BOTANY COMPONENT - DSE

DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC ELECTIVE COURSE (DSE 02)

Credit distribution, Eligibility and Pre-requisites of the Course

Course title & Code	Credits	Credit distribution of the course			Eligibility criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/ Practice		
Crop Genetics and Plant Breeding ALS BOT DSE 02	4	2	0	2	Class 12th Pass with Science	NIL

Learning Objectives:

The Learning Objectives of this course are as follows:

- to develop an understanding of the concepts of plant breeding and its applications.
- to provide adequate knowledge on the natural breeding systems of different agriculturally important plant and strategies employed for crop improvement.
- to impart skills on plant genome analysis and gene mapping using DNA markers and their use in increasing efficiency of plant breeding.
- to understand the genetic basis of hybrid vigour and development of hybrid varieties.
- to make students familiar with the concept of varietal release and rights of a farmer and plant breeder.

Learning Outcome:

By studying this course, the students will be able to:

- gain knowledge on the importance of plant breeding for developing new cultivars and use of breeding strategies for improvement of crop plants.

- understand the concept of gene pool and germplasm resources that are fundamental to crop improvement.
- explicate the breeding methods for commercially important crop plants.

Unit 1: Introduction (2 Hours)

Importance of plant breeding and its history; Breeding systems in crop plants; Self-incompatibility, male sterility and apomixis, Important achievements in plant breeding.

Unit 2: Sources of Variation (4 Hours)

Plant genetic resources- their management and conservation, utilization of gene pools in breeding programs. Chromosome manipulation- induced mutations, haploidy, polyploidy, somatic hybridization, somaclonal variation.

Unit 3: Conventional Breeding Methods (8 Hours)

Selection methods for self-pollinated, cross-pollinated and vegetatively propagated crop plants; Hybridization for self-pollinated, cross-pollinated and vegetatively propagated crop plants-procedure, advantage and limitations.

Unit 4: Heterosis Breeding (3 Hours)

Genetic and molecular basis of heterosis (hybrid vigour); Development of hybrid varieties through exploitation of hybrid vigour. Inbreeding depression.

Unit 5: Molecular Genetics and Plant Breeding (10 Hours)

Molecular markers as tools in plant breeding; Principle of genetic linkage; Concept of genetic distance; Development and choice of mapping populations (F_2, NILs, RILs, BC etc); Linkage map construction; Quantitative traits - Principles and methods of QTL mapping, QTL Introgression; Marker-assisted breeding- Gene tagging; Marker-aided selection (foreground and background

selection); Elimination of linkage drags; Marker assisted recurrent selection (MARS). Novel Plant Breeding Tools (TALEN's, CRISPR-Cas9, Base editing).

Unit 6: Intellectual Property Rights and Varietal Release (3 Hours)

IPR, Patenting; Breeder's Right; Release of New Varities-Trials & their evaluation, Prerelease, Notification and its Release; Plant variety protection; Farmer's Right.

PRACTICAL (60 Hours)

1. Introduction to open/controlled pollinations in field and laboratory (Breeders kit; temporal details of anthesis, anther dehiscence, CMS, stigma receptivity, emasculation, bagging).
2. Analysis of the breeding system of chosen crop species by calculating pollen:ovule ratio.
3. Calculation of Index of self-incompatibility (ISI).
4. Study of dominant/ codominant nature of different molecular markers.
5. Assessment of phenotypic diversity in different accessions of given plant material using morphological markers.
6. Assessment of genetic diversity and construction of dendrogram using molecular markers.
7. Phenotypic screening of a mapping population/ land races for biotic stress resistance and calculating the log of percentage severity and symptom score.
8. Study of floral biology, emasculation and hybridization techniques in self-pollinated and cross-pollinated crops.
9. Estimation of heterosis, inbreeding depression and heritability.
10. Project: Case study based on gene mapping.
11. Field trip to plant breeding station.

Essential/recommended readings

1. Acquaah, G. (2012). *Principles of Plant Genetics & Breeding*. 2nd edition. Hoboken, NJ, Wiley.

2. Allard, R.W. (1999). *Principles of Plant Breeding*. John Wiley, New York.
3. Singh, B.D. (2022). *Plant Breeding: Principles and Methods*, 12th edition. New Delhi, Delhi: Kalyani Publishers.
4. Frey, K. J. (1982). *Plant Breeding II.* Kalyani Publishers, New Delhi.

Suggestive readings:

1. Welsh, J. R. (1981). *Fundamentals of Plant Genetics and Breeding*. John Wiley and Sons, New York.
2. Poehlman J. M. and Sleper D. A. (1995). *Breeding Field Crops,* 4th Ed. Panima Publishing Corporation, New Delhi.
3. Chopra, V.L. (2023). *Plant Breeding: Theory and Practice* 2nd Restructured Edition, New India Publishing Agency, New Delhi.

Note: Examination scheme and mode shall be as prescribed by the Examination Branch, University of Delhi, from time to time.