

## **Memorandum signed between ICMR and ICFRE**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Indian Council of Medical Research and Indian Council of Research & Education was signed today by Dr. Vishwa Mohan Katoch, Director General, ICMR and Mr. K. Jude Sekar, Director General, ICFRE on Oct. 15, 2013 at FRI, Dehradun for doing collaborative research on the therapeutic potential of medicinal plants and fungi for human welfare. The aims and objectives were phytochemical and pharmacological screening of Indian medicinal plants and medicinal fungi for anticancerous and antidiabetic activity and preclinical development of bioactive natural products and their analogs as chemotherapeutic agents.

Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun will take activities on identification, collection and preparation of plant material and fungi and characterization of active known or novel molecules from plants and fungal resources. Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi will be responsible for the screening of extracts/fractions/ pure compound (s)/biomass for anticancerous and antidiabetic activity and rational drug- design-modification and analog synthesis. The two organizations will exchange academic materials and other information regularly. Components of projects with respective institutes for undertaking above mentioned activities will be developed by concerned scientists and exchanged between collaborating partners.

Subject to mutual consent, the areas of cooperation will include any program offered at either institution as thought desirable and feasible on either side and both sides will contribute to the fostering and development of the cooperative relationship between the two institutions. The MoU will pave the way for translating collaborative research efforts by ICMR and ICFRE for human welfare.

Dr. V.M. Katoch expressed his happiness by signing the MoU and considered it as a historical moment and desired that this breakthrough will pave the way for doing purposeful research in developing medicines for human welfare. Sh. Jude Sekar said that joining hands with ICMR is a good step in doing collaborative research in national perspective. Dr. P.P. Bhojvaid, Director, FRI in the beginning welcome the DG, ICMR and his colleagues and officers and scientists of ICFRE and FRI and briefed about the background of developing the MoU between ICFRE and ICMR. From ICMR Dr. Vijay Kumar, Deputy Director General and Dr Nagesh Prabhu, Joint Secretary were present during the signing of the MoU. Dr. N.S.K. Harsh proposed a vote of thanks at the end.