

# NATIONAL BRAIN STORMING

*on*

## NUTRACEUTICALS AND PROBIOTICS

*With Industry Consultation*

*by*

Government of India  
Ministry of Science & Technology  
Department of Biotechnology

### CALL FOR CONCEPT PROPOSALS

Nutraceuticals can be viewed as the centre of continuum between a food and a drug. The term 'Nutraceutical' creates a single category that could potentially cover a broad list of terms, including dietary supplements, functional foods, designer foods, hypernutritional foods, pharma foods, etc. Nutraceuticals are important for holistic health and immuno-modulation. The usefulness of probiotics in improving intestinal microbial balance and as a major guardian of intestinal tract, also contributes to well-being. Nutraceuticals and probiotics therefore add to good quality life.

Taking this into account, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) invites **Concept-proposals** from scientists/groups/Industry, in this area. These concept proposals would be deliberated upon in the National Brain Storming Session to be organized by DBT during November/December 2004. This session is likely to be an **Academia-Industry Interaction** with the objective to develop products in this area based on industry consultation.

**Areas suggested include (but are not limited to) the following:**

Developing foods with identified value leading to health benefits, including reduced risk for disease, for the person consuming it, i.e. nutraceuticals for holistic health; for cardio-vascular diseases; for respiratory disorders; for diabetes; as digestives; as tonics; as immuno-modulators, etc.

Probiotics for increasing the absorption of minerals, nutrients and vitamins and improving digestion, e.g. milk products (lactose intolerance); for increasing absorption of calcium, which is important in the prevention of osteoporosis.

Accordingly, concept proposals outlining the (i) rationale, (ii) objectives to be undertaken, (iii) work plan with quantifiable goals, (iv) industrial partnership, if any, be submitted to DBT (25 copies) to Dr Rajesh Kapur, Director, Department of Biotechnology, Block-2, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi 110 003 so as to reach by **30 October 2004**. Any additional enquiry may be addressed at telephone: 24360745, Fax: 24362884, e-mail: kapur@dbt.nic.in.

Financial support could be considered for a period of three years with flexible support extending up to five years or longer in the programmes demonstrating significant progress. Academia-Industry collaboration would receive added weightage. To know more about our activities log on to DBT websites: <http://www.dbtindia.nic.in> OR <http://www.dbtindia.org>.