

Cluster of Projects Meeting on Instrumentation for agricultural and food engineering by Instrumentation Development Programme of DST, Govt. of India, to be held at Central Institute for Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal during 16-17, February, 2012.

Department of Science & Technology (DST), Govt. of India, under Instrumentation Development Programme (IDP), has been organizing the Cluster of Projects meetings and inviting expression of interest for EMR R&D projects on identified theme areas of IDP. The past Cluster of Projects meetings on textiles, food processing (NER), water pollution monitoring, chemical & electro-chemical sensors, bio-process instrumentation, medical and healthcare instrumentation, biophotonics and bioelectronics have been very productive. Considering the past encouraging response for such initiatives, the present call by the DST is on instrumentation for agricultural and food engineering and related developmental work. The meeting is planned to be held during 16-17 February 2012 at the Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering, Bhopal [CIAE- a constituent laboratory of Indian Council for Agricultural Research ICAR].

In the past, India has seen remarkable agriculture production through green/white/yellow/blue revolutions. However, new challenges are emerging in relation to climate change, automation, post harvest techniques, food processing and distribution chains etc. There is a large potential increasing the productivity and likely socio economic impact. The instrumentation theme of this meeting will include the engineering and technology development for all the products originating from agricultural farm, livestock, aquacultural sources and forests which can contribute to the national food and agriculture sector. Instrumentation for down stream processing applications will also be considered.

The pre-proposals will be discussed pro-actively in the meeting and the revised versions should later be submitted to DST for funding in the normal way under the IDP program. Technology development, already demonstrated feasible technology or prototype awaiting to be validated are desirable. **Projects, with industrial partners / collaborators, will get the priority for funding.**

The Principal Investigators should apply to by sending a 2-PAGE pre-proposal note on or **before 15th January 2012** through Email and a hard copy by post. These proposals will be short-listed and the selected ones will be called for presentation. DST / organizers will provide travel and local stay support. Necessary communications will be sent in this regard to the PIs in due course. The pre-proposal format is as follows: (1). Title of the project (2). Name and address of P.I. and co-P.I.s (full postal address, e-mail, land-line and mobile telephone contacts, FAX numbers etc.) (3). Brief statement of necessity for the instrument (4).The Design (preferably with self-explanatory schematic) (5). The roadmap for development and validation (6). Industrial partner and commercialization plan (7) Budgetary requirement anticipated (8) Duration of the project and work plan.

The recommendations/ suggestions of EAG in this Cluster of Projects meeting will help the PI's to formulate the final proposal which will further be taken up by DST for regular evaluation/ peer review and consideration of EAG before sanction.

The last date for the receipt of the 1 - 2 page proposal: 15th January 2012

The pre-proposal should be addressed to: **Dr. P.S.Tiwari**, Principal Scientist, Agricultural Mechanization Division &CPI, NAIP Sub-project on Precision Farming Technologies, Central Institute of Agricultural Engineering: Nabibagh, Berasia Road, BHOPAL-462038 (MP), INDIA: Ph.: +91-755-2521090 (O), +91-755-2481224 (R) Fax. No.: +91-755-2734016, Mob: 09713450064 email: pst@ciae.res.in, pstiwari60@yahoo.com and a copy to **Dr. Mrs. Anita Aggarwal**, Sci. D., Instrumentation Development Programme (IDP), Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan New Mehrauli Road New Delhi 110 016. Phone No. 26590343 Telefax No. 26862512 Email: anita.a@nic.in; anita_goyal@yahoo.com