

## A Report on CSIR Success Story webinar on “Communicating Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge (SVASTIK) to the Society”

Charu Lata & Paramananda Barman

CSIR-National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research, Dr K S Krishnan Marg, New Delhi-110012

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) is a renowned and contemporary R&D organization, known for its cutting edge research in diverse S&T. Since its inception in 1942, CSIR has been providing noteworthy technological interventions in several areas of societal importance including agriculture, energy, environment, food, health, housing, drinking water etc.

As a run-up to CSIR's 80 years' celebrations and also CSIR's participation in the grand celebration of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, #80Years\_80SuccessStories campaign has been launched by CSIR. In this campaign, more than 40 success stories of different CSIR labs have been showcased. The national initiative SVASTIK (Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge) to communicate India's scientifically validated traditional knowledge to the society is the latest entrant in the CSIR #80Years\_80SuccessStories campaign. In order to showcase the story, a webinar on "Communicating Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge (SVASTIK) to the Society" was organized by CSIR on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022.

**CSIR SUCCESS STORY LIVE WEBINAR**

**Communicating Scientifically Validated Societal Traditional Knowledge (SVASTIK) to the Society**

**22<sup>nd</sup> August 2022**  
**02.30 PM**

**#80Years\_80SuccessStories**  
**#AzadiKaAmritMahotsav**

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**Prof. Ranjana Aggarwal**  
Director, CSIR-NIScPR

**Prof. B N Jagatap**  
Senior Professor, IIT Bombay  
& Chairman Steering  
Committee, SVASTIK

**Dr. Viswajnanani Sattigeri**  
Head, CSIR-TKDI Unit

**Dr. Sharad Srivastava**  
CSIR-NBRI, Lucknow

**Dr. Charu Lata**  
CSIR-NIScPR

**Dr. Shikha**  
SCDD, CSIR

**Prof Ranjana Aggarwal**, Director, CSIR-NIScPR, illuminated on the rich legacy of Indian traditional wisdom in various fields, including medicine, agriculture, education, etc. She expressed concern that the western influence is causing people to lose faith in the Indian Knowledge System. She mentioned various efforts of CSIR-NIScPR to conserve, protect and disseminate traditional knowledge of India. Prof Aggarwal elaborated on the significance of the launch of the national initiative SVASTIK in response to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri Narendra Modi's clarion appeal. She briefly described the efforts made thus far under this initiative.

**Prof B N Jagatap**, Senior Professor, IIT Bombay and Chair of the Steering Committee, explained the efforts carried out by the SVASTIK initiative to popularise traditional knowledge. He described briefly the known knowns (documented TK, e.g., philosophy, logic, ethics, literature, linguistics, mathematics, astronomy, Ayurveda, and medical practices) and the known unknowns (TKs not documented, e.g., metallurgy, textile industry, shipbuilding, seafaring, trade and commerce, water conservation, agriculture, architecture, etc.) of TKs, as well as the preliminary steps taken to disseminate. In his address, he asked CSIR scientists to join in the scientific validation of TKs by referring to the Western scientists who discovered the greater corrosion resistance of Agarias iron and the findings on the effect of postprandial walking on diabetic patients.

**Dr Charu Lata**, Senior Scientist, CSIR-NIScPR, elaborated on the Indian traditional knowledge systems and the need for scientific validation of the TKs. She spoke on the SVASTIK program's activities in great detail. The six key TK domains from which 17 TKs have thus far been selected and disseminated in 16 Indian languages were also emphasized. Different SVASTIK communication strategies, such as crowd sourcing, lecture series, social media campaigns and publications, were outlined. In addition, she highlighted SVASTIK's collaboration with MyGov through which SVASTIK could reach 22 million individuals within a short span.

**Prof Sharad Srivastava**, Principal Scientist, CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow expressed his gratitude to the SVASTIK programme for contributing to disseminating traditional knowledge. By referencing the widely publicized URO-5 story, he highlighted the tremendous opportunities that SVASTIK has created for the pharmaceutical industry in terms of technological development based on TKs. The product was conceptualized and developed by CSIR-NBRI in collaboration with CSIR-IITR and KGMU, two of Lucknow's most prestigious institutions. The URO-5 is a synergistic herbal formulation designed to treat urolithiasis and nephrolithiasis and expel any leftover stone fragments after extracorporeal shock wave lithotripsy. Prof Srivastava briefly described the composition of URO-05, which contains five medicinal herbs in a therapeutically effective concentration: *Bergenia* sp., *Berberis* sp., *Tinospora cordifolia*, *Phyllanthus* sp., and *Tribulus terrestris*.

Prof Srivastava summarised how the NBRI team developed URO-5 from traditional Ayurvedic knowledge. In addition, he comprehended the URO-5 formulation's clinical trial data and its significant health effects. He also stated that SVASTIK may be substantially contributing in promoting business in addition to dissemination of TKs.

**Dr Viswajanani J Sattigeri**, Head, CSIR-TKDL Unit, Delhi, congratulated the efforts carried out by the SVASTIK initiative to popularize TKs. She underlined the need to preserve TKs and the significance of Ayurveda, Siddha, and Unani in the creation of contemporary medicine. She also discussed the importance of clinical studies in establishing the validity of traditional knowledge. She emphasized the significance of validation by citing the recent validation of Yoga's ability to boost immune function and the usage of Kunapajala in several field trials. She also discussed many TKs, including rice varieties, water conservation techniques, Indian metallurgy, sustainable infrastructure and architecture, and traditional cultural expressions. She also talked about the recommended validation criteria for drug development by AYUSH.

The conclave was concluded by **Dr Charu Lata**, Senior Scientist and Head, Inclusive Health & Traditional Knowledge Studies Division, CSIR-NIScPR with thanks to the Chair, members and all the participants.

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*Dr Charu Lata (charulata@niscpr.res.in) is the Editor, and Dr Paramananda Barman (param@niscpr.res.in) is the Associate Editor of Indian Journal of Traditional Knowledge*