



**DEPARTMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY  
MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
Block-2, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003**

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS ON APPLICATION OF  
MODERN BIOTECHNOLOGICAL TOOLS IN CROP IMPROVEMENT**

Plant biotechnology in tune with information technology, encompasses plant molecular biology and genetic engineering, is a fast emerging science with wide applicability as proven by many success stories. The spectacular achievements in crop improvement through classical plant breeding in meeting the agricultural needs of the growing population has reached a plateau and is greatly limited by the available intra-species variability. Augmenting plant breeding with the cutting edge biotechnological tools is expected to alleviate this limitation. This assumes greater importance in the present scenario, where intensive agricultural practices followed over the years has shown fatigue causing adverse effects on sustainability and ecological balance. Yet, the demand for increased agricultural output is higher and the present agricultural growth falls short of the requirement. Biotechnology and genetic engineering of plants is expected to play a crucial role in this endeavour. In an effort aimed at promoting the application of modern biotechnological tools to crop improvement, the Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India is inviting research Concept Notes from Universities, Public and Private Research Institutes and Non-profit Organizations in the country for funding. In particular, Concept Notes giving a brief outline of the projects aimed at the enhancement of productivity of pulses, oilseeds, fibre and fodder crops through biotechnological approaches will be considered. Priority will be given to the projects leading to product delivery. Concept notes on improving the nutritional quality of food and forage crops will also be considered. Proposals on minor crops with nutritional and market value may also be submitted. Scientists working in research areas such as isolation of novel genes of agricultural importance, development of transformation protocols and transgenic crops for the expression of desired traits, utilization of RNAi technology, marker-aided selection and nanotechnology in crop improvement, are invited to submit the Concept Notes. Those having expertise in the respective areas as evident from the publications in high impact factor journals in the past three years may apply. The Concept Notes not more than 5–7 pages, should address major problems currently limiting productivity and or quality of the aforementioned priority crops and include strategies to achieve the goals within three to five years.

Desirous persons/organizations fulfilling the criteria may submit **15 copies** of the Concept Notes duly signed and forwarded by the competent authorities by **29 February 2008** to **Dr R. R. Sinha, Adviser, Department of Biotechnology, Block-2, 6th Floor, CGO Complex, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110 003** for consideration. Concept Notes having high scientific merit as indicated by the scientific scrutiny of DBT will be shortlisted for further development into full proposals. The Department of Biotechnology encourages joint proposals from persons with proven research capabilities and involving multiple institutions with clear complementation of activities.