



Event Report on Roadshow held at CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Assam

Event Topic: Brewing Bio-entrepreneurship in Jorhat

Date: 29th July 2019 **Time:** 14:30-18:30 **Venue:** CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, Assam

Participants: The audience comprised of Scientists, Post-doctorate students and Doctorate students of CSIR-NEIST and other neighboring institutes. Almost 120 people participated.

Speakers:

- Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Director, CSIR-IHBT
- Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO, KIIT-TBI
- Dr. G.N. Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST
- Dr. KSMS Raghava Rao, Director, CFTRI
- Dr. Jatin Kalita, Head-Research Planning & BD Division, NEIST
- Mr. Rajeev Aiyappa, Partner, Plataforma Capital, Singapore
- Mr. Subhas Bhattacharjee, Retd. MD, NERMAC
- Dr. Devendra Biswal, Senior Information Officer, Bioinformatics Centre, NEHU
- Dr. Priyangshu Sharma, Co-Founder, Innotech Intervention Pvt Ltd

Agenda:

- 1430-1445h Opening Address**
Dr. Shekhar Mande, DG, CSIR
- 1445-1515h About BRTC & BIRAC support schemes**
Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO, KIIT-TBI
- 1515-1525h Identifying problem statement**
Dr. G. Narahari Sastry, Director, NEIST-Jorhat
- 1525-1555h Opportunities in the area of Food, Agri, Health & Nutrition**
Dr. KSMS Raghava Rao, Director, CFTRI, Mysore
- 1555-1605h CSIR-NEIST Technologies in Agri, Food and allied areas**
Dr. Jatin Kalita, Head, Research Planning & Business Development Divn.
- 1605-1635h Investment Opportunities in the sector of Agri & Food**
Mr. Rajeev Aiyappa, Partner, Plataforma Capital, Singapore
- 1635-1645h Remarks by Mr. Subhas Bhattacharjee, Retd. MD, NERMAC**
- 1645-1655h Remarks by Dr. Devendra Biswal, Co-Coordinator cum**

1655-1710h Leveraging BIG Grant Scheme

Dr. Priyanshu Sharma, Co-Founder, Innotech Intervention Pvt. Ltd.

Outlines:

- Dr. G.N. Sastry, Director, CSIR-NEIST welcomed and introduced the dignitaries to the crowd followed by a short felicitation ceremony.
- The first speaker, Dr. Sanjay Kumar spoke about the different technologies that are developed at CSIR-IHBT and what they can offer to the North East entrepreneurs. He also emphasized on the scopes of entrepreneurial career related to those technologies.
- Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar started his talk mentioning about BIRAC and its activities in promoting biotech startups in the country. He also elaborated about KIIT-TBI and how KIIT-TBI is promoting an entrepreneurial ecosystem in the Country. He also spoke about BRTC and its mandates and introduced different funding schemes of BIRAC to the audience. He encouraged the young minds to think beyond and start their entrepreneurial career and provided several examples of budding entrepreneurs.
- Dr. G.N. Sastry initially spoke about CSIR-NEIST and the technologies they are harboring in their institute. He also drove the young minds of his institute towards making a career in the rising entrepreneurial and startup ecosystem. In his talk he also promised to setup an incubator at CSIR-NEIST with funding from BIRAC, DST, DBT, etc. and in collaboration with CFTRI, IBSD and KIIT-TBI as mentor incubator.
- Dr. KSMS Raghava Rao spoke about CFTRI and technologies developed at CFTRI. He named few technologies which can give a bright start to the budding entrepreneurs in North east regions. He also encouraged the research students and scientists to take risk in a smarter way to achieve a bigger goal.
- Mr. Rajeev Aiyappa introduced Plataforma Capitals to the audience and explained how they work towards promoting the startup ecosystem. In his talk, he included few journeys of startup companies from the scratch and how they help them to stand in the commercial market. He ended his talk mentioning how important the mentorship is in the entrepreneurship career.
- Dr. Jatin Kalita spoke about different technologies that CSIR-NEIST is developing and he listed out the different products that are commercialized by CSIR-NEIST.
- Mr. Subhas Bhattacharjee and Dr. Devendra Biswal spoke about the different resources and opportunities available in Northeast. They also figured out few recent developments in IP in Northeast. Also, they gave suggestions on how to create basic research into a translational model.
- Dr. Priyanshu Sharma spoke about his entrepreneurship career. He also gave a brief idea about how he leveraged BIRAC-BIG grant and build his enterprise. He also mentioned how to prepare for BIG effectively.
- Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar gave away the vote of thanks to CSIR-NEIST for hosting the roadshow and assured that he and his team will help in every possible way to uplift the North-eastern states in the entrepreneurial ecosystem.
- The talks were followed by a long and interesting interactive session between all the dignitaries and the audience. Five of the research students enrolled in different areas of research came up with brilliant ideas which were again mentored by the experts present there and guided them to apply for different schemes of BIRAC and other funding agencies.

- A closed-door meeting was organized where all the dignitaries and scientists of NEIST discussed about how to uplift Northeast in the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar elaborated about special call of BIRAC-BIG which will be exclusively for Northeastern states. A plan was developed to sign an agreement to setup a Bioincubator in CSIR-NEIST in collaboration with Technology partners CFTRI & IBSD and KIIT-TBI as the mentor incubator.

Outcomes:

- A 10,000 sq ft. incubator to be setup within next year at CSIR-NEIST in collaboration with CFTRI, IBSD and KIIT-TBI as the mentor incubator.
- 10 interested BIRAC-BIG applicants including research scholars and scientists to come up in the 15th BIG Call



Bio-entrepreneurship roadshow held at CSIR-NEIST

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JORHAT, Aug 1: A roadshow was organised at CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, on "Brewing Bio-entrepreneurship".

The event was organised by CSIR-NEIST in association with the eastern region team of Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and KIIT Technology Business Incubator, Bhubaneswar, at NEIST on the outskirts of Pulibor here on July 29.

A press note issued by CSIR-NEIST stated that the programme aimed to spread awareness about various support schemes of BIRAC and mentor the budding students, innovators, researchers in developing entrepreneurship skills, particularly in the field of biotechnology and allied areas.

The event comprised a series of lectures and interactive discussions among the experts and participants.

CSIR-NEIST director Dr GN Sastry welcomed the participants and presented an overview of the institute and its focus areas for research, such as herbal formulations and environmental care.

The director mentioned that agriculture, food and nutrition were other areas where CSIR-NEIST was actively working. He explained the multi-disciplinary approaches, including chemistry, biology, engineering and data sciences, which have been aligned under the umbrella of herbal formulations and environmental care.

Dr Mrutyunjay Suar, CEO of KIIT Technology Business Incubator (TBI), highlighted the activities of KIIT-TBI and various nuances of starting start-ups in an Indian ecosystem.

An interactive session was later held in which the expert team answered various queries posed by the participants, encouraged their ideas and also suggested the way forward to draft proposals under different schemes.

The next day, a close interaction was held among the expert team, students and scientists. Over 100 student innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs from Jorhat and nearby districts besides the CSIR-NEIST fraternity attended the programme.