



BOSE COLLOQUIUM

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SPEAKER

Dr. Amitava Pramanik
Unilever R&D Bangalore

TITLE

Basic Science to Technology Development – Connecting the Dots

ABSTRACT

The inquisitive mind of human beings is not satisfied with mere observation of what happens around; it wants to know why. The structured way of learning this is called Science. In addition to unravelling the secret of Nature, science is used to make our lives easier, by its suitable application to develop technologies.

There is no universally accepted standard process on how to convert science to technology; it's completely need based. Private R&D organizations do it differently from public research laboratories. In Unilever, we believe in generating a bouquet of ideas based on a suitable blend of consumers' unmet need and high-quality science. The ideas need to pass through several decision gates in their journey of exploration, eventually leading to a desired product. On the way, there could be one or more spin-offs that were not intended at the beginning, but got generated as useful by-products.

For satisfying its intended purpose, technology development is not met only by laboratory science; it requires additional supports from a plethora of other functions, often not given priority in Indian academic institutes. Thus we end up publishing quite a few good papers but not developing matching products in the market.

These would be demonstrated with an example of a marketed product from its concept to the market, and the useful by-products it generated.