Title - Biotechnology in the Pursuit of a Healthy Society and Boosting the Global Bioeconomy

Abstract - Health, food, and nutrition have been the major focus in the post-COVID-19 scenario. In recent times, worldwide shift of consumer’s choice for herbal medicine had generated an interest in cultivation of medicinal plants and development of strategies for its improvement. Further, there is a need to develop an ecosystem of a resilient food supply with adequate nutritional security for the world community is greatly realized. Exploiting the large pool of less explored and underutilized crops may provide both food and nutritional security. Research in the direction of producing future climate-resilient crops, and establishing agrotechnology for the cultivation of non-traditional crops, will further provide an impetus to the mission of achieving global food security. With the advent of newer agritech approaches, global health problems can be addressed by propagating high valued medicinal plants and their utilization for a healthy society and boosting the global bioeconomy. Our laboratory has been working on the development of propagation technology for many important medicinal plants and nutritionally rich crops. Introduction of low chilled apple, saffron, banana and β-carotene, and anthocyanin-rich sweet potato are some of our recent efforts.