

Entrepreneurship Development by SC & ST Women in Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (ED/SC-ST- WISTEM 2022)

Guidelines

Entrepreneurship Development by SC & ST Women in Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (ED/SC-ST- WISTEM) is aimed for exploring the potential of entrepreneurship along with improvement in the livelihood options for unemployed scheduled caste and scheduled tribe (SC & ST) women in STEM areas using tools of Science, Technology and Innovation.

Objective:

- ❖ Creates opportunities to unemployed SC-ST women in STEM areas for becoming as a Techno-entrepreneur for improving their livelihood using various aspects of Science, Technology and Innovation.
- ❖ Encourage /Promote the commercial potential of marketable products/ technologies with appropriate Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for enterprise creation in:
 - a) Indigenous /traditional knowledge practices
 - b) Agriculture (bio-inputs, pest and disease control, value addition)
 - c) Food, Nutrition and Health /Pharmaceuticals/health products
 - d) Waste management/Recycling/Bioremediation
 - e) Electrical/ Electronic utility items

Nature & Duration of Support:

- ❖ Financial Support will be for an amount of Rupees Twenty Lakhs including institutional overheads for a period of one year. Extension of programme period is not encouraged. Only in rare and exceptional cases, depending on the necessity and progress of programme, no cost extension will be considered. Such a period of extension will be limited to a maximum of six months.

❖ The grant will cover Fellowship @ Rs.35,000/pm + 10%HRA (for M.Sc & M.Tech); Rs.45,000/pm + HRA (for Ph.D.); Capital Cost ≤ 25% of project cost (which includes minor equipment, infrastructure, rent); Operational Cost ≤ 30% of project cost (consumables & outsource Services cost); contingency ≤ apart from institutional overhead (≤10%- subject to a maximum of Rs One Lakh only). Applicant has the flexibility to propose budget under various budget heads as per requirement. The amount allocated for contingency if not utilized at the time of implementation could be utilized for the purpose of consumables & infrastructure. The re-appropriation of budget must be strictly in accordance with prior approval from KSCSTE through host institution.

- a. The sanctioned amount for the programme will be released to the Head of host Institution by electronic payment.
- b. In the first phase, Full Capital Cost, six months of fellowship, 50% Operational Cost and 50% of Institutional overhead will be released to the host institution at the time of implementation of programme as soon as the start of programme is intimated to KSCSTE by host institution.
- c. In the second phase, 30% of grant will be released (without institutional overhead), after 6 months of evaluation of the programme.
- d. In the third phase, the remaining 20% of grant and 50% of institutional overhead will be released after successful completion of programme and submission of relevant documents to KSCSTE including onsite evaluation.
- e. The institutional overhead (10% of project cost) subject to a maximum of Rupees One Lakh.

❖ Maximum number of grants awarded per year would be 3 - 5 across all subject areas.

Eligibility:

- ❖ The applicant should be an Indian citizen and SC &ST women in STEM of Kerala State.
- ❖ The upper age limit for financial support for the programme would be ≥50 years.

- ❖ The applicant should hold Ph.D. degree in Science or Technology or Engineering; or M.Sc. degree in Basic Science / Natural Science; or M.Tech. degree in Science/ or Technology /or Engineering.
- ❖ The applicant should initially identify Institution and mentor. The host institutions can be Academic Institutions (Central & State), University Departments, Colleges recognized with R & D facilities, DSIR recognized institutions in Kerala. The mentor should be a regular faculty of the host institute.
- ❖ The application form along with a proper proposal content should be submitted as PDF format during the call opening period.
- ❖ Co-mentorship for the program is encouraged. The Co-mentor of the host institution or other Organization must have an experience in enterprise creation.
- ❖ The applicant selected for the programme should join the host institute within 15 days of receiving the initial grant from KSCSTE.
- ❖ The applicant selected for the program will be termed as 'KSCSTE Project Scientist-ED/SC-ST-WISTEM 2022'.

Mode of Application and Selection:

- ❖ Call for applications will be notified through print media and the websites of KSCSTE (www.kscste.kerala.gov.in). The application should be submitted as per KSCSTE notification using appropriate weblinks.
- ❖ Following to guidelines of proposal submission, the applicant can directly submit applications/proposals to KSCSTE. Alternatively, the application submission could be by nomination from Head of S&T Institutions across Kerala. In cases of nomination, technical document (and other required documents) along with recommendation letter from Head of Institution must be submitted to KSCSTE. For nomination, KSCSTE will be sending prior information about the call of proposals to the Institutions authorities across the state for nominating a candidate who are able to participate for the programme if selected by KSCSTE.

- ❖ Selection will be based on the recommendations of Expert Committee constituted for the purpose by KSCSTE and final approval by competent authorities of KSCSTE.
- ❖ Merit of proposal will be considered as the major criteria for evaluation process. The merit of the proposal is based on components like (a.) Need (solutions) (b.) Social/commercial potential (c.) Technical viability (d) Team strength (e) Business plan (e.) TRL with measurable indicators.
- ❖ Application that are not followed by guidelines will not be entertained.

Termination and Transfer of Project

- ❖ If any Principal Investigator (PI) wishes to terminate the project, they shall inform the KSCSTE through the host institute immediately with proper justifications. The implementing institute should not incur any expenditure from the date of termination of the project or the date of resignation of PI. The institute must also arrange for submission of relevant documents and refund of un-utilized grant.
- ❖ The un-utilized portion of the grant amount shall be refunded to KSCSTE by DD/cheque in favour of Member Secretary, KSCSTE, payable at Thiruvananthapuram
- ❖ KSCSTE reserves the right to terminate the project at any stage if it is convinced that (i) appropriate progress is not being made (ii) the grant has not been utilized properly(iii) furnishing of false information or suppression of factual information.
- ❖ KSCSTE reserves the right to send a team of experts for physical examination, if required, during the time of programme and for verification of records.
- ❖ The KSCSTE reserves the right to verify the accounts by any Officer authorized to do it and is open to audit by Accountant General.
- ❖ The Organization/ Institution and PI shall comply, with such other conditions as may be suggested in the guidelines of the programme.

- ❖ Projects sanctioned under the programme cannot be transferred to any other person/s.
- ❖ Change of institute will not be considered.
- ❖ KSCSTE must be acknowledged.

Structure of Programme

Activity	Timeline of Programme	Deliverables
Identification of Host Institute, Mentor / Co-Mentor or by nomination of eligible candidate by host Institution	Before submission of the proposal	Assured technical guidance and support
Full time technical training and skill up-gradation on the selected topic at the host institute	1-3 months	Improved skill and technical back up to field test the product
Market analysis and establishment of basic infrastructure for the enterprise	4-6 months	a. Awareness on market potential and Gap areas. b. Establishment of basic amenities for enterprise creation
Product development /validation /approval for marketing from competent authorities etc.	7 – 9 months	Standardized/customized protocol for commercial production
Development of Commercially competitive marketable product & seeking financial assistance from other agencies for further establishment	10-12 months	a. Final marketable product for commercialization b. Business plan for adoption and replication.

How to apply?

For submission of the application the following points may be noted:

- ❖ The relevant information of the proposal has to be uploaded as a single PDF file, not more than 1 MB.
- ❖ The relevant documents to be attached at the time of application includes brief Biodata, technical document, Consent letter from Mentor/Co-mentor and Endorsement letter from the Head of Institution as per format, Age proof SC/ST Certificate and Covering Letter from Head of Institution (if the application is submitted by nomination of Head of Institution along with other required documents) if any. A letter in the form of undertaking and are to be submitted only after joining for the programme.

Document Required (in PDF)

- ❖ Technical Document (Maximum 3-4 pages only at the time of application submission)
- ❖ Biodata (at the time of application submission)
- ❖ Endorsement Letter from Head of Institution (at the time of application submission)
- ❖ Consent Letter from Mentor and Co-Mentor if any (at the time of application submission)
- ❖ Undertaking of Project Scientist (after joining)
- ❖ Age proof Certificate (class X mark sheet or birth certificate) (at the time of application submission)
- ❖ SC/ST Certificate from Tahsildar (at the time of application submission)
- ❖ Letter from the Head of Institution (applicable to those candidates, if the application submitted to KSCSTE is by nomination by Head of Institution)

Contact Details

Email to: meetwomen.kscste@gmail.com