Activity Report

Of

Three-Day National Workshop on "Empowering Beginners: Hands-on Training in Plant Genome Editing Tools

Organized by

Department of Biotechnology, and Research Development Cell (RDC), CUH

Submitted By

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Activity Report

Three-Day National Workshop on "Empowering Beginners: Hands-on Training in Plant Genome Editing Tools"

Organised by: Department of Biotechnology & Research Development Cell (RDC)

Venue: Central University of Haryana (CUH), Mahendergarh

Dates: 17-19 November 2025

1. Introduction

The Department of Biotechnology, in collaboration with the Research Development Cell (RDC). Central University of Haryana, organised a **three-day national workshop titled** "Empowering Beginners: Hands-on Training in Plant Genome Editing Tools" from 17th to 19th November 2025. The workshop aimed to introduce young researchers to the fundamentals and practical aspects of plant genome editing, especially CRISPR-Cas9 technology, bridging the gap between theoretical understanding and laboratory application.

A total of 30 students from various states across India—including Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Delhi, Odisha, Rajasthan, and Haryana—were selected for this hands-on training program. Their participation reflected growing national interest in advanced molecular breeding and genome engineering tools in agriculture.

2. Inaugural Session (17 November 2025)

The workshop was formally inaugurated with the blessings of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Tankeshwar Kumar, who highlighted the transformative potential of genome editing in modern agriculture and sustainable crop improvement.

The session was graced by senior university dignitaries, including:

Prof. Neelam S. Sangwan (Convener)

Prof. Sangwan welcomed the participants and outlined the objectives, training modules, and expectations of the workshop.

Organising Secretary, Prof. Rupesh Deshmukh, along with his research team, introduced the three-day workflow, focusing on intensive hands-on training sessions to be conducted in CUH's state-of-the-art biotechnology laboratories.

3. Technical and Hands-on Sessions

Throughout the workshop, participants received focused training on CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing through interactive lectures, demonstrations, and laboratory exercises. The major topics covered included:

- Principles of genome editing and CRISPR-Cas systems
- gRNA design and optimization
- Vector construction for gene editing
- Transformation strategies in plants
- Screening and analysis of edited tissues

The hands-on sessions were led by **Dr. Humira Sonah**, supported by an experienced team of research scholars:

- Dr. Sreeja Sudhakaran
- Mukesh Meghwal
- Badal Mahakalkar
- · Pawan Kumar
- Pragati Singh
- Akash Maurya
- Geetanjali Joshi
- Daya Patel

Their guidance ensured that the participants gained practical confidence in executing genomeediting experiments from design to analysis.

4. Participant Engagement

The trainees actively participated in laboratory modules, discussions, and troubleshooting sessions. The diversity of student backgrounds contributed to productive scientific exchanges and collaborative learning.

Daily laboratory practice allowed participants to:

Plan CRISPR experiments

- · Select appropriate targets
- · Clone and assemble genome-editing vectors
- · Perform transformation workflows
- · Interpret results from edited tissues

The interactive nature of the program enabled participants to clarify concepts and apply skills immediately.

5. Valedictory Session (19 November 2025)

The valedictory session marked the successful completion of the workshop. Dr. Vippan Parihar and Prof. Neelam S. Sangwan addressed the participants, appreciating their dedication and active involvement. They encouraged students to apply the acquired skills in their future research endeavours and contribute to the advancement of plant biotechnology in India.

Prof. Rupesh Deshmukh, on behalf of the organising team, expressed heartfelt gratitude to:

- · The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for his continuous guidance
- · Faculty members and research scholars
- Technical and administrative staff
- · All 30 participants for their enthusiastic engagement

6. Outcomes of the Workshop

The workshop successfully achieved the following outcomes:

- · Built foundational skills in CRISPR-Cas9 genome editing among young researchers
- · Enhanced participants' ability to design, execute, and analyze gene-editing workflows
- Strengthened national networking among students from multiple states
- Provided exposure to advanced instruments and laboratory practices
- Fostered motivation for pursuing genome editing in agricultural biotechnology research

7. Conclusion

The three-day national workshop concluded on a highly positive note, having fulfilled its objective of empowering beginners with essential skills in plant genome editing. By combining conceptual understanding with practical training, the workshop offered a valuable platform for capacity building and professional development. The initiative underscores the Central University of Haryana's commitment to advancing scientific education and nurturing future researchers in the field of genome engineering.





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