GlobalSeaweedSTAR Capacity Building Fund

Completion Report

Awardee Details

Grant reference ID	GSS/CBF/015
Full name/title	Vishal Vasudeo Patil
Position held	PhD Researcher
Organisation	Xiamen University, China

Details of Capacity-Building Activity

Name of activity	International Conference of Applied Phycology
Date held	14th May 2021 to 13th August 2021
Organiser/provider	International Society of Applied Phycology (ISAP)

Biography

Presently, I am working as a Postdoctoral Researcher at Collage of Environment and Ecology, Xiamen University, China. My research area is focusing on interaction between marine seaweeds, harmful bloom-forming microalgae and bacteria with special emphasis on allelopathic compounds released during interactions. During my doctorat at School of Life Sciences of Xiamen University, I focused on use of marine seaweed *Pyropia haitanensisas* an environmentally feasible alternative to control or reduce harmful microalgal blooms. The macroalga *P. haitanensis* is commercially cultivated crop in our study area, and our team was the first to report allelopathic inhibitions of this species; where I played main role with

experimental planning, laboratory set ups and scientific publications. Due to economic value and industrial demand of *P. haitanensis*, we are going to carry out further experiments for constructing future strategies to use this species widely for controlling harmful microalgal blooms in coastal areas and for the discovery of novel marine drugs.

Report on Capacity-Building Activity

Firstly, I am very thankful of GlobalSeaweedStar for funding support and given me opportunity to attend International Conference of Applied Phycology held in Japan from 14th May 2021 to 13th May 2021. During the conference, I presented oral presentation on "Allelopathic effect of *Pyropia haitanensis* (Rhodophyta) on the bloom-forming *Skeletonema costatum* (Bacillariophyta)". Presented study was novel in respect to exploring potential of commercially cultivated macroalga *P. haitanensis* for allelopathic inhibition on bloom forming microalgae. I am glad to be a part of International Conference of Applied Phycology (ISAP), where I came across various researchers from macroalgae and microalgae field and listened to their talks to gain more knowledge for future experiments and planning. Special sessions conducted by field experts were very exciting, which helped me to clear several doughs and gain new information of phycology field. Several, oral sessions on interaction between marine organisms, waste water treatment, ecology, and algal biomass production was very informative and useful to gain knowledge as well as for conducting future research. This channel helped me to bind a network with several researchers from my field, which will be crucial for future collaborations.

Based on the above experience, I feel that gathering opportunity for young researchers and field experts from Phycology field will defiantly helpful for research industry which will be indirect advantage for seaweed related industry. My experience during conference was amazing, I enjoyed listening to the talks and sometimes discussion with the various researchers for collaborations as well as to get some experimental ideas. This was the first time where I attended the whole conference virtually, for which I am much thankful of responsible persons who took a lot of efforts to make this conference successful. At the end, I express my gratitude to GlobalSeaweedStar and Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) for giving me such a great opportunity.