Call for proposals on 'Forest Biotechnology'

Forests are the world's greatest repository of terrestrial biomass, soil carbon and terrestrial biodiversity. Besides, forests provide a variety of provisioning, supporting, regulatory and cultural ecosystem services. Considering the multidimensional importance of forest areas, particularly their vital role in maintaining the flow of ecosystem goods and services, the Department is desirous of supporting R&D proposals on Forest Biotechnology focusing on the following thrust areas:

1. *Development of biotechnological mitigation and adaptation strategies in forestry sector to meet the challenges of climate change.*
2. *Cutting edge research using newer technologies like tree genomics for understanding of forest tree biology, development of tree diagnostics and planting material improvement for improved productivity and biodiversity of forested ecosystems.*
3. *Development of seed handling and molecular marker-based seed testing/ certification technologies for development of good quality seeds and planting materials for industrial forests*
4. *Development of site specific technological packages for restoration and rehabilitation of degraded and fragile forest eco-systems.*
5. *Development of technologies for measuring and maintaining ecosystem services from forests*
6. *Modelling and control of invasive species in protected areas using biotechnological approaches.*

Eligibility: Researchers/ Scientists working in the Government Organizations/ Universities/Academic Institutions/National Laboratories / SIRO recognized Non-Profit Organizations, with sound scientific & technical backgrounds and relevant publications in the proposed area can submit project proposal applications. **Involvement of all relevant stakeholders such as State Forest Departments etc. is compulsory.** Proposals, which are interdisciplinary and integrative in nature, will be given priority.

Mode of Submission: Interested researchers should submit project proposals online through DBT electronic project management system 'eProMis' (http://dbtepromis.nic.in/Login.aspx) under the Programme **'Forest Biotechnology'.** Three hard copies of the proposal (One original + 2 copies) should also be submitted by post to **Dr. Onkar N. Tiwari, Scientist 'E', Room No. 516, 5th Floor, Block-3, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi- 110003**.

Evaluation Criteria: Proposals will be evaluated based on the scientific and technical merit, with emphasis placed on the potential of creating new knowledge or developing techno-economically feasible novel biotechnological solutions in the particular thrust area. Department also reserves the right to select or reject the proposals based on the priority and availability of funds.

Contact for furher information: Dr. Onkar N. Tiwari, Scientist 'E', DBT, New Delhi (Email ID: onkar.dbt@nic.in) or **Dr. Amit K. Tripathi, Scientist 'C', DBT, New Delhi** (Email ID: amitkr.tripathi@dbt.nic.in); Tel.: +91-11-24361290

Last Date for Project Submission: <u>29th February, 2020.</u>

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