

## **DISTINGUISHED BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH PROFESSORSHIP AWARD SCHEME**

Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science and Technology initiated the scheme “Distinguished Biotechnology Research Professorship Scheme” in 2008-09 to recognise eminent scientists who have made outstanding contribution in Biological Sciences and have superannuated. The Scheme is to honour those eminent scientists having recognition of the highest kind and who are still contributing scientifically and remain active in the country’s forum. ‘Distinguished Biotechnology Research Professorship Scheme’ facilitates these eminent Indian Scientists to continue to make outstanding contributions to Science.

### **The scheme:**

In order to utilize the expertise of active superannuated scientists who have made outstanding research contributions in biotechnology and related fields, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) has instituted a scheme known as *Distinguished Biotechnology Research Professorship Award Scheme* and such Professor will be designated as, DBT Distinguished Research Professor.

### **Objectives:**

The main aim of the scheme is to utilize the expertise of superannuated scientists, who are scientifically active and capable of making significant research contributions in biological sciences, biotechnology and related fields promoted by DBT. The Professorship will provide recognition to a person who has made outstanding scientific research contributions and is still able to extend his expertise and services for advancement in the Biotechnology related fields. The Scheme will enable him/her to continue to contribute to the subject of his/her choice and thus remain active in the country’s forum of senior eminent scientists of Biotechnology field. The DBT Distinguished Research Professorship may continue to work in his/her own institution or in any other suitable institution within India.

### **Eligibility:**

The awardee should be a distinguished Indian scientist in Biotechnology or related fields. He/She should be truly outstanding and continue to publish research work of very high standard. He/She should be a fellow of at least one of the following National Academies:

- a) Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore
- b) National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad
- c) Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi
- d) National Academy of Agricultural Sciences

**Number:**

Total number of awards shall not exceed five at any given time. Fresh selection will be made only against vacancies.

**Duration:**

The tenure of the Distinguished Biotechnologist Award would be for a period of *three years* extendable for further two years based on the review of work undertaken by the scientist in the first three years. Thus, the tenure of the award would be for a maximum period of five years, or till the awardee attains the age of 70 years, whichever is earlier.

**Details of the Award:**

Each Distinguished Biotechnologist will receive award money @Rs. 60,000/- per month. In addition, a contingency grant of Rs. 50,000 per annum would be provided for meeting expenditure of the awardee on secretarial assistance, telephone, domestic travel, stationery etc.

The scientist would also be given a grant (not exceeding Rs. 20 lakhs) for implementing a research project proposed by him/her for the period of 5 years. The project may be for bench level research, policy research relating to biotechnology, education, innovation within relevant areas for providing mentorship/leadership to a young group working in area of biotechnology.

**Mode of selection:****i) Nomination**

The nomination/ application for the award should be sent through a host institution interested in utilizing the services and expertise of the scientist. The institution should certify to the effect that the scientist would be provided necessary facilities required for carrying out the proposed research/policy activity under the Distinguished Biotechnologist Award of DBT. Five copies of the nomination/application should be submitted in the prescribed proforma. Application/Nominations for award of Distinguished Biotechnologist Award will be received throughout the year.

**ii) Selection procedure**

A Standing Committee comprising Experts in the field of Life Sciences and Biotechnology is constituted by DBT for the evaluation of the nominations/application received. This Expert Committee will meet and recommend suitable scientists for the Distinguished Biotechnologist Awards. The Committee would normally meet once a year or whenever the need arises.

**Other terms and conditions:**

- i) The award offer will remain valid for one year from the date on which the offer is made by DBT or for year from the date on which the Professorship falls vacant, whichever is later.
- ii) The award will be given only for working in any recognized research/academic institution in India.
- iii) All the grants pertaining to the award will be released through the host institution which shall be entrusted with the accountability of the grant. The institution shall submit Utilization certificate/Statement of Expenditure for the grants released by DBT.
- iv) Progress report on the project work done shall be submitted to DBT at the end of each financial year along with the statement of Expenditure and Utilization Certificate for release of grant for the next year.
- v) The DBT Distinguished Professor shall not receive any assistance for the same work from any other source unless pre-decided for partnership/sharing at the time of sanction of the project.
- vi) The DBT distinguished Professor will devote his whole time to the project for which financial assistance is provided and he will not accept any other regular or part time remunerative job during his tenure as such Professorship.
- vii) He/she will also be invited to deliver a talk during one of the DBT meetings after completion of his/her tenure as DBT Distinguished Research Professor.
- viii) All patents, rights, designs and inventions derived from the research work financed or aided by the Department shall belong to the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) or its nominee. DBT may, at its retained by or given to the Professor/host institutions.
- ix) At the completion of the term of the Award, a comprehensive work report should be submitted.
- x) The awardee would be entitled to 30 days leave each year.
- xi) At the completion of the term, the awardee shall hand over all permanent assets purchased through the funds received under the scheme to the institution where work was undertaken, or any other institution as may be decided by DBT.
- xii) The progress of the work shall be monitored by a Committee of experts to be appointed by DBT.
- xiii) The above terms and conditions may be revised or amended by the DBT as and when found necessary.