonders of mangroves with the visionary commitment of Dr. Joshi.

**As the narrative unfurls, the spotlight would shine on the ecological marvels hidden within mangrove ecosystems.** These verdant sanctuaries unveil a mesmerizing tapestry of life, each species intricately woven into the other. Their unique features come to life, inviting us to contemplate the intricate relationships they foster. Beyond their role as biodiversity hotspots, mangroves emerge as fortresses of resilience in the face of climate change, masterfully mitigating its impact with their unparalleled adaptability.

**The voyage would take a contemplative turn, delving into the challenges that imperil these precious ecosystems.** A cacophony of threats echoes- human-induced disturbances, the specter of habitat loss, and the ominous undertones of climate-related upheavals. Urgency courses through the lecture, compelling us to recognize the criticality of safeguarding these fragile havens. The clarion call for conservation resounds, underscoring the imperative of immediate and concerted action.

**The narrative, would then transition into a realm of hidden wonders, as the genetic resources of mangrove forests take center stage.** A symphony of genetic diversity and resilience unfolds, weaving tales of adaptation and strength. The potential applications of these resources in sustainable development and ecological restoration shimmer like promises of renewal. With riveting success stories as companions, the lecture offers glimpses into the tangible impact of genetic resource utilization on environmental conservation.

**In a panoramic sweep, the Memorial Lecture would turn to the global canvas of conservation strategies.** Existing efforts are assessed, their effectiveness scrutinized against the backdrop of an evolving ecosystem. The intricate dance of international collaborations and agreements comes into focus, forming a mosaic of unity and purpose. Innovations rise as beacons of hope, showcasing pathways toward the long-term preservation of these invaluable ecosystems.

**With a profound crescendo, the narrative of the Memorial Lecture would shift to the power of community engagement.** Local communities emerge as pillars of strength, their intimate connection with mangroves fostering a resilient tapestry of coexistence. Socio-economic benefits and livelihood opportunities flourish in this ecosystem, rendering them guardians of both tradition and progress. Community-driven initiatives, suffused with participatory ideals, emerge as transformative agents of change.

**A symphony of innovation would take centre stage as technology steps into the limelight.** Advanced tools become instruments of preservation, harmonizing the realms of monitoring and restoration. Remote sensing, GIS, and genomics merge seamlessly, orchestrating a dance of precision and progress. Triumphs of technological applications shine like stars in the conservation firmament, reaffirming humanity's role as steward of the earth.

**With contemplative cadence, the Memorial Lecture would navigate the complex landscape of policy and governance.** Existing frameworks undergo scrutiny, a clarion call for enhanced governance and policy coherence resonates. The need for stakeholder engagement and collective awareness becomes a rallying point, setting the stage for a future where mangrove preservation is a shared responsibility.

**In a reflective interlude, the narrative would pay homage to Dr. A B Joshi, a luminary whose contributions to plant genetic resources shine as guiding lights.** His vision and unwavering dedication to conservation and research form an enduring legacy, a torchbearer inspiring a new generation of plant geneticists. Young researchers are beckoned to embrace his mantle, ensuring his ideals continue to shape the discourse of preservation.

**As the Memorial Lecture would gracefully reach its crescendo, it would distill its essence into a harmonious call to action.** The key takeaways resonate- the imperative of preserving mangrove forest genetic resources stands clear. Urgency pulsates through each word, as the audience would be called upon to stand as custodians of these green sentinels, fostering a sustainable future that thrives in symbiotic harmony with the rhythms of nature. In the profound silence that follows, a collective commitment is forged, a promise to safeguard the legacy of our world's green guardians for generations to come.