

**AGRI 221    Introductory Biotechnology****Credit hours (1+1=2)****Theory**

History of Biotechnology, Concepts and applications of plant biotechnology: Scope, organ culture, embryo culture, cell suspension culture, callus culture, anther culture, pollen culture and ovule culture and their applications; Micro-propagation methods; organogenesis and embryogenesis, Synthetic seeds and their significance; Embryo rescue and its significance; somatic hybridization and cybrids; Somaclonal variation and its use in crop improvement; cryo-preservation; Concept of central dogma; DNA replication, Transcription and Translation, Introduction to recombinant DNA methods: physical (Gene gun method), chemical (PEG mediated) and Agrobacterium mediated gene transfer methods; Transgenics and its importance in crop improvement; PCR techniques and its applications; RFLP, RAPD, SSR; Marker Assisted Breeding in crop improvement; Biotechnology regulations.

**Practical**

Sterilization techniques. Composition of various tissue culture media and preparation of stock solutions for MS nutrient medium. Callus induction from various explants. Micro-propagation, hardening and acclimatization. Demonstration of isolation and quantification of nucleic acids. Demonstration of gel electrophoresis techniques and DNA finger printing.