



**DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

for

“Harnessing the Potential of Northeastern Mushrooms”

The North Eastern Region (NER) of India is home to an extraordinary diversity of mushrooms with immense cultural, culinary, medicinal, and economic value. From traditional uses in food and medicine to new possibilities in biotechnology, nutraceuticals, and sustainable livelihoods, mushrooms of the Northeast offer vast untapped potential. Mushroom offers a sustainable solution to many of the challenges faced by rural farmers, providing them with new opportunities for income generation, employment, and agricultural diversification. Given its wide-ranging advantages, mushroom cultivation has a crucial role to play in the socio-economic development of the North East, helping build a more resilient and prosperous future for its communities.

Recognizing the potential of the mushrooms in the North-East region, the call for proposals invites innovative Research & Development initiatives for North East Region of India that can strengthen advance cultivation practices, and create value-added products. The aim is to transform Northeastern mushrooms into a source of scientific discovery, economic empowerment, and global recognition.

Proposals are invited in the following subareas initially for duration of 3 years:

1. Advancement of Cultivation Technology, Substrate Innovation & Characterization and Development of Spawn:

- Development of short-duration cultivation techniques for economically important mushroom species.
- Effective pest and disease management strategies tailored to NER conditions.

- Identification and optimization of locally available substrates ensuring low-cost production, sustainable and scalable options.
- Innovative Research on different types of mushroom spawn - grain, liquid, sawdust, and plug spawn for improved productivity and quality.

2. Nutraceuticals, Therapeutic, and Food Fortification:

- Metabolite profiling, clinical studies, allergenicity assessments, and nutraceutical validation of NER mushrooms for development of value-added mushroom-based products.

3. Value Addition:

- Modern processing technologies for post-harvest management, including freeze drying, improved packaging, and storage systems.

Who can apply?

Scientists/Researchers working on regular positions in recognized Research Institutions/Govt. Colleges/Academic Institutions/Universities of **NER, India** and other parts of the India (***only in collaboration with NER Scientists as the Main PIs***) having relevant research experiences on the proposed area of research, and desirous of undertaking research activities as enumerated above can submit proposals in this Call. The relevant research experiences must be evidenced through high quality research publications in the SCI indexed journals.

- Investigators with 05 ongoing DBT-funded projects, whether they are PI or Co-PI (wherever he or she is receiving the funds), will be ineligible to submit the proposal.
- No fresh proposal may be considered for funding, if relevant documents for final settlement of accounts (FSA) of the earlier DBT supported completed project is pending >1 years.
- The research proposals may be single institution and/or multi-institution involving collaborations either within the NER institution(s) and/or with institutions/organizations outside NER. ***Involvement of NER institution(s)/organization(s) is mandatory and the “Centre of gravity” of the research activity should remain in Northeast India.***
- For multi-institution proposals involving collaborators from institutions outside NER, **more than 50% of the total project budget should be strictly allocated to the NER institute(s).**
- In case of Government agency, submission of information / undertaking about Zero balance Subsidiary Account (ZBSA), no pending Utilization Certificate. implementation of EAT module of PFMS, compliance of data submission in IBDC portal, Copy of DSIR certificate, Non-Availability / Justification of requested





equipment; quotations in respect of purchase of the equipment etc. shall be mandatory.

- In case of Non-Government / Not-for-Profit Institutes, **in addition to the above-mentioned documents**, they shall also need to submit proof of establishment under the Indian Statute, Copy of Certificate of Registration under Society Registration Act, Memorandum of Association, Details of registration in NITI Aayog 'NGO Darpan' portal, Copy of DSIR-SIRO certificate, and Annual Audited Account Statements for the last three financial years.
- The institution must possess the basic and relevant infrastructure necessary to achieve the objectives or the proposed project. Proposals must be complete in all aspects.
- The manpower in the proposals shall be preferably proposed as per DST guidelines or as per approved guidelines of ICMR/ICAR/other Government agencies / Government autonomous institutions.
- A flowchart/schematic illustration explaining the concept or methodology of the proposed scientific research studies along with role of the partnering institutions must be submitted along with proposal.
- Statutory requirements/norms/guidelines/procedures need to be attached/referred as and when necessary.
- The proposal must be forwarded by the executive authority of the institution, and the host institution should undertake the overall responsibility of implementing the project that includes following of relevant statutory requirements/norms/guidelines/procedures.
- Private Profit making agencies / Industries / Start-ups **will not be eligible** for applying under this program.
- Incomplete applications and those which do not fulfil eligibility criteria will not be considered for evaluation.

How to Apply?

Interested and eligible researchers should submit proposals online through DBT electronic project management system, “eProMIS” (<http://dbtepromis.nic.in/Login.aspx>) under the “**Submit Proposal under Calls**” selecting the area, “**NER Programme**”.

The following steps may be followed while submitting the proposal in eProMIS:

Submit proposal  Submit proposal under call  Submit project under various DBT calls for Proposals  Call for Proposals for “Harnessing the Potential of Northeastern Mushrooms”  Apply

Note: While submitting a proposal, if the required information is not fully entered or remains partially filled, the proposal will automatically be saved in *Draft* mode. In such cases, please click on the “*half filled proposal*” to complete and submit it, instead of applying again. In case of any technical difficulties in the eProMIS portal, please contact eProMIS portal administrator in the email ID: epromis.dbt@nic.in Phone: 01124365136

The proposals which are not submitted through DBT eProMIS portal will not be considered.

Mode of Selection:

The Indian investigators from the **recognized Indian** organizations are encouraged to submit the proposals. The short listing, screening and selection of proposals will be done as per the DBT norms and will be based on the eligibility criteria, competence of the PIs and scientific merit of the submitted proposal(s).

Contact details:

Any queries in this regard can be addressed to:
Dr. Suraksha S. Diwan, Scientist ‘F’ (Email: nerdiv@dbt.nic.in) Phone: 01124665100

Last Date of Submission: 24th January, 2026