## <u>Launching of the Indigenous Quality stock Culture programme of</u> Biotech Consortium India Limited

Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) launched its stock culture programme through a virtual programme- 'Significance of indigenous quality stock culture for Agriculture Industry and enhancing Farmers income' on 20.04.2022. The programme was formally launched by the Director General, Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Govt. Of India, Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra.

Biotech Consortium India Limited (BCIL) is a public limited company, promoted as an initiative of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and set up by All India Financial Institutions including IDBI, ICICI, IFCI, UTI and IFCI Venture Capital Funds Limited. It is a nodal agency for providing business support services to facilitate accelerated commercialization of biotech products and processes since 1990.

Quality stock culture is the key for the success of plant tissue culture process and producing quality plants. indigenous quality stock culture is of utmost significance or the Agriculture Industry and in enhancing Farmers income. BCIL has now taken up the initiative to provide indigenous quality stock culture. The programme focussed on the importance quality stock culture and significance of cost effective and good quality stock culture from within the country with a view to providing an economical alternative to importing of cultures from abroad. The quality stock culture would ensure quality plants, optimum yield and help in upliftment of the cause of the farming community by enhancing their income and helping in a systematic production process.

The programme was inaugurated by Dr. Purnima Sharma, MD, BCIL by a welcome address followed by a presentation by Dr. Shiv Kant Shukla, DGM, BCIL highlighting the current status of stock culture and initiatives of BCIL. There was a special address by Dr. Naveen Kumar Patle, Additional Commissioner (Horticulture), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers welfare. Seasoned experts Dr. K Gurumurthi, former Director, IFGTB, Coimbatore and Dr. Vidya Gupta, former chief scantiest, CSIR-NCL, Pune also enlightened the audience by their addresses and sharing their valuable experiences.

The new initiative was much appreciated as the need of the hour and very well received by all the participants from the Industry, Academia and all other stakeholders.

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