

## Press Release

### **Inauguration of National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute – Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (NABI-CIAB) Campus by Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India**

**6<sup>th</sup> August, 2017**

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Hon'ble Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences inaugurated the new Administrative and Research Buildings of two national institutes under the administrative control of Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India namely National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) and Center of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB) in Mohali, Punjab on 6<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Prof. VijayRaghavan, Secretary, DBT, and other senior DBT officials were also present on this occasion.

NABI is the first Agri-Food and Nutritional based Biotechnology Institute, which has been set up by the Dept. of Biotechnology in the Knowledge City, Sector -81, Mohali. CIAB has been set up adjacent to NABI and is the first institute dedicated to generation of secondary agriculture bioproducts through value addition to unutilized and underutilized biomass. Both the institutes are part of agri-food cluster in the Knowledge City, Mohali along with its neighboring institutes, like; IISER, ISB, INST and Biotech Park. The campus comprises of laboratory buildings, 15 acres of land for field experiments, a large glass house, transgenic net houses, office area, housing, guest house, research scholar hostel, utilities and other requisite services. Total entire area of the campus is 50 acres. The building complex of CIAB has a total floor space of 77000 square feet built at a cost of Rs Forty three crores whereas NABI has a total floor space of 3,17,500 square feet built at a cost of Rs one hundred and thirty five crores.

The institutes apart from providing quality research in the field of agricultural biotechnology and bio processing also provide innovative technologies in the field of food processing.. Under reach to community program NABI is playing an important role in conducting motivational course to the students of local schools to increase their awareness in life sciences. Their products of nutritionally rich crops and processing of crop residues in useful products will be provided to the local farming communities to increase their income. The industry ready specialized products like high anthocyanin have already been taken by local industries under specific MOU. They are acting as nodal agencies for local organization in the areas Agri food and nutritional biotechnology.

Following the inauguration, the Hon'ble Minister expressed his pleasure in dedicating both the institutes to the nation, and emphasized the need for quantitative output that can reach common man in a form that can be easily perceived. He encouraged scientists/students to exploit the biotechnological tools to address the problems related to quality of food and malnutrition. Hon'ble Minister urged both the institutes to address the problems of hunger & malnutrition and to

bring nutritional revolution in the country. Dr. Harsh Vardhan also said that young researchers and students should aim big and work hard to achieve their goals.

While interacting with the faculty, Dr. Harsh Vardhan emphasized the need for doing new innovations that have an immediate societal impact with the common man as the target. He counseled researchers to shift from routine to out of the box thinking and to dream big to translate their efforts to greater innovations. He also said there should be a method for scientists to work to set timeframes to achieve their targets. He also planted one tree each in lawn area of both the campuses and was very appreciative of the overall development of the institute.

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