

GUIDELINES FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY INNOVATIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (BIRD)

1. The training programme is designed to conduct training or operate demonstration projects to promote rural innovation for developing Biotech based products and to promote/popularize the use of biotechnological process and tools for creating employment opportunities in rural areas.
2. University departments, R&D institutions, non-government organizations with proven track record and self help groups registered in Kerla can apply for conducting training programmes among rural people within the state. As a follow up action, the trained groups can also submit proposals in collaboration with concerned NGO/Self help group/R&D/Academic organization for entrepreneurship in the selected areas. The trained groups can also submit proposals in collaboration with concerned NGO/Self help group/R&D/Academic organization for entrepreneurship in the selected areas.
3. (a)The proposal/project should focus on field hands-on training/demonstration/extension oriented activities with little R&D component wherever needed (b) The proposal should clearly bring out how it will benefit the target population (c) Site for project implementation, as far as possible, should be in the vicinity of the target population and should not be concentrated at the PI's Institute (d)The effort should be mainly for the direct involvement of Rural Population in the project so that technology transfer could be done effectively (e) The technology or extension programme should be selected taking into consideration of local resources (f) Attention should be paid to increase income generation in addition to their present occupation (g) The project should not lead to environmental degradation or ecological imbalance (h) The project should be employment/revenue generating and not job displacing.
4. Projects will be encouraged on activities, which have direct application to the society on self employment generation and entrepreneurship development to extend more benefits through training and demonstration.
5. The NGO/Self help groups submitting the proposal should meet the criteria put forwarded by KSCSTE.
6. The project will be supported in various areas of Biotechnology like (a) Plant Tissue Culture (low cost) (b) Biopesticide Production (c) Biofertilizers (e) Mushroom cultivation (f) Pharmaceutical and Health Products (g) Solid Waste Recycling/Vermicomposting(h) Post-Harvest Technology (l) Algal Biotechnology (j) Biofuel and biogas, (p) Fermented food processing (q) Natural fibre production.

7. Expertise with the organization:

- The organization and PI should have essential qualifications and experience in the discipline of the proposed area.
- In case, the organization wishes to engage the expertise from the government organization/national labs/institute for successful completion of the project, written consents from the competent authority of the organization/lab/institute is required to be obtained before submitting the proposal.
- Retired professionals can be engaged in the project as per the norms of the organization, provided they are actively engaged with them in the field-implementation of projects.
- Detailed self signed bio-data of the investigators (in the prescribed format, which is given at the end of the project proforma) are essential.
- Necessary forwarding by the organization is mandatory.

8. Other requirements in case of non-government organizations/self help groups:

- a. Registration Certificate of the society/association
- b. MoA including By-laws and mandate of the organization
- c. Audited statement of accounts for the last three years
- d. Annual Report including activity profile for last three years

Single attested copy of all these above documents are required to be submitted with the original copy of the proposal. Other copies of the proposal need not include these documents.

9. Programme Details:

- The proposal should be specifically aimed on hands-on-training/field demonstration/extension oriented activities for the welfare of rural population using biotechnological innovations/processes/techniques. If required, a very little R&D component can be included for standardization of techniques already developed (4-6 months).
- The objectives of the proposal should be specific and indicate about the number of training and demonstration programmes, number of direct and indirect beneficiaries (in terms of individuals, families, villages, blocks and districts etc.)
- The methodology, organization of work elements and time schedule of activities giving milestones should be very clear.

- 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.
- 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 selling the material in the market.

10. Infrastructure requirement:

- Organizations seeking KBC funding for conducting training and demonstration activities are required to have essential infrastructure viz. building, training hall, demonstration farms, essential equipments for analytical and training work, projection facility, vehicle and other transportation facility and computational facilities etc.

11. Selection of the Beneficiaries for training/demonstration:

- The implementing agency should target the villages, in which the real needs of interventions are required for the benefit of the target population. Based upon the nature of activity for training, the beneficiaries are required to be identified.
- Details are required to be provided in a tabular form about number of training programmes month-wise, their duration and number of trainees to be trained – activity-wise as part of project summary.

12. Financial Assistance

- In view of extension-oriented programme, assistance for processing equipments will not be provided. However marginal support would be provided for creating small equipments if it is absolutely essential.
- Recurring grant will be limited for engaging project staff (excluding project investigators), consumables and training material, travel and contingencies etc.
- Once the project is approved, a formal sanction order is issued to the P.I. Meanwhile, the Principal Investigator should execute an agreement in the format in a non-judicial stamp paper worth Rs.100/-. The sanction order provides the detailed breakup of funds allocated under the different heads like Minor Equipment, Manpower, Travel, Consumables, Contingencies etc.
- Copies of the sanction order will be sent to the Principal Investigator (PI) and the Head of the Institution (Registrar/ Director/ Comptroller etc.).
- The un-utilized portion of the grant amount at the end of the project period shall be refunded to KBC forthwith by DD in favour of Member Secretary, KSCSTE, payable

at Thiruvananthapuram.

13. Date of Commencement of Project & its Duration

- The project becomes operative with effect from the date of sanction order or receipt of the Draft/ Cheque by the implementing Institution. This date should be intimated by the Institution authorities/ Principal Investigator to KBC. It will, in no case be later than one month after the receipt of the draft/ cheque by the Institution.
- The duration of the project will be minimum 6 months to maximum of 12 months. The duration of the project will be specified in the sanction order.

14. Project Staff

All the personnel including Research personnel appointed under the project, for the full/ part duration of the project, are to be treated as temporary employees and will be governed by the Administrative rules/ service conditions of the implementing Institution. No reference on these issues should be made to KBC/KSCSTE. Retired professionals can be engaged in the project as per the norms of the organization or a Project Assistant (@Rs 6000/- consolidated per month) can be appointed. KBC/KSCSTE will have no liability, whatsoever, for the project staff after completion of the project duration.