

ICAR- Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology

Adenwala Road, Matunga East, Mumbai-40019

(www.circot.res.in)

30.10.2019

Call for New Project Proposals for the period 2020-2025

Background

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has launched an ambitious research system in various fields of agriculture during the 12th Five-year plan, by introducing the ICAR Agri- Consortia Research Platforms (Agri-CRP) to fortify and encourage the innovative research approaches to take up national problems that have been perceived over time. It is proposed as Plan-funded activity and shall be vested with National Agricultural Research System with consortia partnership with all organizations that have interest in partnering towards finding lasting solutions to identified agricultural issues of the country. CRP on Natural Fibre (CRP- NF) is one of the platform projects approved under Agri-CRP by ICAR. ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology, Mumbai has been entrusted as Nodal Centre for executing CRP-NF project due to its vast experience and significant achievements in the research on natural fibres. The CRP-NF platform is supported and monitored by Agricultural Engineering SMD of ICAR headed by Deputy Director General (Agricultural Engineering).

Introduction

Natural fibres today find extensive applications in varied fields from aerospace, protective, medical, hygiene, construction, soil-erosion control etc besides their basic function as clothing material. Natural fibres and their seeds have also been shown to be a good source of fine chemicals, nutrient supplements, pharmaceuticals, fuel etc. Fibres and their by-products also find increasing use as sources of added-value fatty acids, amino acids, phytoestrogens, cyclolinopeptides, lignin, pectin and other industrial chemicals. As the application of the natural fibres entered into unconventional areas especially 'performance oriented usages', the demand for natural fibre has risen to newer height than ever before. To satisfy this ever-increasing demand, the natural fibre based products need to be endowed with additional functionalities and also unconventional sources for their production need to be tapped.

Therefore, this initiative of Consortia Research Project (CRP) on Natural Fibres was undertaken during 12th Five Year Plan with the budget allocation of 238.97 lakhs for two years

(2015-17). The project was then extended for three years (2017-2020) with the budget outlay of 211.82 lakhs as approved by the council vide letter number F.No. A.Engg./7/12/2017/1A-II (AE) dated 21.09.2017.

Overall Aim of the project

- ❖ To exploit the available natural fibres and their by-products by using high-end technologies to fuel the growth of fibre sector in India and in turn the farm income as a whole.
- ❖ To identify and isolate newer fibrous raw materials for value addition and thereby provide enhanced income to all the stakeholders in the value chain.

Objective of the call

The objective of this call for is to invite innovative R&D projects, encompassing sustainability and circular economy, related to following areas

- a) Extraction of quality fibres from biomass on an economic scale and its value addition
- b) Development of novel products from natural fibre blends to cater to Apparel, Home textile and Technical textile sectors
- c) Deriving fine chemicals, energy and value added products from by-products and biomass of natural fibre system
- d) Assessment of the environmental footprints in production and processing of natural fibres

Eligibility & Timeline of submission of Proposal

All Researchers in ICAR institutes and Agricultural & Veterinary Universities under NARS

The last date for submission of proposals in the prescribed format is **10th November 2019**. The project proposal has to be submitted through E.mail to director.circot@icar.gov.in with the copy to crpcircot@gmail.com & circotmumbai@gmail.com

Project Formulation Guidelines

- The proposals should be innovative and clearly define the need identification/problem statement (identification of Research gaps,),
- Importance of the proposed project in the context of current status
- Details of existing technologies (literature surveys/patent search),
- Clear cut objectives and expected deliverables

- Plan of action for utilization of the output expected from the project (for scaling up commercialization/dissemination etc).
- Duration of the project may be 2-5 years depending upon the nature of the work

Budgetary support will be given for recurring contingencies. The budget for equipment and civil works will be considered only in case of extreme necessity.

The biodata of the project investigators should highlight their competence and experience related to the proposed project area. Consortia may be formed wherever required by clearly mentioning the roles and responsibilities of each partner. The industry partner may be involved wherever possible and contribution of the industry partner should be clearly defined.

Criteria for the screening of the project

The submitted project proposals those are innovative, inclusive, affordable to community, development oriented and disruptive in addition to helping the farming community will be selected for screening. The screened projects will be presented before Agricultural Engineering SMD for final approval.

For further queries, contact

Dr. A.S.M. Raja, Principal Scientist / Dr.Sundaramoorthy, C Senior Scientist
ICAR-CIRCOT

Adenwala Road, Matunga, Mumbai-19

E.mail: raja.asm@icar.gov.in, sundaramoorthyc.c@icar.gov.in, crpcircot@gmail.com