Guidelines for Submission of Proposals under Societal Schemes (2023-24)

1. About the Scheme

The department has a scheme on "**Biotech-Based Programmes for Societal Development**", which is being implemented throughout the country to benefit SC/ST, women and the underprivileged in rural areas and aspirational districts. Through this scheme, demonstration and training programmes are being conducted to help the target population in their skill development, enhancing employability, improved quality of life, access to modern means of diagnostics and healthcare etc.

2. Supporting Areas

The projects are being supported in the areas viz. agriculture and allied sector, health & sanitation, environment & biodiversity conservation, animal husbandry, dairy and 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. Interventions are also supported on bio-fertilizers, bio-pesticides, sericulture, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, 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 minor forest produce, Science outreach & public engagement, cancer screening, addressing women and child related health issues, screening and genetic counseling for various genetic disorders among the communities etc.

The proposals are considered under two categories:

Category I: Aspirational Districts

Category II: Rural areas

3. Who can apply?

The projects will be supported to universities, national labs, autonomous institutions and colleges, partially funded KVKs, voluntary organizations/ NGOs/ social trust/ foundations, **registered cooperative societies** etc. However, in the case of voluntary organizations/ NGOs/ social trust/ foundations, **registered cooperative societies,** etc. and private organizations, projects should be submitted in collaboration with other government-funded scientific agencies/ institutes with proven

track record etc. The eligible agencies should submit the proposal online through e-ProMIS System (**http://dbtepromis[dot]gov[dot]in/**).

4. **Essential Requirements**

   i. Proven and field-tested technologies/ biotechnology intervention

   ii. The basic requirement of the proposal i.e. baseline survey (e.g. concerning pest infestation, crop yield, health problems etc.) should have been done before project submission.

   iii. The organization and PI should have essential qualifications and experience in the discipline of the proposed area. One of the PI/Coordinator should have implemented at least one field-based extension projects benefiting the target population for which the programme has been proposed. This should be indicated as evidence of expertise available in the proposal. If a PI is proposing a societal project for first time having no experience of societal projects, or if the Steering Committee recommends so; a pilot scale project would be considered.

   iv. At least two co-investigators of similar background are required to be included in the proposal.

   v. In case, the organization wishes to engage the expertise of the government organization/national labs/institute for the overall project duration, written consent from the competent authority of the organization/lab/institute is required to be obtained before submitting the proposal.

   vi. Retired professionals can be engaged in the project as per the norms of the implementing organization, provided they are actively engaged with them in the projects of field-implementation nature and would not be allowed to be associated as and when required for the activity implementation.

   vii. Detailed self-signed bio-data of the investigators (in the prescribed format, which is given at the end of the project proforma) are essential.

   viii. Necessary forwarding by the competent authority of the organization (Director/VC/Registrar) is mandatory.

   ix. In the case of a collaborative networking project, forwarding is required in the certification format of the proforma separately from each of the participating organizations.

x. In the case of projects where ethical clearance is required, the same may be obtained at the time of project submission.

xi. Agencies that have completed DBT-sponsored projects and again applying for a fresh grant may be considered by DBT for the next funding as per the DBT norms provided the important leads should be evident with the activities undertaken in the earlier project. However, institutes/ agencies who have completed DBT-supported projects and if the progress of the project was not satisfied during its project duration, no further project will be considered by DBT for funding to the said organization.

5. **Other requirements in the case of non-government organizations/voluntary organizations/private institutions:**

i. Registration Certificate of the society/association

ii. MoA including By-laws and mandate of the organization

iii. An audited statement of accounts for the last three years (the organization should have a minimum balance of Rs. 10 lakhs at the end of the last three subsequent financial years)

iv. Annual Report including activity profile for last three years

v. DARPAN ID

As per Rule 238 (6) of GFR, the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of Private and Voluntary Organizations or societies registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860, receiving one-time assistance/non-recurring Grants of Rupees fifty lakhs and above should also be laid on the Table of the House, within nine months of the close of the succeeding financial year of the grantee organizations.

Note: One attested copy of each of these documents is required to be submitted with the original copy of the proposal. Addresses should be written legibly and as far as possible, detailed communication addresses including phone, mobile, fax and e-mail addresses, etc. should be provided for all the project investigators and co-investigators including institutes submitting the proposal.

6. **Programme Details**

i. The proposal should be specifically aimed at field demonstration/extension-oriented activities for the welfare of society (SC/ST population, weaker sections, rural population, women, and youths) using biotechnological processes/techniques. If required, a little R&D component can be included for standardization/ refinement of protocol/ techniques already

developed. The Department may not consider proposals purely based on de novo R&D or other R&D without any sizeable component of outreach activity.

ii. The objectives of the proposal should be well-focused and compact. The objectives are required to be provided list-wise (maximum 5-6) and should indicate about the number of awareness, training and demonstration programmes, the number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (in terms of individuals, families, villages, blocks, and districts etc.), names of crops/species and types of interventions proposed along with land area in acreage to be covered for demonstration. If possible, one village exhibition, workshop, village gosthis/ similar event should be proposed to be organized during the project period.

iii. The methodology, organization of work elements and schedule of activities with the milestones should be very clear.

iv. The targets and milestones should be laid quarterly and they should be quantifiable.

v.   The list of beneficiaries should be provided both in terms of the number of persons and number of families covering with clusters, villages, blocks, etc. on monthly basis by email.

vi. Annual report also has to be submitted on the qualitative and quantitative achievements of the project by email.

vii. Marketing linkages with documentary evidence and buyback arrangements should be clearly specified in the project with necessary evidence. If an organization is opting for buy-back, it may clearly be indicated how the organization will be disposing of the material in the market.

7. Infrastructure requirement

Organizations seeking DBT funding support for conducting training and demonstration activities are required to have essential infrastructure viz. building, training hall, demonstration farms, other field-based facilities, vehicle and other transportation facilities etc. Equipment essential for training and dissemination of technology/biotech intervention may be supported under the project.

8. Selection of the Beneficiaries for training/demonstration

i.   The implementing agency should target the villages in the vicinity, in which real need of interventions is required for the benefit of the target population. Based upon the nature of the activity for training, the beneficiaries are required to be identified, who are willing to share their assets and labour and if possible, contribute some of their earnings in

further proliferation of such activities. The activities should not be concentrated at the organization's office/ headquarter.

ii. The beneficiary location/persons should not be duplication of any other project or outreach program of the institution.

iii. Details are required to be provided in a tabular form about the number of training programmes year-wise, their duration and the number of trainees to be trained – activity-wise as part of the project summary.

iv. Under demonstration activity, details of intervention, methodology for adopting novel approach, number of demonstrations to be conducted year-wise, beneficiaries to be trained and list of villages to be covered, etc. are essentially required.

v. A self-help group (SHG) approach is required to be built up in the implementation schedule. It may help other categories of beneficiaries, who do not have their land and they can be trained in various other professions like marketing, product making and launching.

vi. In case SHGs exist in the village a possibility should first be explored to engage this SHG in the project activities.

vii. In areas where Joint Forest Management Committees / Eco Development Committees / Village Development Committees are already in place, these committees should also be actively involved in the project.

9. Expected outcomes and deliverables

i. The project should bring out the benefits to the target population through technology transfer using locally available resources.

ii. Attention should be for upliftment of target population for their skill development, enhancing employability, improved quality of life, access to modern means of diagnostics and healthcare etc.

iii. The project should create avenues for the target population to get relief from drudgery and stop migrating to the cities.

iv. The proposed activities should pertain to the judicious utilization of bio-resources in the implementation area through the involvement of the target population in farm activities. It should not lead to environmental degradation or ecological imbalance.

v. During the project duration, implementing agency should encourage the formation of a cooperative society of the beneficiaries, SHGs cooperative formation to continue the activity

sustainably. After the termination of Govt. support, the ownership of assets generated would be guided by provisions of GFR.

vi. The equipment funded under these projects should be registered on I-STEM portal (https://www.istem.gov.in/)

vii. For reasonable long-term support to beneficiaries, a contact person of the concerned agency should necessarily be nominated who can resolve the problems faced, if any so that the objectives of the project are fully achieved. Such services will however be fully on a voluntary basis.

10. Funding support likely to be provided

i. In view of extension-oriented programs, sophisticated and costly equipment would not be provided. Marginal support would be provided for creating small infrastructure/equipment if it is essential.

ii. The recurring grant will be limited to engaging project staff (supporting the salary of one of the project investigator/co-investigator), consumables and training material, travel and contingencies, workshops and demonstrations etc.

iii. The revenue generated from the project activities may be used by the PI/beneficiaries for further project activities, in addition to the sanctioned grant, to make the project activities self-sustainable.

iv. Projects bringing in additional funding from other sources, like corporate funding by CSR, or crowd funding by beneficiaries, etc will be encouraged

v. **The budget for a 3 year full project would be limited to a total cost of Rs 60 lakh (with Non-recurring support not exceeding Rs 20 lakh). For a pilot project [in cases where PI has no earlier experience of Societal projects or in cases where the Steering Committee recommends for a pilot stage project] the project cost would be limited to Rs 30 lakh (with Non-recurring support not exceeding Rs 10 lakh) for a period of 18 months.**

11. Review/Monitoring Process:

i. Call for proposals in areas decided in consultation with the Steering Committee or need of the time, would be issued once/twice every year, as per requirement.

ii. The new proposals are to be initially screened by the Steering Committee and suitable proposals are to be called for presentation. Proposals fulfilling all requirements and found suitable by the Steering Committee to be supported by DBT.

iii.   Ongoing/completed projects are evaluated by the Steering Committee on or near completion of the I year. Each project is assigned to two lead discussants and the progress report is shared with the experts in advance. PI gives a presentation before the Steering Committee and based on the recommendation of the Steering Committee the project may be continued and the next grant released/settlement may be done (for completed projects).

iv.   A site-visit before granting/during the project/ even after completion, as deemed suitable by the Steering committee may be organized to assess the project activities/ facilities on site.

v.   In cases where projects could not be assessed in the last meeting of the Steering Committee and the next meeting is due at least after 3 months, the progress may be evaluated through circulation (email) to two experts and based on the experts' comments, Chair will give final recommendations.

12. **Project duration:** 18 months (pilot stage project) or 3 years (full project).

13. **Date of project implementation:** The project start date would be the date of first-year grant release.

14. **Extension of project duration:** Project extension requests will be considered only under exceptional circumstances for a maximum of 6 months only. Extension requests will not be considered if received after completion of the project.

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