

EU looks to CSIR for Strategic Partnerships in Biotechnology under the FP7

7 November 2006

A 4 member delegation from the European Commission (EC) visited the CSIR, New Delhi on 07 November 2006 to hold discussions with the International Division (ISTAD) of CSIR to evolve a strategy for enhancing the competitiveness of the European Union by striking strategic alliances with CSIR's numerous centres of excellence in such key areas as of global relevance and import as health , biotechnology, energy, environment and nanotechnology under its prestigious 7th framework Programme (FP7) scheduled to be launched sometime during January 2007. A corpus of approx. 55billion euros has been earmarked for the FP7 programme. The following attended the meeting

European Commission

Dr. Christian Petermann, Director for Biotechnology, Agriculture & Food
Dr. Eliza Betta Balzi , Coordinator
Dr. Andrews Sorros, Minister, Counsellor (S&T), India
Dr. Indraneel Ghosh, Advisor, New Delhi

CSIR

Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Head, ISTAD
Sh. B.K.Ramaprasad, Scientist, ISTAD
Dr. U.S.Tandon, Scientist, ISTAD
Sh. A. K Chakraborty, Scientist, ISTAD

Head, ISTAD guided the technical discussions on areas of mutual interest. During the wide ranging discussions that followed the powerpoint presentations by the two sides, it was mutually agreed to launch, as quickly as possible, new initiatives for cooperation in the areas of food quality and safety, biofuels and allergy to begin with and later widen the scope of cooperation. Dr. Petermann observed that the EU has several centres of excellence across Europe, one of which is in the area of allergy. He expressed his keenness to partner CSIR for carrying out innovative research in the area of allergy for which a sum of 13 billion euros has already been set aside.

Contd.

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New Delhi 110006*

The overarching objective of the ambitious FP7 programme is to promote sustainable development concomitant with setting newer benchmarks of excellence in research and development in areas that have a direct bearing on the quality of human life. Against this backdrop, the European Union, a consortium of 25 highly developed and progressive nations is scouting for potential R&D partners across the globe in its quest for establishing global excellence in the following nine theme areas:

- Food, Agriculture & Biotechnology
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Nanosciences, nanotechnologies & new Production Technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including climate change)
- Transport(including Aeronautics)
- Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities
- Security and Space

Dr. Petermann invited the scientists of CSIR to join the numerous technology platforms of the EU and strengthen the collaboration. Both sides agreed to initiate necessary steps at their ends to set the ball rolling.

Further information on the FP7 programme is available on the European Union's website: www.europa.eu. Queries in this regard can also be forwarded to istad@csir.res.in.

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