

AWARENESS & SENSITIZATION PROGRAM ON “FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACADEMIA FROM BIRAC & FACILITATION AVAILABLE FROM BIONEST FACILITY, NEHU, MEGHALAYA”



June 23, 2023: BIRAC’S BioNEST Bio-Incubator (B3I) Facility at North-Eastern Hill University (NEHU), Meghalaya conducted an Awareness & Sensitization Program on “Funding Opportunities for Academia from BIRAC & Facilitation available from BioNEST Facility, NEHU, Meghalaya” on June 23, 2023, at Community Hall, NEHU, Shillong with 52 participants including the Faculties and Research Scholars. MS. ALVA MARGARETH KHARKONGOR, Program Manager, B3I Facility initiated the program by outlining the aims and activities of BioNEST Facility. DR. S. MAJAW, Centre I/C, BioNEST Branch Office, NEHU, Shillong & Associate Professor, Department of Biotechnology & Bioinformatics,



NEHU, Shillong welcomed the gathering. Dr Majaw elaborated on the theme of the program and on the objectives and activities of the BioNEST Facility. PROF. NIRMALENDU SAHA, Dean, School of Life Sciences, NEHU, Shillong encouraged the participants in applying for grants from the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), a Government of India Enterprise and marked the present era as an Era of Startups and Entrepreneurship. Prof. Saha motivated the scholars to view entrepreneurship as a career option and to avail the opportunities provided by the Government of India on this front.

Later, DR. SUMAN KUMAR NANDY, Chief Executive Officer, B3I Facility, NEHU informed the audience in detail about the funds available for applicative industry-ready research, ways to avail them and facilitation available from BioNEST in drafting and executing the project. The discussion mainly revolved around the ongoing call for proposals like

Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG), and Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise (PACE). Dr. Nandy further welcomed all interested participants to a one-to-one discussion in the newly formed BioNEST Branch Office at Shillong for the finalization of the proposal. This was followed by an elaborated Q&A session where the feasibility of working in specific fields like Tissue Culture; the prospect of carrying forward the doctoral research into entrepreneurship and IP sharing were discussed. Few participants expressed their will to apply for the upcoming BIG scheme and requested detailed discussion in the application process. The program ended on a good note with an assurance of sharing all grant-related information with the prospective incubatees and prompt scheduling of one-to-one meetings from the BioNEST end.