

A conference report on 19th International Meeting on *Frankia* and Actinorhizal Plants

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The 19th International conference on *Frankia* and Actinorhizal plants which I attended along with one of my colleague Miss Reha Labar was held from 17th-19th March, 2018 at Hammamet, Tunisia. Since my research is about *Frankia* and other actinobacteria, this conference provided a full opportunity to meet with people from different parts of the world who are working on the same topic and also learned some new techniques they are using for better understanding of *Frankia* and Actinorhizal symbiosis.

The conference was an ideal platform for me since it was an international forum consisting of researchers, education scientists, technologists who are experts in the aforementioned topics. That platform acted as a strategic think tank to enhance collaborative research work on relevant topic. It was organized by University of Carthage, Tunisia in association with University of La Manouba and University of El Manar, Tunisia. The first two days (17th and 18th March) was packed with seminar and poster presentation sessions and on 19th the Organizing committee arranged local tour for us.



Scientists and researchers attended the 19th International Meeting on *Frankia* and Actinorhizal Plants.

On 17th the conference started with plenary lecture by Jean Armengaud, France. He delivered a lecture on Proteogenomics and metagenomics for environmental microbiology. Proteo- and metagenomics are popular among some emerging techniques in biology hence; his lecture was both interesting and informative for us. Besides Jean, there were 20 more speakers who spoke about their research works on relevant topic. Overall there were 3 sessions on *Frankia*, Actinorhizal plants and Plant microbe interaction each with two sub-sessions chaired by different scientists. Pawłowski K, Tisa LS, Nouioui I, Pesce C, Ben Tekaya S, Rehan M, Swanson E delivered their lectures on Frankia. The work I presented there was also on Frankia hence, I had an opportunity to deliver my speech in that same session. On the next day, Ribeiro Barros AI, Mansour S, Zhong C, Ghazouani S, Ngom M, Slaimi R presented their works on Actinorhizal plants. On the same day, Wall L, Carre-Mlouka A, Saadaoui M, Hezbri K, Ktari A, Gueddou A delivered their lectures on Plant Microbe Interaction. Consequently, I have known a number of academics and professionals from different countries who have similar research interests.

Posters were presented on both 17th and 18th just after the seminar sessions. Ten posters were there. My colleague Reha and I also presented posters. The certificates were distributed on 18th only and after that, the organizers took us for a Gala Dinner at Medina. That was also a nice experience. The next day all the participants visited some local markets and nearby places in the morning and spend a long time at the peaceful Meditterian beach.

This was our first experience of attending an International conference and we would like to thanks our supervisor Prof. Arnab Sen for encouraging us to attend the Conference and University of North Bengal for granting us leaves for those days. This conference was very interesting and has enriched our experience with more information, knowledge and confidence.