

DR. HARSH VARDHAN'S VISIT TO ARUNACHAL PRADESH

Hon'ble Union Minister S&T and ES made a three day visit from 21st to 23rd December, 2016, to the state of Arunachal Pradesh. On 21st the cabinet secretariat organized a meeting with the Hon'ble Union Minister in which the state Hon'ble Ministers, Chief Secretary, Science Secretary and other Scientists of State S & T Council participated. The Chief Secretary briefed the Hon'ble Union Minister about various developments of the state as well as various gap areas and the scientists of State S&T Council, State Remote Sensing Application Centre and APSC made detailed presentation about their activities. After hearing the presentations and comments from other members the following two major recommendations offered by the Hon'ble Minister on the first day.

1. Initiation for major twinning programme on medicinal plants specific to the state which are useful for preventing diseases like coronary artery disease curing of cancer, blood pressure and other ailments. This programme is to be initiated as part of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), and Institutions of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) like Institute of Nutrition, Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI), Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI) and North East Regional Institute of Science and Technology (NERIST).
2. The Hon'ble Union Minister also stated that he is going to send an expert committee comprising of members from different discipline for indentifying major gap areas which are to be addressed through his ministry for the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

On 22nd December, 2016 the Hon'ble Union Minister and other members visited Kimin which is about 65 kms from Itanagar. In Kimin the ITBP made elaborate arrangement for the reception of Hon'ble Union Minister and other members. The Hon'ble Union Minister laid two important foundation stones 1) Centre for Bio-resources and Sustainable Development in Arunachal Pradesh and 2) Rural Technology Centre under the aegis of DBT and DST respectively.

After the function the Hon'ble Union Minister participated in a public reception along with other delegates. In his elaborative speech Hon'ble Minister announced the following for the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. Setting up of a State Level Biotech Hub in Arunachal Pradesh for conducting high end research and training of NER researchers and students aimed at creating employable manpower.
2. Setting up an IP Cell in State S&T Council for protection of indigenous traditional knowledge of the state and for protection of research leads from research institution of Arunachal Pradesh.
3. Establishment of up to 50 Biotech Laboratories at Senior Secondary Schools of Arunachal Pradesh under DBT's BLiSS Scheme to encourage School students to promote practical exposure and learning of science labs.
4. Strengthening medical diagnostic facility at medical colleges of Arunachal Pradesh.
5. Establishment of five centers of excellence in different areas of Biotechnology.
6. Development of Outreach Program Cell (OPC) at State S&T council, Arunachal Pradesh.
7. Establishment of a Biotechnology Innovation Hub (BIHUB) in Arunachal Pradesh
8. Establishment of a Centre for Biotechnology at institutions in the state of Arunachal Pradesh.

9. Promote a study on restoration of traditional Natural Dyes as well as setting up of Banana fibre extraction and processing cum training unit for entrepreneurs.

INVESTMENTS AND BENEFITS EXPECTED:

Budget: Approximately an amount of Rs.150-200 Crores would be invested for this State by DBT, DST, CSIR and ES for a period of Five years:

Expected Benefits:

The Biotechnology projects on implementation will led to the much needed thrust to the research, development and popularization of Biotechnology and help in judicious utilization plants and animals genetic resources of Arunachal Pradesh through the intervention of Biotechnology

Employment Generation:

Direct Impact: It will lead to employment generation for more than hundred technical and non-technical personals in the proposed Centre for Bio-resources and Sustainable Development and the State Bio-Technology Hub to be established.

Indirect Impact: It is envisaged that the projects on implementation will benefit more 20 to 30 thousand people of the state in finding self-employment through entrepreneurship development

Research and Development:

The studies and R&D projects will provide scope to the local researchers, students for their research works in the field of Biotechnology through their engagement as JRFs and SRFs. The facilities to be created will help in developing linkages with the institutions in the state for carrying out R&D in the field of Biotechnology.

Popularization of Biotechnology:

Setting up of Biotech laboratory in schools under the BLISS programme will directly benefit more than 10000 (Ten Thousand) students and teachers of the state towards promoting education in biotechnology and attracting brilliant young students to the multi-disciplinary research areas.

The outreach programmes will immensely help in generating awareness, enhancing literacy and promoting public understanding of biotechnology in the state. Organizing of the outreach activities will have direct benefit to more than five lakh people including students and general public in the state towards understanding biotechnology in the true perspectives.

Development of Allied and Ancillary Units (Estimated):

On implementation of the Projects in the state will lead to development of:

- a) Natural Dyes Extraction units : More than 50 nos.
- b) Banana Fibre Extraction and Processing Units : More than 100 units
- c) Fruit Processing Units : More than 150 units
- d) Mushroom production : More than 300 entrepreneurs
- e) Medicinal and Aromatic plants cultivation : More than 200 entrepreneurs
- f) Orchid cultivation : More than 50 entrepreneurs
- g) Vermiculture : More than 100 entrepreneurs

Marketing:

Implementation of the Biotechnology projects will also lead to development of market linkages which will facilitate the entrepreneurs for marketing of their produce and overall will help in income generation, sustainable socio, tech-economic development in the rural tribal areas and populace.

Conservation and Sustainable Development of Bio-resources:

The projects will lead to bio-technological intervention for sustainable utilization, development and conservation of Bio-resources of Arunachal Pradesh.

After the public speech by the Hon'ble Union Minister, he visited the North Eastern Regional Institute of Science & Technology (NERIST), Nirjuli (An Autonomous Deemed University under MHRD). An integrated bio-diesel reactor has been demonstrated by the scientists of NERIST. While appreciating their efforts by the Hon'ble Union Minister advised to have effective linkages with the scientists of same field to avoid duplication and also attaining the advancement. The Hon'ble Union Minister has also urged to make effort to transfer the technology to the companies for fruitful applications to the public.