

Prof. Raghuram Rao Akkinapally, the new Director NIPER S.A.S. Nagar, completed six months in office. During this period, he has provided stability to the Institute which had been facing difficulties arising from the absence of a regular director between Jan. 2010 to May 2017. The following are some of the important activities taken up by him. He presented the Institute's activities before the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers, which visited the Institute in June 2017. He activated the functioning of the statutory bodies of the Institute, viz. the Academic Planning and Development committee (APDC), Senate, Finance Committee, Board of Studies and Research (BSR), Departmental Academic Activity Committee (DAAC), etc. Three meetings of Board of Governors (BoG) were also held during this period. The suggestions of these august bodies are being implemented.

Grievance redressal system and transparency in administration were also activated. Thus, there is a feeling of administrative stability among the employees of the Institute, improving the overall morale. He has begun the process of recruitment to various scientific, technical, R&D, and project management posts for increased transfer of knowledge to the learners and up scaling of research activities. A 'Green Window' has been opened, where the objective is to popularize cultivation and use of medicinal plants, even in the household settings. Twenty two (22) plants have been made available at a nominal cost. Attempts are being made to increase the green cover of the Institute with regular plantation drives on campus. A proposal for food and kitchen waste biogas generation unit is in the pipeline. During the Swachhata Abhiyan, the Institute participated in cleanliness drive not only within the campus but also in the neighbourhood under his leadership.

Prof. Rao has initiated pivotal changes by emphasizing translational research rather than limiting research to the laboratory. For this, he has made a conscious effort to improve NIPER's interaction with academia and industry. The new Director has initiated a programme of recognizing and awarding the efforts of scientists whose work has led to the transfer of technology to the industry by 'NIPER Technology Ratna' award. MoUs with many leading academic institutes (CSIR-IMTech, ISF College, Department of Pharmacy, GNDU, Kakatiya University, etc.) have been activated. Interactions with industry partners like Sun Pharma, Cadila Pharma, Biocon, KAPL, Unichem Pharma, United Biotech and Ayurvet Pharma, have already led to the signing of agreements with some of them. The Director has also made an effort to identify technologies available locally with the aim of utilizing the Institute's expertise to make them commercially viable.

The Institute has become a much more active participant in the activities of CRIKC. Globalization of NIPER has been taken up with renewed vigour. Visits of groups from Egypt, Germany and Japan have already taken place. A previous MoU with Russia has been reactivated and a positive response has been received regarding collaborative research. Participants from approx. 20 countries were offered training at NIPER under ITEC/SCAAP (MEA). A proposal from Zambia has been received for training their postgraduate and doctoral students and is being studied. Skill development and employability of students are being emphasized with frequent sessions on development of personality and soft skills. The Small and Medium Pharmaceutical Industries Centre (SMPIC) is being strengthened. Entrepreneur spirit of students and faculty members is being supported through the pharmaceutical incubator on campus.