A Step Ahead in Science – Sandhya Misra (Email: sandhyabsip@gmail.com) and K.G. Misra, Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, 53-University Road, Lucknow - 226 007

Second day of the workshop started with the remarks of committee members C.M. Nautiyal (scientist, BSIP) and V.K. Joshi (Environmentalist). Then moving towards the first session V.K. Joshi delivered a lecture on How to become an Environment Journalist. In his presentation he demonstrated how to write effective science articles for newspaper coloumn, articles, blogs, full page for magazines etc by citing examples from his work. In the second session a discussion was held between participants and the guest speakers, Anupam Srivastava (Senior Science Journalist, Hindustan Times). Several queries of participants were cleared from right from the techniques of science writing to science writing as a carrier/profession. How effective science communication can be popularised in society in a common man with the future risks of society to bluff people were cleared with the scientific causes behind them. Satish Kumar Grover (Gyanwani, Lucknow) introduced participants about the technical things related to radio.

On the last day of the workshop, on 16 July, in the valedictory session H.S. Das while addressing the participants asked them to keep on writing for the communication of science. On the basis of evaluation of submitted assignments and performance of individual participants in the workshop among the 51 participants five (Shiny Rizvi, Sandhya Misra, Kushagra Dixit, Arun Joshi and Nida Zaidi) were awarded. Participants gave their feedback on the workshop and it ended with the vote of thanks by V.K. Joshi in which he expressed gratitude towards all the persons behind the success of the workshop.

District Science Club and Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow in coordination with Council of Science and Technology, Lucknow (UP) has organised a five days “Science Writing Training Workshop” during 12-16 July 2013 at Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow (UP).

The workshop was inaugurated on 12th July by H.S. Das (DG, Council of Science and Technology, UP) in the presence of distinguished dignitaries – Ashok Shani (Ex VC Punjab University); Sunil Bajpai (director, BSIP); S.M. Prasad (Scientific officer, CST, UP) and I.D. Ram (Joint Director, Council of Science and Technology, UP). Raj Kamal Srivastava in his welcome address briefly outlined the aims and objectives of the workshop. Fifty participants from diversified field of education viz.: Mass Communication; DIET, Lucknow; Research actively participated in this workshop.

The first session of the day, started with the lecture of A.K. Sahni. He introduced the participants with various facets of climate change and how good communication of science in society can help in warning the common man with the future risks of such changes. The second session i.e. communication was dealt by I.D. Ram. He introduced participants with the various sources of scientific information. The session was then preceded with a lecture by S.M. Prasad in which he demonstrated how science can be popularised in society in a better way. The day ended with the assignments to participants in which they were asked to do something on their own for the popularisation of science through skits, drama, poems, articles etc in the media.

First session of third day started with P.K. Srivastava (Scientist, CDRI Lucknow) lecture where several examples of scientoons were shown, how boring science topic becomes interesting if communicated through scientoons. Then during a discussion session with Hemant Tripathi and Chandra Sen Verma (Correspondent, Sahara Samaya) many do’s and don’ts in mass communication were brought to the knowledge of participants. Several queries of participants were regarding Intellectual Property Right especially copyright was discussed in great detail by Shashi Rana (Senior Scientific officer, CST UP). In the second session, C.M. Nautiyal discussed how to bridge the science and the broadcasters. This session was further lead by Journalist Piyush Tripathi with cameraman Gulzar Ahmed Khan (ETV UP). In this session many technical and field experiences were shared by them.

Fourth day of workshop was initiated with the remark of V.K. Joshi and C.M. Nautiyal on individual participant’s manuscript. The session was chaired by A.K. Sharma (HOD, Zoology dept. and director, Institute of Mass communication in Science and Technology). C.M. Nautiyal introduced the participants how to write a script for TV, newspaper and radio. This was followed by a lecture by V.K. Joshi on various facets of water and related issues. The most interesting part of this workshop i.e., science behind the magic was dealt by Raj Kamal Srivastava. Through the practical demonstrations several techniques used in society to bluff people were cleared with the scientific causes behind them. Satish Kumar Grover (Gyanwani, Lucknow) introduced participants about the technical things related to radio.

On the last day of the workshop, on 16 July, in the valedictory session H.S. Das while addressing the participants asked them to keep on writing for the communication of science. On the basis of evaluation of submitted assignments and performance of individual participants in the workshop among the 51 participants five (Shiny Rizvi, Sandhya Misra, Kushagra Dixit, Arun Joshi and Nida Zaidi) were awarded. Participants gave their feedback on the workshop and it ended with the vote of thanks by V.K. Joshi in which he expressed gratitude towards all the persons behind the success of the workshop.