



A Report on

## Public Lecture

**Topic:** FOOD RADIATION SAFETY: MISCONCEPTS AND APPREHENSION

**Date/Time:** December 15, 2017 (Friday), 2:30 pm

**Venue:** Seminar Hall,

National Centre for Nanoscience & Nanotechnology

University of Mumbai, Vidyanagari, Santacruz (E), Kalina Campus,  
Mumbai 400 098

Organized under the aegis of

### **Society for Radiation Research (SRR)**

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On its 3<sup>rd</sup> Foundation Day, Society for Radiation Research (SRR) has organized a public lecture on **“FOOD RADIATION SAFETY: MISCONCEPTS AND APPREHENSION”** at Department of Biophysics, University of Mumbai, Kalina Campus, Mumbai on 15<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2017 at 2.30 PM under its public outreach program. The lecture was delivered by **Dr S. Gautam**, Senior Scientist, Food Technology Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai. **Prof. K. P. Mishra**, Founder President, SRR, former Vice Chancellor, NGB University, Allahabad and Ex-Head, Radiation Biology and Health Sciences Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai and **Dr Amit Kumar**, GC Member, SRR, Senior Scientist, Radiation Biology and Health Sciences Division, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Mumbai attended the program. More than 175 students/faculties participated from various University Departments, Colleges– Somaiya College, Vidyavihar; Guru Nanak College, Sion; UM DAE Centre for Excellence in Basic Sciences, BL Nayar Medical College, Pharmacy College, Sathe College, Vile Parle and Patker College, Goregaon etc.

The program was started with formal welcome to guests followed by introductory remark by **Prof Prabhakar Dongre**, Head, Department of Biophysics, Mumbai University. **Prof K P Mishra chaired the scientific program.** Dr Dongre talked on the subject of biophysics, how the university had taken effort to start this subject. The biophysics subject was part of Life Sciences and then 2001-2002 became an independent Department. He also told that many scientists from BARC and other national Institutes like TIFR have helped the subject specifically in design and development of curriculum, teaching and training program. He also told that department of Biophysics providing special training to PG & PhD students. Department is well established with sophisticated equipments for teaching and training. Prof. Dongre mentioned that very soon Department will be installing gamma irradiator and this facility will be open not only for university department but also to various colleges affiliated to Mumbai University. After this short introductory remark, **Dr Amit Kumar** added his remarks about Society for Radiation Research and need of public lecture on food irradiation and safety.

Later, Chairperson of the program, Prof KP Mishra introduced Chief Guest and speaker **Dr S Gautam.** **Dr KP Mishra** spoke on important role of radiation in health and agriculture areas. He spoke that how radiation is controlling and eliminating tumors. Radiobiologist/radiation scientists are giving solution to clinicians for improving cancer therapy. Prof Mishra told that it is essential that correct/accurate amount radiation dose to be delivered to the cancerous tissue. For exposure of radiation to tumor and sparing normal tissue, radiobiologists and technologists are providing critical solutions to the clinicians. Further Dr KP Mishra told that radiation is not only used in health but also used in agriculture. After Dr KP Mishra’s speech, **Dr S Gautam** delivered speech on **“Food Radiation Safety : Misconcepts and Apprehensions”**. Dr Gautam, in his introductory remarks, told how application of radiation is growing in the field of health sector. He explained how radiation is used in food preservation. Dr Gautam showed

lots of experimental data regarding preservation of irradiated food, types of food which can be preserved for longer duration after radiation treatment and he stressed that irradiated food can be safely used for eating. **He highlighted that irradiated food has no adverse effect and food irradiation do not reduce nutrition value of food.** Dr Gautam showed various food irradiation plants working in different parts of country. He showed that how India is exporting irradiated food to foreign countries. After completion of lecture, lots of questions were asked by the students and faculties. All the queries were satisfactorily attended by Dr S Gautam. His discussion before and after lecture, was very much helpful to clarify doubts about mis-concepts and remove fear about to use of irradiated food. Vote of thanks was offered by Mr Vinod Jaiswal, Research Scholar, Dept of Biophysics. The program was concluded with refreshment.

### Report Prepared by

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Prof. P. M. Dongre giving his introductory speech



Dr Amit Kumar giving his remarks



Dr. K. P. Mishra giving his remarks



Prof. P. M. Dongre giving bouquet to Dr S. Gautam





One of the slides of Presentation



Audience interacting after presentation



Audience interacting after presentation



Audience during presentation