

A report on  
Academic Institution Visit  
to  
**National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute**  
Knowledge City, Sector 81, Mohali



on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018  
by Students of B. Tech (Bioinformatics)

Organized by  
Department of Biotechnology and Bioinformatics  
Jaypee University of Information Technology  
Waknaghat, HP



An academic visit was carried out to National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI), Sector 81, Mohali on 6<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018 for second and third year bioinformatics students. The purpose of the visit was to expose students to various research activities undertaken in the premier research institution in government sector, and to give students a chance to interact with scientists and students working on cutting-edge biotechnology research. It was also an opportunity for the students to see the latest infrastructure used in the biotechnology sector.

National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute is the very first food biotechnology institute established by Department of Biotechnology, Government of India. The institute's mandate is to carry out research in agri-food sector and improving nutritional quality through biotechnology research. It's established to become a center of excellence to provide leadership in agri-food research.

I, Dr Narendra Kumar and Ms Sonika Gupta along with 18 students visited NABI located at Sector 81, Mohali. On reaching the institute, we were received by Dr. Kaushik Majumdar; where we briefed him about the Biotechnology and Bioinformatics program of the JUIT.

Dr. Kaushik Majumdar addressed the students and explained major research themes undertaken by the institute which included agricultural biotechnology, food and nutrition biology, development of high yield crops, genomics and computational biology, and nutraceutical for better health.

After Dr. Majumdar's address, the students were taken to the instrumentation facility by Mr. Jagdeep Singh, where he showed the students various equipment used in biotechnology research at NABI. Students were shown gas chromatography and liquid chromatography systems and their functions were explained to them. Mr Jagdeep Singh also showed and explained the equipment for high performance thin layer chromatography and particle size separator. Students were then taken for a tour to high performance tissue culture facility. They were shown and explained the purpose of clean air areas fitted with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters and air showers.



We also visited the high-performance computing (HPC) facility in the computational biology laboratory headed by Dr. Srikant Mantri. His staff showed the computer cluster and explained various software running on the machine for the genomics and transcriptomics analysis. The whole tour took some two and half hours and students got a feel for biotechnology and bioinformatics research at the institute. Students benefited from getting an opportunity to relate their theoretical knowledge to practical implications.

The BT and BI department extends our gratitude to the Director, NABI for his permission and support to make this visit possible and achieving our objectives for the students. We thank management of JUIT and Industry Relation Officer (Dr. Abhishek Choudhary) of Department of BT & BI for arranging the visit for our students.

Thanks, and Regards,

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