



lead to a number of research projects. BSI and Kew science also have a long history of collaboration, as the BSI formerly sent scientists to Kew to engage in research and to act as an Indian Botanical Liaison Officer (IBLO).

Paramjit, Alan and Tim were enthusiastic to rekindle collaborations, but stressed that they needed to ensure that these collaborations were set up correctly. Since 1990, Kew has had difficulty conducting fieldwork in India, owing in part to restrictions from the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Indian Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MOEFCC). If official collaborations were established, there would be no need for individual permits. The Kew scientists were particularly enthusiastic to collaborate on the phylogeny of Indian specimens. The specimens found at the borders of India, Burma and China are of such variety that DNA is often required to identify them to genus level. The 4,700 species held at the BSI could be of great value in building a complete phylogenetic tree of all known plant and fungus species.

It was suggested that the most effective way of initiating collaborations was to bring botanists from the two institutes together, so that there is more awareness of what each side is doing. The Indian Botanical Society and the Indian Association of Angiosperm