



A

Report

Submitted to

Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur

On

Erasmus+ Faculty Exchange Program

(24/02/2025 to 5/03/2025)

at

Czech University of Life Sciences, Prague

By

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Introduction I, Dr. Bhanushree Gupta was selected for the Erasmus+ Faculty Exchange Program at the Czech University of Life Sciences (CZU), Prague, for a duration of twelve days, from February 22 to March 5, 2025. The objective of this exchange was to foster academic collaboration, engage in research discussions, and explore advanced laboratory facilities.



Official Joining and Initial Meetings Upon joining the laboratory on February 24, 2025, I first met with Dr. Libuška Mercel, the Erasmus+ KA171 Project Coordinator at the Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, International Relations Office, CZU, for official registration as an Erasmus+ Fellow. Subsequently, she had a meeting with Professor Ladislav Kokoska, Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences, to discuss potential research collaborations. During this interaction, Professor Kokoska elaborated on his research interests, following which a tour of the laboratory was conducted.



Meeting with Dr. Libuska Mercel



Meeting with Dr. L. Kokoska and Dr. Marketa Houdkova

The Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences (FTZ) is well-equipped with state-of-the-art scientific instruments, including a 600 MHz Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) spectrometer (Bruker), Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), a Supercritical Fluid Extractor, Rotary Evaporators, High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), High-Performance Thin-Layer Chromatography (HPTLC), Soxhlet Apparatus, and a Clevenger Apparatus. A formal lunch was also organized to welcome.



NMR



MALDI TOF



GC-MS



Robotic Pipettor

I had the opportunity to observe **Prof. Kokoska's** pedagogical skills through his lecture on **Economic Botany**, which showcased effective teaching methodologies and subject expertise. Additionally, I explored the **university's infrastructure**, which is well-equipped to support academic and research activities. Following the comprehensive lecture, **seminars are**

conducted for students, providing a platform to clarify doubts and engage in further discussions.



CZU Classrooms

Participation in the Annual Meeting and Academic Contribution On February 25, 2025, the 14th Annual Meeting of the Laboratory of Ethnobotany and Ethnopharmacology (LEE) was held. During this event, Professor Kokoska presented an overview of the lab's progress over the previous academic session. Dr. Gupta contributed to the meeting by delivering a lecture on the topic, "Role of Nanotechnology in Aiding the Application of Essential Oils in the Food Industry." The presentation led to a fruitful discussion and valuable suggestions from Professor Kokoska. Additionally, three PhD students also presented their research work at the meeting.



Glimpses of 14th Annual Meeting, 25/02/2025

Cultural Experience: Masopust Carnival On the following day, Dr. Gupta had the opportunity to witness the Masopust Carnival, a traditional festival at the university. Masopust, which translates to 'giving up meat,' is a meat feast preceding a period of fasting. This festival symbolically marks the transition from winter to spring. A parade was organized, visiting various departments of the university, where faculty and students warmly welcomed the participants.



Glimpses of Masopust Celebration @CZU

Tour of the Herbarium: I had the opportunity to meet Prof. Zbynek Polesny from the Department of Crop Sciences and Agroforestry, Faculty of Tropical Agrisciences. During the visit, Prof. Polesny provided a comprehensive tour of the herbarium. He guided me through

the herbarium, where he demonstrated how plant specimens are systematically collected, documented, and preserved for scientific study. He emphasized the importance of herbariums in biodiversity research, taxonomy, and conservation efforts.



Tour of the Herbarium

Conclusion The Erasmus+ Faculty Exchange Program at CZU provided an enriching academic and cultural experience. The collaboration discussions, exposure to advanced laboratory infrastructure, and participation in academic and cultural events contributed significantly to my professional and research development. The visit facilitated knowledge exchange and opened avenues for potential future collaborations in the field of tropical agri-sciences and nanotechnology applications.