



**Star College Scheme for strengthening of Life Science
and Biotechnology education and training at undergraduate level by Department of
Biotechnology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India**

1. Introduction:

DBT has launched a scheme for improving critical thinking and 'hands on' experimental work in the cutting edge-technologies needed for modern biological studies at undergraduate (college) level in life sciences as part of its commitment to the values of : i) Pursuit of excellence ; ii) Academic and intellectual freedom; iii) Creativity and innovation ; iv) Diversity; v) Cooperation and Communication & vi) accountability . It is hoped that as a result of such experiences, more students will take up life science as a career.

DBT will identify colleges with ambition and potential for excellence and provide academic and physical infrastructure for achieving excellence in teaching and unique exposure of students to experimental science.

Sri Venkateswara College is one of the very few Colleges selected under the scheme. After successful implementation of the strategy, the College will be considered as **life science 'Star College'**

2. Objectives:

- to strengthen the academic and physical infrastructure for achieving excellence in teaching and training.
- to enhance the quality of the learning and teaching process to stimulate original thinking through 'hands-on' exposure to experimental work and participation in summer schools.
- to promote networking and strengthen ties with neighbouring institutions and other laboratories
- to conduct specialized training programmes for faculty improvement for optimizing technical capabilities
- to increase capabilities of core instrumentation resources by procuring new equipment and upgrading of existing facilities
- to provide access and exposure to students to research laboratories and industries in the country
- to help in devising standard curricula and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's) / kits for practicals
- to provide better library facility to students and teachers

3. Activities to be performed as part of star college:

For faculty

- Faculty improvement programme
- Participation in summer courses for skill upgradation to be able to train students.
- Curriculum change to ensure more, 'hands - on' laboratory work
- Greater emphasis on communicating research and research process to students
- Introduce internal review process by students
- Feedback from students regarding competence of faculty , adequacy of teaching / laboratory environment and additional needs, if any
- Continue to think and assess use of funds to improve teaching / learning
- Any other relevant additional information

For students

- Students training through summer training, industry visits.
- Use of IT in classroom, laboratory and library activities
- Inclusion of techniques for 'hands - on' training
- Any other relevant additional information

4. Nature of financial assistance:

The College will receive one time non recurring grant up to a maximum of Rs. 10 lakhs for each science department (botany, zoology, microbiology, biochemistry, physics, chemistry) and recurring grant of Rs. 2 lakhs / year for consumables, Rs. 1 lakh/year for contingency to cover expenses on visiting faculty, guest lectures, seminars etc. for each department will be provided initially for a period of 2 years. Continuation of support for another 3 years will be based on evaluation of performance.

5. How to measure success:

DBT will measure progress of star college by following parameters:

- Substantial increase in proportion of 'hands on' experimental work by students.
- Increased access of undergraduate students to laboratory and bioinformatics infrastructure
- Improvement in access to life sciences related journals
- Summer schools
- Percentage of students pursuing life science as a career
- Measure effectiveness on the basis of feedback from students, faculty and employers of students