

CSIR-CFTRI to Tie-up with Govt. of Karnataka for establishing a Nutra-Phyto Incubation Centre



Prof. Ram Rajasekharan, Director, CSIR-CFTRI exchanging the MoA Document with Ms. Tanusree Deb Barma, IAS, Director, Dept. of IT, BT and S&T and MD, KBITS, Govt. of Karnataka

CSIR-CFTRI, Mysore, signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Karnataka Biotechnology & Information Technology Services (KBITS), Dept. of IT, BT and S&T, Govt. of Karnataka for establishing a Nutra-Phyto Incubation Centre and Common Instrumentation Facility (NPIC_CIF) in the project mode at its campus for the betterment of Industries in the areas of nutraceuticals and functional foods.

The proposed facility would facilitate discovery and development of new products/innovative technologies by establishing world-class laboratories, Pilot Plant facilities, analytical testing and safety studies for promoting entrepreneurs, SHGs and SMEs. The facility would be also made available to farmers for primary and secondary processing of agri-produce for value addition.

The major objectives of the centre are:

- Focused research initiatives for functional nutraceuticals
- Facilitate incubation facility for entrepreneurs
- Provide testing and safety evaluation studies

- Promote SMEs
- Catalyse employment generation

The NPIC_CIF would be transformed as a world-class hub to catalyse research and innovations in the area of nutraceuticals to support the growth of wellness industry in Karnataka. Importance and role of food in maintaining wellness of the body are well established and there is a huge potential for nutraceuticals the world over. Since food alone is unable to meet all the nutritional needs of the body, supplementation with non-nutrients such as antioxidants, prebiotics and probiotics is resorted to. Besides, the ability of many nutraceuticals to influence chronic diseases is also considered as a great opportunity for treatment.

Presently, in the world market India's share is less than 1%. A large number of nutraceuticals are imported at a high cost. There is also concern about unproven health claims and benefits of these products. The proposed centre is expected to facilitate the entry of traditional and non-traditional nutraceuticals into the global market with proven scientific evidence.

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