



Department of  
Biotechnology,  
Government of India



**Biotechnology Industry Research  
Assistance Council**  
(A Government of India Enterprise)

**BILL & MELINDA  
GATES foundation**



# Grand Challenges



## ACHIEVING HEALTHY GROWTH THROUGH AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION

### A GRAND CHALLENGES INDIA GRANT OPPORTUNITY

**Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Government of India Enterprise (Section-25 "Not-for-Profit Company") is announcing the first Grand Challenge India Funding Opportunity with support from Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Govt. of India and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF). This collaboration is for mission-directed support for Agriculture and Nutrition Research & Innovation that could dramatically change the health and development landscape in India and other countries facing similar challenges.**

#### WHO CAN APPLY :

We seek **Expression of Interest** from Indian Researchers / Innovators / Entrepreneurs / Indian Entities such as Academia, Research Institutions, National Laboratories, Medical Institutions, For-Profit Companies, Not-for-Profit Organizations and Foundations. Grants will be given to Indian researchers and innovators but we encourage and support partnerships with researchers in other countries, especially where the opportunity exists to build on established collaborations or developing consortium. The detailed guidelines about **Request for Proposal** on the Agriculture and Nutrition Research & Innovation Program are available at [www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in)

Poverty, nutritional deficiencies, inadequate feeding practices and low socio-economic status of women are among many important factors contributing to alarming health crisis. The goal of this program is to fund a portfolio of Indian-led pilot projects that seek to develop special interventions to reduce the high incidence of low birth weight, early stunting and wasting among Indian infants. A comprehensive set of approaches will be supported spanning multiple fields of innovation to target under nutrition in women of reproductive age and in young children thereby reducing perpetuation of the inter-generational cycle of malnutrition. By capturing diverse types of innovative interventions, this initiative aims at empower-ing women to establish their socio-economic status through improved agriculture and social practices as well as to improve health and nutritional status of young children, adolescent girls and women of reproductive age. Those research projects will be supported in this program that target the relationship between agriculture, nutrition and health.

#### HOW TO APPLY :

Interested applicants can submit a **Letter of Intent (LOI) online** at [www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in) latest by **31<sup>st</sup> October, 2013**. For further information please contact **Dr. Jyoti Shukla**, Manager (*Technical Discovery & Product Development*), BIRAC, **E-mail: [jshukla.birac@nic.in](mailto:jshukla.birac@nic.in), [swarup@dbt.nic.in](mailto:swarup@dbt.nic.in)**