

Annual Work Programme of the Department of Biotechnology during 2010-2011

The following major works and schemes have been proposed for 2010-2011.

1. Promotion of biotechnology

The objectives of promotion of biotechnology are to increase the acceptability of the technology and improve its impact on society.

Development of awareness about biotechnology

This scheme is meant to develop awareness regarding biotechnology among the population, especially the rural one, **through print and multimedia including dissemination of information through website especially in Bengali so that our mission is understandable to the rural populace.** The aim is to spread general awareness for the optimum utilization of biotechnology in the different sectors and to encourage and facilitate introduction of biotechnology at the grass-root level to strengthen the economy of the state. Appropriate programmes targeted to reserved categories of the population will be conducted in blocks with high percentage of reserved category population, or project beneficiaries will be chosen from reserved category families.

Tentative programmes include :

- Meetings with panchayats, panchayat samitis, zilla parishad and district-level officials
- Training and technology demonstration / dissemination programmes
- Participation in tradeshows, seminars, exhibitions, etc all over India and may be abroad
- Publication of various publicity materials for distribution
- Updating and maintenance of department website www.biotechbengal.gov.in for dissemination of latest biotechnology related information and e-governance
- Awarding incentives for Biotechnology Parks.

2. Scientific Research in Biotechnology: Assistance to scientific bodies

This Scheme is meant as partial assistance to scientific bodies in West Bengal to fund scientific research and development (R&D) in biotechnology primarily focused in the following areas as per priority. Appropriate programmes targeted to reserved categories of the population will be conducted in blocks with high percentage of reserved category (SC/ST/OBC) population, or project beneficiaries will be chosen from reserved category families.

2.1 Human Resource Development

Scheme is to develop competent human resources at different levels in the field of biotechnology to meet the needs of both academia and industry. The programmes aim to educate and train the citizens in biotechnology, and include training to small and medium enterprises (SME) in biotechnology.

2.2 Biotech Facilities, Centres of Excellence & Programme Support

Scheme is to create advanced infrastructural facilities and centres of excellence as high quality support services to biotech industries and research institutes.

Contd.....8

2.3 Research & Development

These schemes are to optimally focus resources for R&D in the fields of agricultural and food biotechnology, bio-fuels, bio-resources, environmental biotechnology, industrial biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical biotechnology and genomics, bioengineering and nano-biotechnology.

2.4 Bioinformatics

These schemes are to promote the field of bioinformatics to reduce the cost and time needed for development of new biotechnological products with the help of cyber-science.

2.5 Rural Biotechnology for Societal Development

Scheme is to promote biotechnological applications for the improvement of quality of life of the marginal people and also benefit of the society especially for women (and SHGs) mainly in rural and tribal areas.

3. Support to Scientific institutions/professional bodies

- 3.1 Infrastructural financial support has been planned to be extended to various professional research organizations, universities and similar other bodies so that they can develop a conducive research atmosphere and contribute in a better way in the societal development through continuous development of newer techniques of Biotechnology.

4. Mission for biodiversity conservation and Bio-industrial Development in West Bengal.

The Department of Bio-Technology earnestly trying to create an environment to augment the biotechnology by generating all out efforts in every sphere of human activities in this state like in agriculture, modern medicine and health care, pollution control, biodiversity conservation and bio-industrial development with the mission to ensure scientific and technological empowerment of the people of this state after utilizing the fullest natural as well as human potentialities which would result in the holistic societal development of West Bengal.

With this end in view, this department will forward the following programmes to all the Districts Magistrates of this State:-

- i)* improve the quality of life through the application of appropriate method of biotechnology,
- ii)* to optimally focus on resources for Research & Development in biotechnology,
- iii)* to encourage and facilitate introduction of biotechnology at the grass-root level to strengthen the economy of the state,
- iv)* to encourage agro-based biotechnological activities for the promotion of village level industries in the state,
- v)* to develop competent human resources at different levels in the field of biotechnology,
- vi)* to support employment generating schemes in the field of biotechnology and the allied ones,
- vii)* to hold the employment generation capacities of all biotechnological schemes forwarded from the districts with the highest priority.