



II-G. Technology Information Facilitation Programme

1. PREAMBLE

Technology Information and Facilitation Programme (TIFP) has the broad objective of generating endogenous capacities for the development and utilization of digital information resources to facilitate accelerated S&T research. It endeavours to ensure that Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) are fruitfully used in all the sectors of development and facilitates collaborative research among industries and institutions. The scheme is being implemented as a co-operative and collaborative venture and built around existing infrastructure, wherever possible. The strategy concentrates in facilitation of Indian content on S&T, avoids duplication of efforts, allows minimum overlapping and maximum utilization of existing facilities.

2. OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the programme are designed to:

- Develop appropriate endogenous information capacities to support R&D activities;
- Support the production of local content and to promote capturing of indigenous knowledge base;
- Promote information and knowledge networking at local, regional and national levels to facilitate flow and sharing of information resources;
- Support education, training and R&D in digital content development and utilization;
- Promote national and international cooperation in related areas.

The critical areas of focus during Eleventh Plan under the programme has been on content development and delivery of nationally available science and technology information and improving the technical competency of persons involved in information handling and delivery.

3. ACHIEVEMENTS

The specific achievements of the programme during the period of report are:

3.1 Promotion of Content Development

Preparation of Database on Metallo-pharmaceuticals

The project of CSIR Unit of Research and Development of Information Products (URDIP), Pune focuses on research that bridges the areas of inorganic chemistry and medicine. A user-friendly database was designed to search via a metal name and can provide list of all medical conditions where the metal is used for treatment with the complete metal profile covering details like modern metallo-complex medicines and traditional uses of the metal in the form of bhasmas, various stages in preparation, medicinal properties, dosage, and in-vitro, in- vivo, clinical trials and toxicity studies of metals. The project has been completed.

Floral potential of J&K State: Survey and Documentation

The proposal from Department of Library and Information Sciences, The University of Kashmir, Srinagar, J&K aims:



- To survey flora of the state having medicinal, aromatic and economic values from both secondary and primary sources,
- To create digital products/objects embedded with rich information content of indigenous knowledge and linkage for national and international content,
- To host the database on the server for the use of entrepreneurs, researchers, etc. and
- To populate data on continual basis from the state. The project is under progress.

Indian Wood Insect Database - a Database on diversity of indigenous and exotic wood insects/pests in India

The proposal on Indian Wood Insect Database- a Database on diversity of indigenous and exotic wood insects/pests in India from Institute of Wood Science and Technology, Bengaluru aims to make an illustrated database of Indian wood insects, tree species wise by collecting information from all available records and insect specimen collections/museums in different institutions of India and add new information by assessing the current status of diversity of wood inhabiting insects in indigenous and exotic trees and their timber and timber products. The project has been completed

Development of Decision Support software System for Cereals, Millets, Pulses and Tuber crops and establishment of an Agricultural Digital Information centre

The proposal from College of Agriculture, Vellaveni, Trivandrum aims to develop a Decision Support System for identified Cereals and millets namely Wheat, Maize and Sorghum incorporating relevant aspects like Crop Protection System, Fertilizer Recommendation System, Cultivation practices, Water Management System and Implement Selection with visuals, multimedia and other features; to develop a Decision Support System for Pulses namely Soybean, black gram, green gram, red gram incorporating relevant aspects like Crop Protection System, Fertilizer Recommendation System, Cultivation practices, Water Management System and Implement Selection with visuals, multimedia and other features; to develop a Decision Support System for Tuber crops namely tapioca, sweet potato,

colocasia incorporating relevant aspects like Crop Protection System, Fertilizer Recommendation System, Cultivation practices, Water Management System and Implement Selection with visuals, multimedia and other features; to extend training of the package to agricultural scientists and agricultural extension workers and to give sufficient copy of the software, and launching a downloadable and sample version of the software in the Internet; and to establish a Agricultural Digital Information centre cum Agri-Kiosk. The project is under progress.

3.2 National Websites/Servers

Science and Technology Portal

The portal developed by CSIR Unit of Research and Development of Information Products (URDIP), Pune is a single show case window on Indian Science and Technology. Basically it covers information on public and private S&T infrastructure, expertise and facilities available with these institutions, associated educational, government and private organizations and their activities. The top categories include: Agriculture, Archaeology, Astronomy, Atomic Energy, Aviation and Aeronautics, and Biotechnology etc. Portal provides option for online homepage creation to its users, gives a single point access to information about S&T events, and provides facility of Newsletter subscription. A search engine has been provided which helps user to search desired information based on a keyword. The portal is hosted at <http://www.anusandhan.net> and is updated regularly with information on all branches of Science and Technology.

Industrial R&D in India: A Web Portal

Support has been provided Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad for the creation of a Web Portal on Industrial R&D in India. The objectives were i) to capture, analyze and disseminate news, views and also statistical information on industrial R&D units in India; ii) to elicit opinions through interviews of the opinion makers on the topic and highlight the issues; iii) to write features analyzing the industrial R&D trends, and iv) to disseminate information through online newsletter. A web portal, <http://www.rndindia.info>

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has been developed. The project has been successfully completed.

Online Directory of Indian Academic and Research Establishments

Support has been provided to National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), Bengaluru to develop a Directory of Academic and R&D set-ups in India especially in the area of Science and Technology to provide fast, reliable and free access. The project is under progress.

Enterprise Performance Improvement through Integrated Management Systems

The project of the CDC, New Delhi aims to establish a web portal on Enterprise Performance Improvement through Integrated Management Systems to guide users and stakeholders enhance productivity and profitability. The project is nearing completion.

Developing a User-centered Website on Sugarcane Production Technologies

The project from Sugarcane Breeding Institute, Coimbatore aims to analyze the information-needs of the intended users of the website on sugarcane production technologies; to develop web content on sugarcane technologies based on 'needs analysis; and to design and develop an easily navigable, user-friendly cane information website for the intended audience. The project is nearing completion.

3.3 Documentation of Traditional Knowledge and Folk Wisdom

Development of a Portal and Kiosk of Goldsmith's skill towards enhancement of entrepreneurship abilities among unemployed youth

The proposal from National Institute of Technology, Durgapur aims to develop a Portal and Kiosk of Goldsmith's skill towards enhancement of entrepreneurship abilities among unemployed youth. The objectives of the project are:

- To develop an archive of specialized diminishing rural skills of gold smiths in text, video, audio and animation format,
- To create a database of cosmetic jewelries for transferring the knowledge of design of such jewelries to unemployed youth,
- To create a portal for helping the Gold smith Industry, and
- To train the unemployed youth and engineering students by using the archive and collection of large cosmetic jewelries at local centre as well as in technical Institutes.

A Portal in Bengali and English language will be created by using the archive, database of digitized 3D view of cosmetic jewelries and collection of cosmetic jewelries for global as well as local use. The portal is accessible at <http://www.nitdgp.ac.in/tifp/>.

Folk Wisdom of West Bengal

The proposal from CALIBNET Society, Kolkata aims to explore oral traditions, folk rituals and folk wisdom in West Bengal. The special areas of concentration would inter alia include Health practices, human and domestic animals, folk medicine and medicinal plants. Through this project a database has been created. The database contains information about 326 medicinal plants, 543 diseases with respected medicinal plants to cure, 87 practitioners of traditional folk medicines of West Bengal. The project has been successfully completed.

Application of ICTs in Agricultural Extension Services Provision and its Impact on the Tribal Farmers of Arunachal Pradesh State of North-East India

The proposal from College of Horticulture and Forestry, Central Agricultural University, Pasighat aims to assess the agricultural information needs of tribal farmers; to experiment ICTs in agricultural extension services provision to the tribal farmers; and to assess the impact of ICTs in improved agricultural extension services provision to the tribal farmers. The project (e-Arik) has been awarded the 'Best e-government project special jury award' by the Computer Society of India (CSI)



– Nihilent e-Governance Awards for the year 2007-08. The project is under progress.

Development of a Multimedia Database of Traditional Knowledge in Andhra Pradesh

The proposal from Institute of Defence Scientists and Technologists, Delhi aims to provide a Web-enabled multimedia Database of Traditional Knowledge Existing in Andhra Pradesh so that it can be made widely available on Internet. Through this project total 243 persons from 11 districts of Andhra Pradesh were interviewed. The interviews on traditional knowledge on local health care were recorded. The information is also available on English version. A total of 450 plants species were collected. The project has been completed.

3.4 Electronic Publishing of Selected Indian S&T Materials

E-publishing of the Journal of Tropical Agriculture

The proposal from College of Forestry, Kerala Agricultural University, Thrissur aims to publish electronically its Journal of Tropical Agriculture. The journals is accessible from <http://www.jtropag.in>

3.5 Open Archives Initiative

Establishing MOLTABLE- An Open Access initiative for Molecular Informatics

The proposal from National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune aims to establish a web portal entitled MOLTABLE as an open access initiative to facilitate access to molecular data along with computed data. Established MOLTABLE – An Open Access initiative for Molecular Informatics (<http://moltable.ncl.rec.in>) information on 12 million molecules is available on this portal. The project has been completed

Development of Open Access Information (OAI) based Institutional Research Repository Services in India

The project on Development of OAI-Based Institutional Research Repository Services in India was awarded to National Centre for Science Information (NCSI), Indian Institute of Science,

Bengaluru. The broad objective of the project is to facilitate improved access, visibility and impact of Indian science research output through establishment of a network of inter-operable, open access digital research repositories and related services in the country. The project aims to:

- Provide technical support to R&D organizations and universities in the country to set up their open access institutional research repositories,
- Establish a national cross-repository search service by aggregating content from distributed OAI-compliant repositories, and
- Provide solution and support for legacy non-OAI compliant repositories to become OAI compliant. The project has been completed.

Developing an Institutional Repository of Science and Technology

The objective of the project of Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi is to develop an Institutional Repository in Cochin University of Science and Technology. The collection of this digital repository may include preprints and post prints of researchers of the department, technical reports, theses and dissertations, teaching and learning materials. This can also be utilized for e-publishing of the findings by the faculty and research scholars. A web portal: www.dyuthi.cusat.ac.in has been developed on *D-space* open source software which contains PhD thesis, working papers, conference proceedings, pre prints, etc. published in Cochin University of Science and Technology, Kochi. The project has been completed.

3.6 Surveys and R&D Studies

Archiving Ethnomedicinal Knowledge and Local Health Care Systems (LHCS) through Modern Electronic Gadgets: An Explorative Study

The project of Department of Human Development, Home Science College and Research Institute, Tamilnadu Agricultural University, Madurai aims:

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- To list the existing ethno medicinal practices (medicinal plants) and Local Health Care Systems followed by the remote villagers, tribal and nomads,
- To enumerate and document the practices with the help of modern electronic gadgets,
- To explore the scientific rationale behind the documented practices,
- To assess and compare with the modern scientific technique with the help of public private partnership, and
- To preserve the practices through multimedia based protocol for the benefit of scientific community, industrialists and others.

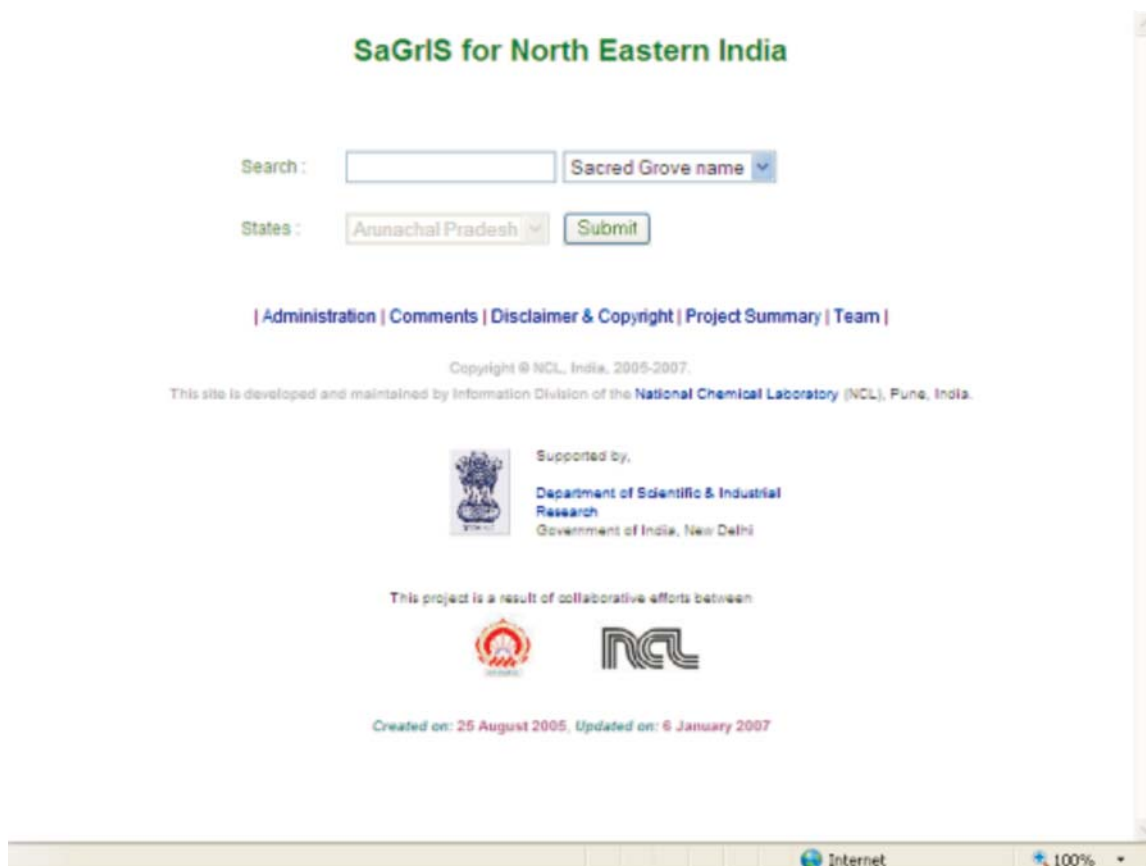
Through this project information on 78 ethno medicinal practices and 271 treatments, 10 general medicines and 34 home medicines were collected and documented. A software is prepared to retrieve this information. The project has been completed.

3.7 Education and Training

Web based Interactive Multimedia Training Programme on Digitization and Digital Libraries

IGNOU, New Delhi has been awarded the project to develop a Web based interactive multimedia training programme on Digitization and Digital libraries. The focus of the project is:

- To provide facilities for learning the process of digitization, developing digital libraries and knowledge repositories using open source software like Greenstone Digital Library, D-space,
- To facilitate self learning through multimedia courseware, and
- To stimulate learning through online interaction with experts and peer groups. The project is nearing completion.



<http://www.ncbi.org.in/sagris-northeast/>



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TERI with support from Technology Information Facilitation Programme of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, initiated a project, titled 'Design and Development of On-line Database on Mycorrhiza. The objective is to promote research among scientists, mycorrhizologists, students, more

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