A group from Auburn University, USA visited the Sri Konda Laxman Telangana State Horticultural University, Mulugu to strength graduate education and research programs (MS and PhD) and explore possible collaborations on 30 January 2024.

The group consists of Dr. George Flowers, Dean of Graduate School, Dr. Bob Boyd, Professor and Assistant Provost for Institutional Effectiveness, Dr. Murali Dhanasekaran, Professor and Director of International Programs, Harrison College of Pharmacy and Dr. Janaki Alavalapati, Dean of College of Forestry, Wildlife and Environment.

Dr.B.Neeraja Prabhakar,Vice Chancellor, SKLTSHU has offered her presidental address and welcomed the Officials of Auburn University (AU) for having collaboration to strengthen the academics and research of SKLTSHU.

Auburn University is a Land Grant University, in the State of Alabama offers multi-disciplinary degree programmes in Science and Engineering, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences. It offers Under Graduate and Graduate degree programmes in Agriculture and allied subjects through the College of Agriculture and College of Human Sciences. These include 10 doctoral degree programs, 22 master’s degree programs and five graduate certificate programs at College of Agriculture.

The main moto of visiting Auburn University officials to the University is to workout the feasibility and opportunities for student study abroad to explore the possibility of instituting **Overseas Fellowships** for the benefit of the students.

Dr.A.Bhagwan,Registrar has briefed about SKLTSHU mandates focusing on academics, research and extension and focused on the rich germplasm wealth available in University.

Dr.A. Kiran DH, SKLTSHU ,Dr.M.Rajashekhar,DPGS and Dr.D.Vijaya,DSA and Dr.N.Seenivasan,COE interacted actively with the officials of Auburn University regarding the fee structure, course curriculum and semester pattern, student opportunity.

The team explained the process of admission in its University for Masters/Doctoral programs to faculty.

Auburn University would waive the application fee, and requirement for GRE and TOEFL/IELTS score for this purpose.

Auburn University also proposed to relax the amount of tuition fee payable by international students to that of equal to In state tuition fee which is a 50 per cent concession as a special package to Under Graduate students of SKLTSHU

Since SKLTSHU has rich source of germplasm, it is proposed to have and research collaborations between the two Universities, if required MOU can be proposed.

It is proposed to work out the modalities of instituting Overseas Fellowships for the Under Graduate students of SKLTSHU to study at AUBURN University.