

Step-wise procedure for developing the Nationally Evolved Projects under NMITLI

I. National Consultations

(i) Wide-spread and wide-ranging national consultations will be held to identify the potential niche ideas. The consultations would inter alia include personal letters from DG, CSIR to eminent personalities in all walks of life, insertion of press advertisement in leading national newspapers, distribution of posters seeking suggestions, brainstorming meetings, sectoral (areawise) meetings etc.

(ii) The suggestions so received will be compiled into a database.

II. Selection of suggestions/ideas

The two-tier mechanism proposed is as follows:

First Level:

(i) A Screening Committee comprising senior Officers from Government scientific departments with wide ranging broad based exposure over different disciplines will shortlist the suggestions/ideas for their conformance to NMITLI objectives;

(ii) The screening Committee's recommendations will be placed to DG, CSIR for his consideration, review and confirmation;

(iii) The short listed suggestions/ideas will then be categorized into different areas, e.g. Agriculture, Biotechnology, Chemicals, Drugs and Pharmaceuticals, Energy, Materials, Information Technology etc.

Second Level:

(i) Separate Area wise Expert groups will be constituted by DG, CSIR to consider the short listed suggestions/ideas for selecting those of the few ideas that could provide an advantage to India. Each of the area specific Expert Group will have a minimum of 5 experts from the relevant area.

(ii) The selected suggestions/ideas will then be put up to DG, CSIR for his consideration, review and approval.

(iii) Selected ideas will then be communicated to all the contributors.

III. Preparation of Project Proposals

A new approach has been charted in developing the proposals as a 'Team India' effort, wherein all the expertise available in a specific area within the country will be pooled together to develop a technology-driven project. Thus, participation in NMITLI projects

will not be by application, but by invitation. Thus, individuals who suggested an area may not at all be part of the research project.

(i) For each selected idea, a Specialist Expert Group (Champions Group) will be commissioned to evolve the selected idea into a project. The Group would comprise of three to four experts in the relevant area with at least one of them being from industry, to provide an industrial perspective to the project. The choice of the expert from industry in the Champions Group will be largely guided by the strengths of that industrial firm in that specific area. The Champions Group would be provided a free hand in zeroing in on the niche segment within the selected area, developing it into a project, selecting the (best) partners, project time frame and budget estimates etc.

(ii) Towards evolving the project, the Champions Group, besides having internal meetings among themselves, will have at least one brainstorming meeting with a wide cross section of the domain specific researchers from academia, institutions & industry.

(iii) NMITLI Cell will coordinate the meetings of Champions Group and actively be involved in developing the project.

IV. Approvals:

(i) The final project as developed will be submitted for consideration of a High-Powered Committee (HPC), which will be constituted by DG, CSIR. In facilitating the HPC to arrive at a meaningful decision, the Champions will be invited to make a presentation to the HPC;

(ii) The project proposal along with HPC comments/ recommendations including the funding aspect will be put up to DG, CSIR/SFC/GB as appropriate for final consideration and recommendation.

V. Disbursal of Funds

The projects will be launched after due approval of the competent authority. An MOU/ legal agreement between the partners and CSIR will be entered into.

VI. Involvement of Industrial Partners

As the economic benefits arising out of the technologies has to be captured and derived by Industry for the nation, all efforts would be made to involve even private industrial firms right from the beginning. However, R&D efforts by Indian industry being minimal, barring pharma & biotech industries, it would be difficult to evolve any uniform procedure for soliciting the interest and involvement of the industrial partners. The actual process of involvement of industrial partners would depend on and vary from project to project and in rare cases of addressing nationally relevant/developing world problems, it

may be even without any industry partner. However, some of the approaches among others that would be followed are as presented below:

- (i) Industrial partners will be invited for the brainstorming meeting at the time of evolving the projects;
- (ii) Where the industry participation in the brainstorming meeting is minimal or nil, DG, CSIR will specially address personal letters to the firms in the industry sectors for soliciting their interest;
- (iii) Firms that shows interest in participating in the programme will be enlisted in the projects; and
- (iv) NMITLI Cell would also interact with the relevant industries and solicit their participation in the project.