Special Seminar

Teknisk Material Fysik- MSE, KTH

Biotechnology for developing countries

By

Rev. Leo D'souza

Laboratory of Applied Biology,(www.staloysius.ac.in)

St. Aloysius College (*now a deemed University from 2007*),

Mangalore,(www.mangalore.com) India.

……..

At 14:00, on Oct 4 , 2006

Seminar room, 4th floor Brinellvagen 23,

……..

ABSTRACT

Traditional biotechnology has always been associated with rural needs like plant breeding, food fermentation and composting. Over thousands of years man has selected, domesticated and improved plants according to his needs of nutrition, health, clothing. Women of Asia and Africa have discovered methods to ferment foods to preserve them, to make them easier to digest or to turn them into value added products. Modern biotechnology on the other hand consists of a range of interrelated techniques and biological processes for practical applications in agriculture, health care and industry.

Most of the advances in modern biotechnology have been made by privatized biotechnology research and development in developed countries using sophisticated technologies which are proprietary in nature. Most developing countries have to acquire high value biotechnologies for improving agriculture, food and pharmaceutical production from developed countries. To avoid being neo-colonized by such developments, developing countries should try to build up their own technologies.

The Laboratory of Applied Biology, St Aloysius College, Mangalore, has been working in the areas of tissue culture, molecular breeding, pharmacy products and waste management to develop indigenous know how. Micropropagation of cashew a nut crop of world importance, of some Local ornamental and medicinal plants, and forest trees has been achieved. Molecular markers for ragi and rice have been worked out. Antibacterial properties of some medicinal plants are being studied. Investigations on waste management using vermitechnology are being carried out by the department of zoology, and by using bacteria at the department of biotechnology.

Contact Persons: **Lyubov Belova** Tele: 790 8372 Belova@mse.kth.se

K.V.Rao 790 7771 rao@kth.se.