

## BIOPROSPECTING MICROBIAL DIVERSITY FROM NORTH EAST GENE POOL

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*Microbial diversity is an unseen treasure that deserves greater attention from the conservationists and policy makers. North East gene pool is endowed with huge potentialities for exploration and exploitation for the benefit of the society. In spite of these vast potentialities, we have done a little for the betterment of the society. CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat is actively engaged in exploration of microbial diversity in the North-East Gene Pool and screening for specific functional diversity of microbes to be utilized for gainful purposes in the society. In this article, we have outlined the microbial diversity in this biodiversity hot-spot and their bio-prospecting in the field of bioremediation/ eco-restoration, biotransformation, hydrocarbon prospecting, plant growth promotion, bio-catalysis and pharmaceutical leads/hits.*

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