

Call for Proposals

DBT-ALSBT Hub (Assam) Micro-grants to Young Scientists of NER for Innovative Research

(Last date for submission: 15 June, 2022)

Background: The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India has been providing research grants both at the national and regional levels under various schemes. Usually these competitive grants are awarded to limited number of selected researchers among hundreds of applicants responding to each call for proposals. In the process, many promising young researchers particularly those working in state institutes and undergraduate colleges located in remote underprivileged areas cannot come up successful in getting such a grant owing to their lack of adequate exposure and prior research experience. This is mostly due to non-availability of adequate infrastructure for research at their institutes/colleges in spite of their capabilities to undertake small research projects with expected output of need-based technologies that may directly benefit the local farmers, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders. Keeping these facts in view, DBT has provided necessary funding to the Advanced Level State Biotech Hub of Department of Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary Science, Assam Agricultural University, Khanapara, Guwahati to provide a limited number of micro-grants of maximum of Rs. 10.00 lakhs to selected young researchers of NER states of less than 45 years of age particularly for need-based, product-oriented research to be accomplished in 2 years.

Thrust areas identified:

- i) Applied and translational research in life sciences
- ii) Development of affordable new generation vaccines and diagnostics
- iii) Prevention and control of zoonotic diseases
- iv) Biodiversity conservation and wildlife
- v) Fish nutrition, breeding and reproduction, post-harvest management and value addition for enhancement of aquaculture productivity
- vi) Bioremediation and recycling of wastes

WHO CAN APPLY: Permanent faculties below 45 years of age (as on 1st April, 2022) of recognized universities and academic institutions, scientists working in State and National Laboratories, R&D institutions, and Research organizations of any state of the North-Eastern Region recognized by DSIR. Researchers willing to utilize the state-of-the-art infrastructure developed in the Advanced Level State Biotech Hub (ALSBT Hub), Department of Animal Biotechnology, College of Veterinary Science, AAU, Khanapara, Guwahati-781022 may propose a collaborative project. However, in such cases, a Collaborating PI from the aforesaid Department should be associated with the project with corresponding partition of the budget required. Interested applicants seeking collaboration with the faculty members of the department may visit the link: [Dept. of Animal Biotechnology](#) for the faculty profile and contact details. Information about the facilities available in the ALSBT Hub is available at: [Facilities at ALSBTHub](#).

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- Maximum amount of grant provided for an individual research project is limited to Rs. 10.0 lakhs including a maximum of Rs. 2.0 lakhs towards non-recurring for purchase of minor equipments.
- No manpower can be recruited under the project.
- Only a realistic minimum budget should be proposed under the specific heads mentioned in the format for submission of the project proposal.
- No multi-institutional project proposals will be accepted excepting the ones proposed as a collaborating project with a Collaborating PI from the Department of ABT hosting the ALSBT Hub as mentioned above.
- Maximum duration of implementation of a project is limited to 2 years.
- All proposals are to be submitted by the applicants through the respective heads of the institutes.
- Proposals not submitted in the prescribed format will be summarily rejected.
- The PIs awarded with the microgrant shall have to submit yearly progress reports, Utilization Certificate, Statement of Accounts and other relevant documents as per DBT norms in the prescribed format regularly. Additionally, they will have to make presentations on their progress before the Expert Committee as and when called for.
- Release of second year grant to an awardee will depend on the review of progress made during the first year of implementation of the project.

SELECTION PROCEDURE:

- The applicants will submit the Concept Note of their research projects in the prescribed format as soft copies only to an online platform within the stipulated time in response to the call for proposal.
- The proposals will be first screened by a screening committee and promising projects with the required merit will be short-listed based on the following criteria:
 - Clarity of the title, objectives and expected outcome (20%)
 - Element of novelty in the proposal (20%)
 - Scientific merit of the proposal (30%)
 - Possibility of achieving the objectives within the stipulated timeline (20%)
 - Competence of the PI and his team of researchers as evident from their latest publications (10%)
- Full proposals will be sought from the short-listed investigators in the DBT-prescribed format for R&D projects with slight modifications as necessary.
- The full proposals will be subjected to review by relevant experts and subsequently, the concerned PIs will be asked for presentation of their proposals before an Expert Committee.
- The Expert Committee will finally decide about revision, acceptance or rejection of the proposal.

HOW TO APPLY

- Interested applicants shall have to register online by logging into the following link: <http://vetbifg.ac.in/sbthubonline/microgrants.php> and submit the Concept Notes of their research projects in the prescribed format as soft copies only **on or before 15th June, 2022** and upload a single PDF file containing relevant documents testifying their highest academic qualification, current employment and proof of age.