

**Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of Science and Technology
Government of India**

**India–Netherlands agreement of tailor-made biotechnologies
First Call for Proposals**

Introduction

The Department of Biotechnology of the Ministry of Science and Technology of the Government of India and Institutes of Higher Education in The Netherlands signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of *tailoring biotechnology* on 25 October 2005.

The objective of the MoU is the develop a new type of research and technology development referred to as *tailoring*, in particular applied to traditional and modern forms of biotechnology and genomics. The leading mission of tailoring strategies is technology development *in* society, e.g. in close interaction with stakeholders, directed to develop products, techniques or processes that lead to sustainable developments. This approach is based on the acknowledgement that technology development is more than the application of 'pure science' and has to be regarded as a practise that comprises both technical and social components.

The Call for Proposals

Senior researchers at research institutes and universities in India are eligible to participate in the call for proposals. In order to avoid non-productive efforts in writing proposals, applicants are required to submit a preliminary proposal (pre-proposal). The deadline for submitting proposals in the first call is **15 February 2006** (deadlines for the second call will be June 2006). It is compulsory to submit a preliminary application: the first stage cannot be skipped.

Pre-proposals should follow the guidelines and use the electronic form that will be available on the DBT website (www.dbtindia.nic.in) and should specify how the proposed research will contribute to the thematic and strategic priorities of the TMBT programme (Agricultural Biotechnology, Food Biotechnology, Medical and Public Health Biotechnology, and Biopolicy issues).

The available grant is aimed at supporting high-quality projects carried out by talented researchers from India and designed to support a Ph.D. research in the form of a sandwich or pick-nick formula (the difference is the duration of the stay in the Netherlands, which is longer in a sandwich than in a pick-nick formula), in which a fieldwork period in India is followed by a stay in the Netherlands, a completion in India and defence of the Ph.D. thesis in the Netherlands. The academic degree will be provided by an institution for higher education in the Netherlands, in particular the Wageningen University (agriculture and food sciences) and the Free University of Amsterdam (medical and human health sciences). The programme is managed by Prof. Dr Guido Ruivenkamp in collaboration with ir.Joost Jongerden of the Wageningen University and Dr S. R. Rao, Department of Biotechnology. Inquiries about the scope of the TMBT programme and tailoring strategies may be directed to joost.jongerden@wur.nl. Enquiries about DBT funding may be addressed to tmbtindia@dbt.nic.in.