

Research institutes get funding boost of Rs 422 crore

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Institutes get Rs 422 crore DBT funding boost



A major chunk of Rs 422 crore fund allocated by the major research organizations under the DBT in FY 2012-13, went to north-based research institutions or laboratories. While north received Rs 257 crore, it was Rs 128 crore and Rs 37 crore for south- and west-based institutes respectively.

In Punjab, the National Agri Food Biotechnology Institution and Bioprocessing Unit, Mohali was given Rs 28 crore. The West Bengal-based National Institute of Biomedical Genomics (NIBMG), Kalyani was allocated Rs 28 crore. While the National Institute of Immunology (NII), New Delhi was allocated Rs 25 crore, the National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR) also located at New Delhi got Rs 36 crore.

In the state of Haryana, Rs 27 crore was allocated to National Brain Research Centre (NBRC), Manesar, while The Translational Health Science & Technology Institute (THSTI) Faridabad received Rs 34 crore and the UNESCO Regional Centre for Education, Training and Innovation in Biotechnology, Faridabad was given Rs 34 crore during the current fiscal year.

The only organization to receive funding in north-east was the Institute of Bioresources and Sustainable Development (IBSD), Imphal, Manipur. The institute received Rs 15 crore. The Institute of Life Sciences (ILS), Bhubaneswar in Orissa was allocated Rs 30 crore.

DBT, which is the nodal agency for promoting biotechnology in the country, has been spending around RS 1,400 crore each year, to support R&D and innovation. The provision for DBT in 2012-13 is Rs 1,485 crore and nearly 40 percent of this will be devoted to research and development.

Down south, the total funding amount was almost equally distributed among various institutes. In Andhra Pradesh, DBT

allocated Rs 40 crore to the Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagnostics (CDFC), Hyderabad. The Hyderabad- based National Institute of Animal Biotechnology got Rs 15 crore. Rs 28 crore was granted to Karnataka-based Institute for Stem Cell Science and Regenerative Medicines, Bangalore whereas, Kerala-based Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology (RGCB), Thiruvananthapuram was allocated Rs 25 crore.

The only DBT institute to receive Rs37 crore funding in western region was the National Centre for Cell Sciences (NCCS), Pune, Maharashtra.

As per information revealed by the Union Minister of Science and Technology, Mr S Jaipal Reddy in parliament on April 22, 2013, the DBT funded a total of 14 research organizations across India. "Generally there is a time lag in utilization of the allocated funds by the research institutions. Unspent balance in a particular financial year is adjusted while releasing the grant-in-aid for the next financial year," mentioned Mr Reddy.