

## **Call for Project Proposals**

### **(Biotech-based Programmes for Economic Upliftment and Societal Development)**

#### **About the Scheme:**

The Department of Biotechnology, Government of West Bengal, has a scheme on “Biotech-based Programmes for Economic Up-liftment and Societal Development for Rural communities” which is being implemented throughout the State to benefit SC, ST, OBC, Women and Rural people specifically in rural areas. This is aimed at dissemination and use of biotechnological processes and tools, creation of new employment avenues. Projects are invited to help the marginalized population in their skill development, employment and income generation etc. Introduction of new technologies with justification is also welcome.

#### **Supporting Areas:**

Proposals in community/consortium based projects on Societal Development goals in broader areas of Agriculture and allied Sector (biopesticides, biofertilizer, micro-propagation, reclamation of barren lands, bio-remediation, bio-waste utilization, solid waste management etc) bio resource utilization, Health & Sanitation, Environment & Biodiversity conservation, product /process development and value addition for Income generations in rural sectors. In addition, diffusion of appropriate technologies, skill development, awareness generations and education campaigns that improve health, livelihood and food security, bio-resources conservations and utilizations will be promoted. These projects are addressed with end to end approach to benefit the vulnerable sections and enhance market access for locally produced product and process.

#### **Eligibility criteria for submission of project proposal:**

The projects are being supported at universities/state funded colleges independently or in collaboration with other institutions/societies/associations/trusts/NGOS etc. Farmers’ co-operatives, voluntary and non-government organizations with proven track record can also apply.

The eligible agencies may submit two hard copies of the proposal in the prescribed format (which can be downloaded from [www.biotechbengal.gov.in](http://www.biotechbengal.gov.in)) and one soft copy (as an email attachment) to:

**Member Secretary,  
Departmental Technical Committee,  
Rural Biotechnology,  
Department of Biotechnology,  
Govt. of West Bengal,  
EN 24, Sector V, Salt Lake,  
Kolkata 700 091.  
(email: [dtcbiotech@gmail.com](mailto:dtcbiotech@gmail.com))**

**Essential Requirements:****1. Experience of the organization:**

- The organization and Principal Investigator should have essential qualifications and experience in the discipline of the proposed area. They should have successfully implemented at least a few projects benefiting rural population. This should be indicated as an evidence of expertise available in the proposal.
- Project in consortium mode will be promoted. At least one co-investigator of similar background is required to be included in the proposal.
- In case, the organization wishes to engage experts from the government organization/national labs/institute for the overall project duration, written consent from the competent authority of the organization/lab/institute is required along with the proposal.
- Retired professionals may also be engaged in the project having adequate expertise as consultants/Advisers on an honorarium as per the norms of the organization, provided they are actively engaged with them in the field-implementation nature of projects.
- Detailed self signed bio-data of the investigators; the proforma is included.
- Necessary forwarding by head of the organization is mandatory (for Institutes/Colleges/Universities)

**2. Other requirements in case of non-government organizations:**

- i. Registration Certificate of the Society/Association/Trust/NGO
- ii. MoA including by-laws and mandate of the organization.
- iii. Audited statement of accounts for the last three years (the organization should have a minimum balance of Rs. 5 lakhs at the end of last three subsequent financial years)
- iv. Annual Reports including activity profile for the last three years.
- v. FCRA registration/80G

Note: Self-Attested copies of these documents are to be submitted along with the proposal.

Detailed communication addresses including land phone /cell phone and fax numbers and e-mail address etc. should be provided.

**Programme Details:**

- The proposal should be specifically aimed at provisions for bioresource utilization and conservation field demonstration/extension oriented activities targeted towards the welfare of society especially SC/ST population, weaker sections, rural population, women, youth etc. using biotechnological processes / techniques. If appropriate, an R&D component can be included for standardization of techniques already developed. The objectives of the proposal should be well focused and compact. The

objectives are required to be provided list-wise and should indicate about programmes regarding awareness, training and demonstration programmes, 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.

- The methodology, organization of work elements and time schedule of activities indicating monitorable milestones should be very clearly stated.
- The targets and milestones should be laid on an annual basis and should be quantifiable.
- Marketing linkages with documentary evidence and buy-back 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.

**Infrastructure requirement:**

- Organizations seeking this kind of funding support for conducting training and demonstration activities are required to have essential infrastructure viz. building, training hall, demonstration farms, essential equipment for analytical and training work, projection facility, vehicle and other transportation facility and computational facilities etc. They should have sufficient expertise to impart such training.

**Selection of the Beneficiaries for training / demonstration:**

- The implementing agency should target the villages in the vicinity (which should not be concentrated at the organization's office/headquarter) i.e. areas where the real need for biotechnological interventions would benefit the target population. Based upon the nature of activity for training, the beneficiaries are required to be identified, who are willing to share their assets and labour and contribute some of their earnings in the activities.
- In case of agro-cropping, details are required on new crops to be cultivated, area to be covered under each activity, number of beneficiaries to be trained, acreage covered by each beneficiary, buy-back arrangements and linkages with other user agencies including banking support etc.
- Details are required to be provided in a tabular form about number of training programmes year-wise, their duration and number of trainees to be trained vis a vis number of trainers – activity-wise as part of project summary.
- Under demonstration activity, name of the crop(s) to be raised, methodology for adopting novel approach in cultivation using organic farming, number of demonstrations to be conducted year-wise, beneficiaries to be trained and list of villages to be covered, their demographics etc. are essentially required.

- 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 own land and can be trained in various other professions like marketing, product making and its launching.

**Expected outcomes and deliverables:**

- The project should clearly bring out the benefits to the target group through technology transfer using locally available resources.
- Attention should be paid on income and employment generation in addition to their present occupation. Changes in lifestyle in terms of monetary gain, generation of employment in rural areas and nutritional as well as livelihood security should be the main aims of the project.
- The project should create avenues for the target group to stay back in their areas and stop migrating to the cities.
- The activity undertaken should be employment /revenue generating and not job displacing.
- It should also pertain to the judicious utilization of bio-resources in the implementation area through the involvement of target population in farm activities. It should not disturb the ecological equilibrium.
- After termination of the financial support of the Govt. support, assets generated are required to be transferred to the granting authority or to any public institution as to be decided by the granting authority. In the event that the organization wishes to retain the instrument, they may place a request with appropriate justification; the decision of the department will be final and binding.

**Funding support likely to be provided:**

- Sophisticated and expensive equipment would not be provided. Marginal support would be provided for creating small infrastructure/ equipment, if it is absolutely essential.
- Recurring grant will be limited for engaging project staff, honorarium to advisers/Consultants (excluding project investigators), consumables, training materials, travel and contingencies etc.