



New contacts during al-Farabi Readings, April 2018

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In frame of al-Farabi Readings Professor Jibin Sun, Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology, Chinese Academy of Science, Principal Investigator and Deputy Director has visited Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, al-Farabi Kazakh National University on April 4, 2018. He talked to Professors Kulzia K. Shulembayeva and Zaure G. Aytasheva and had a short lab tour with Ms. Umit Aliyaskarova, graduate student carrying her project in plant biotechnology. Prof. Jibin Sun was impressed by current state of department's research in wheat chromosome engineering based on the series of isogenic soft wheat lines, vegetable biology and biotechnology extending domestic and international common bean and cucurbits germplasms, experiments related to plant DNA repair and biofuel-intermediating mechanisms (supervisor Academician, Prof. Amangeldy K. Bissenbayev). Prof. Jibin Sun has expressed his readiness to broaden International collaboration in these fields as industrial microbiology he is running in one of quickly-developing Chinese research centres.

Dr. Maria Luisa Fichera, official representative of ICGEB, International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, has told about three foci of ICGEB in Trieste, Italy, New Delhi, India and Cape Town, South Africa. Particularly, Indian researchers are focused on such crops as cotton, rice, and tomatoes. In case of rice, RNAi mechanisms are being studied in reference of insect resistance, and especially to the Asian rice gall midge causing great yield losses in Asia and the Southern hemisphere. Plants are successfully modified by specific genes reducing cell toxicity under soil salination, pollution with heavy metals and drought. As the Chief for Legal affairs and Administration, Dr. Maria Luisa Fichera has kindly invited to closer multilateral cooperation in plant genetics, chromosome and gene engineering.

See photo: Professors K.K. Shulembayeva and Jibin Sun, April 4, 2018

Communicated by Prof. K.K. Shulembayeva, and Prof. Z.G. Aytasheva