

KERALA CALLING

MAY 01, 2023_VOL_43_No_7

YET ANOTHER KERALA MODEL



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has set yet another Kerala Model to the entire Nation*

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JNTBGRI Honoured

With GGI-Gardens Award



JNTBGRI is one of the ten botanic gardens and arboreta in the world to receive the GGI-Gardens Award. JNTBGRI is now part of the Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN), a network of biological repositories and their representatives worldwide.

Dr. B. SABULAL

Director, KSCSTE-JNTBGRI

Jawaharlal Nehru Tropical Botanic Garden and Research Institute (JNTBGRI) has been recognized with the prestigious 2023 Global Genome Initiative for Gardens (GGI-Gardens) Award Program. This program, funded by the United States Botanic Garden and administered through Botanic Gardens Conservation International (BGCI), is a science-based effort to collect genomic biodiversity from around the world, preserve it in biorepositories, and makes it available for researchers worldwide.

JNTBGRI is one of the ten botanic gardens and arboreta in the world to receive this award. This is the second



JNTBGRI holds the largest living collection of plant species in India with over 50,000 accessions of about 4,800 species in its conservatories such as arboretum, field gene bank, medicinal, aromatic plants & spices, ornamentals, ret species park, systematic garden, Andaman flora, bamboos, bromeliads, gymnosperms, insectivorous plants, lesser-known fruits, orchids, palms, pteridophytes, succulents & cacti, aquatic plants, holding. The Institute also discovered over 800 new species of angiosperms, mushrooms and fungi. Institute conservatories, species-mushroom herbaria and seed banks are very useful repositories for students, academicians, foresters and policymakers on our plant wealth. At Palode, 40 kilometres from Thiruvananthapuram, JNTBGRI is en route to the tourist locations Ponnudi, Palaruvi waterfalls and Thenmala.

Under the GGI-Gardens program, JNTBGRI will have initial priority for plant families and genus not yet represented in GGBN biorepositories. The focus of the present program will be on the medicinal and aromatic plants of the Western Ghats. JNTBGRI holds around 1500 accessions of 1100 species of medicinal, aromatic and spice plants.

time the institute has been honoured with the GGI-Gardens Award.

GGI-Gardens aim to capture half of the world's genome diversity through this program. JNTBGRI is now part of the Global Genome Biodiversity Network (GGBN), a network of biological repositories and their representatives worldwide. This initiative involves several institutions with biological repositories organized to form an international network.

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Legend: Four representative medicinal plants chosen for genome diversity conservation under the GGI-Gardens program, (i) *Coscinium fenestratum* ("Maramanjala"), (ii) *Piper barberi* ("Kattu mulaku"), (iii) *Aporosa cardiosperma* ("Vetti"), (iv) *Monochoria vaginalis* ("Karimkoovalam"). (Common names in brackets). ■