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Competition for Design of Logo for Golden Jubilee was conducted among Members of Mycological Society of India during January 2023. Logo designed by **Mr. Kailash Patel**, Ph.D. Research Scholar, Department of Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, SKRAU, Bikaner, Rajasthan, India was selected as the best and it is included in the Front Cover page.

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear readers,

Welcome to the second issue of 59th volume of KAVAKA through which we envision to delve into the fascinating world of Fungi. Through this issue the endeavour is to highlight the importance of exploring fungal diversity, documenting its wonders, and insinuating how mycology can generate incredible avenues for scientific advancement and human well-being.

Fungi, the treasure trove, occupy prime place in the biological world in their pristine form. India is a cradle for a galaxy of fungi, however only a fraction of its total fungal wealth has been subjected to scientific scrutiny. Fungi form a kingdom of their own, separate from plants and animals, with an estimated diversity of millions of species. Yet, we have only scratched the surface of understanding their true potential. It's about time to unveil nature's hidden secrets and appreciate the intricate web of life that fungi weave. Attributable to the sheer number of fungal species, cataloguing and documentation of their diversity is a challenging task. In light of that, it is imperative that we invest in comprehensive fungal surveys, DNA sequencing, and taxonomic studies to unravel the hidden treasures of the fungal kingdom before they become unsalvageable. Exploring fungal diversity and documentation thereof are extremely crucial to pave towards further evaluation of their potential in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and as biofertilizers. By studying the vast array of fungal species, we can better comprehend the intricate mechanisms that drive our ecosystems, leading to more sustainable practices and conservation efforts. Furthermore, by expanding our knowledge of fungal diversity and bioprospecting them, we can discover new bioactive compounds that may revolutionize the treatment of diseases and improve human health.

From the humble mushroom farm to the cutting-edge laboratories of pharmaceutical companies, fungi are proving to be a game-changer across industries. It is imperative that we recognize and capitalize on the potential of fungi, fostering research, investment, and sustainable practices. By doing so, we can unlock a myriad of opportunities, driving economic growth, advancing healthcare, and enhancing the quality of our lives while nurturing the planet's rich fungal biodiversity. It presents opportunities to engage with scientists, enthusiasts, and professionals alike, fostering collaboration and knowledge sharing. Through mycology societies, research institutions, and community-driven initiatives, we can build a collective effort to unravel the mysteries of fungi, harness their potential for the greater good, and ensure fair recognition and protection of the efforts and innovations derived from fungi by safeguarding intellectual property.

There is no price tag for curiosity, and it is mankind's yearning for the 'unknown' that has made our species excel. In conclusion, dear readers, I would like to emphasize that it is our moral duty as mycologists to showcase the valuable facet of fungi. By dispelling misconceptions, highlighting ecological contributions, unveiling economic and industrial benefits, and educating future generations, mycologists can play a vital role in transforming the perception of fungi. Embracing this responsibility can lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of fungi, paving the way for sustainable utilization, conservation, and the realization of the tremendous benefits that fungi offer to society and the environment. With that commitment, let us embark on a journey to explore fungal diversity with curiosity and reverence. Together, through this issue of KAVAKA, let us celebrate the wonders of the fungal kingdom and protect its rich heritage for generations to come.

The present issue of KAVAKA stands as a testament to the collective commitment of the members of MSI to academic excellence and the pursuit of knowledge. My deepest appreciation is reserved for the Editor of this issue, Dr. Naveen Kango, for his meticulous attention to detail, unwavering commitment to excellence, and the countless hours devoted to ensuring the quality of the published articles.

Undoubtedly, it is through the collaborative efforts of the entire KAVAKA community that we continue to thrive and make a meaningful impact in the scholarly landscape.

Wishing you an enlightening and inspiring reading experience.

June 30, 2023

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