

Ex-scientist Leelavathi traces history of CFTRI's School of Milling Tech

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CENTRAL Food Technological Research Institute's flour milling baking and confectionery technology (FMBCT) former scientist K Leelavathi said the International School of Milling Technology was established as a joint Indo-Swiss venture and Roller Flour Millers Federation of India project in 1981 on the CFTRI campus.

Inaugurating the 42nd ISMT course valedictory at CFTRI on Friday, Leelavathi said when the school was introduced, she was working as a junior scientist. "The school was established to serve the needs of the flour milling industry in India and other developing countries with regard to training in flour milling technology. It was the first ISMT in South East Asia. In the beginning, students from India joined the course and later students from developing countries also joined the course. At present, students who have passed out from the school are working in various capacities in India and other countries," she said.

CFTRI ISMT coordinator Suresh D Sakhare said the course is aimed at turning out best technical personnel-cum-managers equipped with the necessary capability to take up the challenges of managing modern roller flour mills.



CFTRI former scientist K Leelavathi hands over certificates to meritorious students during the 42nd ISMT course valedictory in Mysuru on Friday | UDAYASHANKAR S

"The course includes in-plant training at ISMT Mill having 20 tonne per day capacity and automatic mill practical classes. The mill had been modernised with the latest machinery in cleaning and milling sections, flour fortification, automatic flour handling and packing system. So far, 42 courses in flour milling technology have been completed. In all, till date 860 participants including 117 from some of the other developing countries including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guyana, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Liberia, Mongolia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, The Philippines, Srilanka, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Vietnam, West Indies, Yemen and Zambia have been trained," he said.

Sakhare said these trained personnel are serving in different roller flour mills in India

and in various other countries.

During the programme, Priyanka H L who bagged first rank with 651 marks scoring 90.91 per cent, Madhusudhan who got second rank with 87.78 per cent and K Surya Bhagavan Goud who came third rank with 79.51 per cent received certificates and medals. Priyanka also got medals for scoring highest marks in Cereal Science and Baking Science.

Speaking to The New Indian Express, Priyanka from Kadur in Chikkamagaluru district said she had a great experience during the 11-month course duration which started from December 2022. "There were 18 students from different parts of the country and even students from foreign countries. The course started in December 2022. I have completed my degree in food technology at Bagalkot University," she said.