After the grand success of the 12th International Congress of International Society for Ethnopharmacology, UK (ISE) organized by the School of Natural Product Studies, Jadavpur University Kolkata in February 2012, the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE – India) was constituted in 2013 under the West Bengal Society Registration Act with affiliation from the International Society for Ethnopharmacology, UK. The Society is extremely grateful to Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India for his inspiration and support to form SFE-India. The society has already made its presence throughout India, which provides networking for dissemination of knowledge for promotion of Ethnopharmacology & Medicinal Plant through different local chapters in different parts of India with its vision on “Globalization of local knowledge and localization of global technology”.

The third International Congress (SFEC 2016) of SFE-INDIA was held at Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India during February 19-21, 2016 with the theme of “Ethnopharmacology and Evaluation of Medicinal Plants- Global perspective”. The program was jointly organized by the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE, India) and the National Center for Natural Resources (NCNR), Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, Chhattisgarh, India.

The program was initiated by a series of preconference workshops, organized in different venues in the University to ascertain various technicalities related to natural product research. The first workshop was held at ML Schroff Hall, of the University Institute of Pharmacy, led by Prof. Swarnlata Saraf, Raipur. It was followed by second workshop, held at Seminar Hall of School of Studies in Biotechnology, lead by Dr. Shailendra Saraf. The
third workshop was held at JC Bose Hall, School of Life Sciences guided by Dr. AK Gupta. The last workshop was organized at CV Raman Hall, School of Studies in Chemistry which was chaired by Dr. Pulok K Mukherjee, Secretary, Society for Ethnopharmacology, India.

In the preconference workshops, various relevant topics on quality research initiatives and related tools and techniques in herbal drug analysis were discussed by some eminent scientists in of this field. The workshops were witnessed by several delegates and students of the University.

The conference was inaugurated by Mr. Brij Mohan Agarwal, Honorable Minister, Govt. of Chhattisgarh. It was followed by a warm welcome address by Dr. S. K. Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University and an introductory lecture of Dr. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Secretary, Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE, India). In this session, all the dignitaries gave emphasis on the importance of medicinal plants research in our country, based on their traditional claims. In the inaugural lecture, Mr. Brij Mohan Agarwal, Honorable Minister mentioned the rich biodiversity of Chhattisgarh which is being nurtured by the diverse tribal community of the state. He also recommended to extent the financial benefits to the tribal community, which are coming from the cultivation and trading of medicinal plants. Other dignitaries present in the conference were Mr. Chandrasekhar Sahu, Chairman, State Finance Commission, Chhattisgarh; Dr. W. Selvamurthy, the Chancellor of Amity University; Prof. Michael Heinrich, Observer to the Society for Ethnopharmacology, India (SFE, India) from the International Society for Ethnopharmacology (ISE, UK); Dr. S. K. Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University; Dr. Rudolph Bauer, Chairman of the International Society for Ethnopharmacology, UK (ISE, UK); Professor R. N. Pati, Organizing Secretary of the Congress and Dr. Sailendra Saraf, Joint organizing Secretary of the Congress.

During these two days scientific program, 30 invited speakers from India and abroad including UK, USA, Netherland, Austria, Denmark, Indonesia has delivered their lectures on different emerging issues on ethnopharmacology and medicinal plant research. The congress was attended by over 400 delegates from several countries and different states of India with 30 plenary and special lectures, 80 oral and 190 poster presentations on diverse fields of the medicinal plants and ethnopharmacological research.
After completion of the inaugural session, a special award distribution ceremony was conferred to several persons and organization for their outstanding contribution in their respective field, which are:

- “SFE-Lifetime Achievement Award-2016” was given to Prof. Ashok D B Vaidya for his life-time contribution to the scientific studies on medicinal plants of Ayurveda.
- “SFE-Outstanding International Ethnopharmacology Award-2016” was handed over to Dr. Robert Verpoorte, Professor of the Natural Products Laboratory, Institute of Biology, Leiden University, The Netherland for his contribution in the Phytochemistry and phytochemical evaluation of medicinal plants.
- “SFE-Zandu Award-2016” was given to Dr. Ram Vishwakarma, Director, CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine, Jammu, India for his work on medicinal plants of India.
- “SFE-Outstanding National Ethnopharmacology Award-2016” was conferred to Dr. Debprasad Chattopadhyay, Deputy Director & Scientist E, ICMR Virus Unit, Kolkata, India for his contribution in evaluating Indian traditional medicines and translating ethnomedicinal wisdom of diverse tribal communities of India into modern scientific literature.
- “SFE Special Recognition Award-2016” was awarded to Dr. S. K. Pandey, Vice Chancellor, Pandit Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur, India for his keen interest in disseminating the knowledge of medicinal plants and organizing this mega event.
- “SFE Outstanding Service Award -2016” was conferred to Industrialist Mr. Birendra Kumar Sarkar, Managing Director, Parker Robinson Pvt. Ltd., who is working tirelessly for the promotion and dissemination of use of medicinal plants and the development of plant based products.
- “SFE Herbal Industry Leader Award-2016” was handed over to the Managing Director of M/S Ixorel Biomed Inc., Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad, India for his promotion and product development with Ashwagandha, globally.

In this congress, several special lectures and plenary lectures were delivered on critical issues for promotion and globalization of traditional medicine, ethnopharmacology and medicinal plant research by a galaxy of eminent scientists and researchers from all over the
world. Several international speakers namely Prof. Rob Verpoorte, Dr. Anna Jäger, Denmark; Dr. Michael Heinrich, Dr. Rudolf Bauer, Dr. SC Bachar, Dr. GI Giancaspro delivered lectures on the contemporary topics on natural product research. Other eminent national speakers were Dr. SK Pandey, Dr. Ashok DB Vaidya, Dr. CK Katiyar, Dr. Shailendra Saraf, Dr. L Sathiyararayanan, Dr. Dipendra K Mitra, Dr. D Chattopadhyay, Dr. R Bandyopadhyay, Dr. Swarnlata Saraf, Dr. PR Itankar, Dr. AS Raghavendra, Dr. Dilip Ghosh and many more.

The conference was ended with a valedictory program followed by prize distribution of best oral and poster presentation. In this session, special recognition was made by SFE-India & ISE, UK to the organizers for recognizing their outstanding services for the promotion of Ethnopharmacology in India. This session was graced with the presence of Dr. Rob Verporte, Dr. A.K Pati, Dr. Shailendra Sharaf, Dr. Pratim Banejee, Dr. S.K.Pandey, Dr. Rudolf Bauer, Dr. Michael Heinrich, Padmashree Dr. A.T. Dabke, Dr. G.B.Gupta, Dr. Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, AYUSH Health University. All of the dignitaries praised the contribution of SFE-INDIA for promotion and development of medicinal plant research. The honorable dignitaries also acknowledged the initiative of the University for arranging the 3rd International congress of SFE-INDIA (SFEC 2016) for dissemination of knowledge with the major highlights on “Globalizing Local Knowledge and Localizing Global Technologies”. At the end of the congress, it was declared that 4th International congress of the society will be organized at Uka Tarsadia University, Gujarat during February, 2017. Thus the third congress of the society was very successful in every aspect.

More information on the activities, awards and membership of the society is available on www.ethnopharmacology.in. For further information you may please contact Prof. Pulok K. Mukherjee, Secretary, SFE-India & Director, School of Natural Product Studies, Jadavpur University, Kolkata 700032, India.

**Prof. Pulok K Mukherjee, PhD, FRSC**
Director
School of Natural Product Studies
Jadavpur University
Kolkata-700 032
Inaugural programme during SFEC 2016

Annual Award Ceremony during SFEC 2016

Participants & other dignitaries during Inauguration session of SFEC 2016

SFE-INDIA Annual general body meeting during SFEC 2016
Participants of 3rd SFEC 2016, Raipur

Valedictory Programme during SFEC 2016