

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Who can apply?

- ❖ Faculty from Govt. recognised universities, National level laboratories, Autonomous Institutions and Colleges
- ❖ Partially funded KVKs
- ❖ Voluntary organizations/ NGOs/ social trust/ foundations (subject to fulfilment of criteria mentioned in the [Guidelines](#)). However, in case of NGOs and Private organizations projects should be submitted in collaboration with other government funded agencies/ institutes with proven track record.

2. When is the call for proposals announced?

The 'Call for Proposals' is advertised on an annual basis on the DBT website. Proposals should be submitted online through the online submission portal e-ProMIS.

3. What are the sectorial priorities of DBT under the Biotechnology based programme for societal development?

Projects are being supported (but limited to) in the areas viz. agriculture and allied sector, health & sanitation, environment & biodiversity conservation, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, integrated farming, product / process development and value addition, through training and demonstration activities with a little support on R&D aspects for addressing specific problems in development of technology packages, refinement and validation to suit different agro climatic conditions.

Support is also extended for biotechnological interventions in the areas of bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, sericulture, mushroom cultivation, bee keeping, Spirulina production, organic farming, vermicomposting, floriculture, cultivation of medicinal and other economically important plants, bio-waste utilization and solid waste management, marine and aquatic bio-resources utilization, preparation of products from forest produce, cancer screening, addressing women and child related health issues, screening and genetic counselling for various genetic disorders among the communities etc.

The Department has attached prime focus on establishment of **Biotech Innovation Hubs for Societal Development (BIHSD)** across 117 Aspirational districts of the country. The BIHSDs are envisaged to serve as rural technology clusters for utilization of locally available bioresources benefitting the youth, women, SC/ST population or the rural community at large.

4. What are the essential parameters for screening of new proposals?

- ❖ The proposal should be specifically aimed on field demonstration/extension oriented activities for the welfare of society (SC/ST population, Aspirational districts, rural population, women and youth).
- ❖ The biotechnological interventions/techniques should be clearly mentioned.
- ❖ Since the aim is to utilize protocols/technologies/interventions which have been proven/developed in the laboratory, a very little R&D component may be included for standardization/ refinement. The Department may not consider proposals purely based on R&D without any outreach activity.
- ❖ The methodology, organization of work elements and time schedule of activities giving milestones should be clearly mentioned.
- ❖ The targets and milestones should be laid on a quarterly basis and they should be quantifiable.
- ❖ The list of beneficiaries should be provided both in terms of number of persons and number of families covering with clusters, villages, blocks etc.
- ❖ Marketing linkages with documentary evidence and buyback arrangements should be clearly specified in the project with necessary evidences. If organization is opting for buy-back, it may clearly be indicated that how the organization will be disposing the material in the market.

5. How is a new proposal processed?

- ❖ Applications must be submitted through the online portal of DBT e-ProMIS and all mandatory information should be furnished.
- ❖ Applications shall be screened by an expert Committee constituted by DBT and PIs shall be called for presentation before the Task Force. Site visit, if required, will be undertaken to arrive at final decision. Decision of Task Force will be final.

The decision of the Expert Committee is generally communicated to all applicants via email along with the observations of the Committee.

For discussion or evaluation of proposals, members of committee must declare a conflict of interest if they or close professional associates will or might benefit, directly or indirectly, from any support. The potential Conflict of Interest will be discussed and rated as high, medium or low and the member(s) will be either asked to leave the meeting for the duration of Committee's deliberations regarding the relevant proposal, or to refrain from any discussion and participation in decisions related to the proposal(s).

6. Is there any guidance provided by DBT during the tenure of support?

For any assistance, PIs may contact the Programme Officer: Dr. Garima Gupta, Sc. E,
DBT Email: garima.g@nic.in

Adviser: Ms Radha Ashrit, Statistical Adviser, Tel : 011-24363656 Email :
radha.ashrit@nic.in