

## Editorial

Temperatures rose at Copenhagen during the global summit to fight global warming which is threatening to ruin the global ecosystem. The rising temperature year after year, rising water levels, melting icecaps, worsening air, polluted water have become permanent news items in print and other media. The responsibilities are not to anyone but equally to all. Different regions have different problems and even the causative agents are different for the same problem. It is therefore equally important to understand that different regions should have their own special stress assessment and fight mechanisms.

Knowledge of environmental stress situation is prerequisite for its solution or its amelioration and sustainable development. In view of the different timescales of the resultant strains and their complex nature, early recognition of such situation is necessary before changes and damages become widespread. In this light early detection of unexpected trends in the environment has become both urgent and highly demanding. It involves the development of symptom oriented indicators capable of reacting to environmental changes. Among these multiple such indicators biological indicators are of particular importance. Their specific qualities make them excellent fever thermometers.

Bioindicators are plants and animals that accumulate one or more stress factors including contaminants and demonstrate a response. These bioindicators have different advantages over other chemical or instruments. They are often less expensive than the sophisticated instrumentation required to monitor air, water or soil. Some species occur over broad area that allows for the development of regional networks. Potentially wide fluctuations in contaminant exposure can be integrated resulting in more comprehensive assessment of bioavailability of the contaminant. And above all the tissues can be archived for future analysis. Several organisms can be used as bioindicators.

Therefore, need of the time is proper facility and education to understand the local stress situation through local living beings. The local level small environment monitoring centres can even plan the local innovation to reduce the stress through local solutions. It will reduce the large scale burden of planning and implementing at national and international level, expensive monitoring instruments and unending talks for their solutions. A network of such environment monitoring centres could be of great advantage to developing country like India to advance its sustainable development.

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