ST. XAVIER'S COLLEGE, MAPUSA GOA

Report of Activity conducted in the Academic Year 2026-27

Name of Activity	Invited Lecture on "Genetic Engineering: Biotech Engineering for Innovation and Life"
Date/ Duration	2nd September 2026, 10:15 am to 11: 15 am
Venue	Seminar Hall
Name of organizing Department/Cell	Department of Biotechnology
In collaboration with	Dr Andrew D'souza, Department of Chemistry.
Name/s of Faculty Co-ordinator	Dr. Larissa D. Menezes
Stratum of Event	Department level
Name & details of Resource Person/s if any	Professor Suresh Kunkalikar, Principal, Goa College of Agriculture, Old Goa.
Report	The Department of Biotechnology, St. Xavier's College, Mapusa, organised an Invited Lecture on "Genetic Engineering: Biotech Engineering for Innovation and Life", by a stalwart in agriculture education in Goa, Prof. Suresh Kunkalikar, Principal of Goa College of Agriculture, Old Goa. The Lecture was delivered on 2nd September 2026, for BSc Biotechnology students in the seminar hall from 10:15 am to 11:15 am. The program began with welcoming our Resource Person with a potted plant, given by Ms Emma Fernandes, assistant professor, department of Biotechnology. Ms Nerisa Lobo, assistant professor, department of Biotechnology, then introduced the Resource Person and the Lecture began. Prof Suresh introduced the concept of genetic engineering, its scientific procedure and its vast potential applications. He elaborated and enlightened the students and faculty about the various agricultural crops that have been modified into GMOs and their benefits over the wild type crops. He highlighted his contribution to the use of genetic engineering in making local papaya crop resistant to a viral disease it is generally prone to, that causes huge annual losses in papaya crops. Some examples of GMOs in agriculture were lycopene-rich pink pineapple, oxidation-resistant apples, disease-resistant papaya crops, edible vaccines, etc. He also explained how GMO mustard with higher oil content was already used in India under the Brand name Dhara for mustard oil, since 2022. Prof Suresh narrated the success story of Bt Cotton in India and emphasized on how India is the 4th largest GM crop producer after USA, Brazil and Argentina. Although a lot of ethical concerns cloud the potential commercial success of such GMOs in India, Prof

	Suresh stressed upon the collaborative efforts of agricultural experts like himself, that continue to put India on the world GMO producer map. Prof Suresh enlightened the students about the mechanism behind producing pest-resistant crops and virus-resistant crops using RNAi technology. The Lecture was followed by a Q&A session where first year, second year and third year students queried about the demand and supply of such GMO crops, the possibility of any long term risks to humans after consumption and Prof Suresh explained very simply so that the students could comprehend. The lecture was attended by 73 students and 6 faculty from the department of Biotechnology. A fruit basket was handed over as a gesture of Appreciation to Prof. Suresh Kunkalikar, at the hands of Dr Andrew D'Souza, Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, who was instrumental in connecting the resource person with the department of Biotechnology. The program ended with a vote of thanks delivered by the event coordinator, Dr Larissa D. Menezes.
Brochure/Poster	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Brochure-of-Invited-Lecture-on-Genetic-Engineering-Biotech-Engineering-for-Innovation-and-Life.pdf
Photographs	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Images-of-Invited-Lecture-on-Genetic-Engineering-Biotech-Engineering-for-Innovation-and-Life.pdf
List of participants with signatures	https://xavierscollegegoa.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/attendance-of-Invited-Lecture-on-Genetic-Engineering-Biotech-Engineering-for-Innovation-and-Life.pdf
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