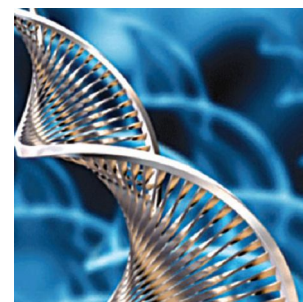


Biotechnology



Biotechnology Department attempts to harness the best out of vast biodiversity and rich flora & fauna of West Bengal. From the Sub-himalayan mountainous region to the tropical forests of North Bengal to the Gangetic Plains and the Sunderban delta offer a unique range of biodiversity. That is why, the sole mission of this Deptt. is to support and extend financial helps to various novel scientific Research and Development projects as well as community development projects for the promotion of Biotechnology in the state.

Aims & Objectives

- To conserve, map and sustainably use bioresources.
- To spread general awareness for the optimum utilization of biotechnology in the different sectors.
- To optimally focus resources for R&D in biotechnology.
- To encourage and facilitate introduction of biotechnology at the grass-root level to strengthen the economy of the state.
- To encourage rural biotechnological activities for the promotion of village level industries in the state.
- To facilitate energy security and self-sustainability through promotion of biofuels.
- To support employment generating schemes in the field of biotechnology.
- To create centers of excellence as high quality support services to biotech industries.
- To create or act as catalyst for the creation of infrastructure for biotech industries, e.g., biotechnology parks.
- To develop competent human resources at different levels in the field of biotechnology.
- To promote the field of bioinformatics which draws support from information technology.
- To suitably address highly pertinent issues like intellectual property rights (IPR) protection, biosafety and bioethics.
- To coordinate and consolidate efforts by the various departments and government undertakings having potential in the area of biotechnology.
- To create congenial environment of biotech industry through process simplification in the clearance of the commercial biotechnology projects.
- To attract private investment for perceptible growth in biotechnological industries.
- To facilitate the flow of venture capital funds and bank credit to biotech companies.
- To extend fiscal incentives and concessions to biotechnology industry.
- To provide an appropriate institutional framework to achieve the above objectives.

For achieving the objectives, this Department charts different programmes in each financial year on molecular and cell biology, microbiology, taxonomy, bioinformatics, medicine, agriculture, pollution control, etc.

In the year 2009-2010 a budget allocation was of Rs. 8.00 Cr. only which was increased to Rs. 13.20 Cr. in 2011-12 as noted below.

Financial Year	Budget Estimate (Rs. In Cr.)
2009 -10	8.00
2010 -11	12.00
2011 -12	13.20

The New Government has started its journey on May 20, 2011. The people of West Bengal have seen the unique pace of its work and mode of implementation of the various projects of development. The following are a few of the efforts taken and so also the results achieved.

- This Department always extends financial help to different scientific researches received from scholar of Universities and famous scientific research institutions. Total of 15 projects are financed by this Department. and two projects are on pipe line.
- This Department generated thrust in the rural biotechnology with novel project like “generating mass awareness and Lac Cultivation in the tribal dominated and politically disturbed area of Gopiballabhpur-I Dev. Block in Paschim Medinipur
- Establishment of a Resource Centre of Plant tissue culture at Woman’s Technology Park, Sagar, Sundarban, West Bengal” by The Vivekananda Institute of Biotechnology, Nimpith, South 24 Parganas.
- This Department has a flagship project done through the full fledged commissioning of Kolkata Biotech Park, Salt Lake. It accommodates a highly specialized common instrumentation facility laboratory of various high-tech scientific instruments and the Govt. investment in the same is about Rs.8.00 crores. The procurement of latest generation of Proteomics instrument known as Triple-TOF is on the anvil.
- A complete bio incubation unit has been set up in the Kolkata Biotech Park and is now functional under the technical supervision of Dr. B.C. Guha Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology under the University of Calcutta.
- West Bengal Biotech Dev. Corporation Ltd. is now discharging its function in full swing and it plans to introduce a finishing school for the Masters of Biotechnology for making them absolutely industry-ready.
- Consequent of the strong public relations and persuasion of the West Bengal Biotech Dev. Corporation Ltd. (WBBDCL), different **start-up biotech companies** have expressed their interest to take space in Kolkata Biotech Park for their research and development purpose. 3 (three) companies are already been in. The number of waiting companies for infrastructure is about 10(ten) at present. The building is expected to be full by October this year.
- The offices of the Department and West Bengal Biotech Dev. Corporation Ltd. (WBBDCL) have been shifted to its own building, Salt Lake. The proximity to industrial hub has always been a base for building confidence in the biotech-based companies.

