

## **Indo-Finland Workshop on Genomic Tools in Bioremediation**

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) organized an “Indo-Finland Workshop on Genomic Tools in Bioremediation” on 29-30 November 2011 in the CSIR-NEERI Auditorium. The workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Dr. G.P. Meshram, Joint Director, DRDO and Dr Kirsten Jorgenson, Project Coordinator, Finland.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Meshram spoke on the topic – “Bioremediation: Today’s Need & Its Future”. He said that looking at the presence of various chemicals in our environment, bioremediation is the best option for destruction of these chemicals. Tracing history of bioremediation, he informed that the process of bioremediation is known from 1990, but it has taken a new shape presently in the era of genomics and metabolomics. Dr. Meshram briefed about chemicals and wastes that have been successfully bioremediated. He said that bioremediation has many advantages compared to other existing technologies in cleaning the environment. He also spoke about destruction and decontamination of weapons and advocated that bioremediation can be a better option. He said that bioremediation has many prospects and bright future. Dr. Kirsten S. Jorgensen, Project Coordinator, Finland speaking on the occasion said that India and Finland will try to find out problems common in India and Finland in the field of environmental genomics. Since the use of pesticides has been increased around the world, this workshop will try to find out some solutions for mitigating environmental pollution taking place due to these pesticides, she added. Dr. Jorgensen also briefed about Indian and Finnish legislations on environment.

In his welcome address, Dr. C V Chalapati Rao, Chief Scientist, CSIR-NEERI informed that NEERI has been working in the field of environmental genomics from last two decades. He urged the scientists and participants to explore various avenues in the area of environmental genomics in the near future for betterment of our environment. Dr. (Mrs) Atya Kapley, Principal Scientist, CSIR-NEERI & Coordinator of the workshop gave an overview of the workshop and said that CSIR-NEERI has successfully demonstrated the use of genomic tools in bioremediation and would propagate the idea of adding a new dimension to conventional treatment using gene-based tools, to improve efficiency of treatment. Various experts from Finland, Belgium, China and India, working in the area of bioremediation delivered lectures on this occasion.



**Dr. Kirsten S. Jorgensen, Project Coordinator, Finland speaking on the occasion: seated on the dais (from left): Dr C V Chalapati Rao, Dr G P Meshram and Dr (Mrs) Atya Kapley**