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THE TIMES OF INDIA

Proposal for new centre on NIIST campus awaits nod

TNN | Oct 14, 2016, 10.22 AM IST



THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: The National Institute of Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST) under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has mooted setting up of a 'Centre for Phytochemicals and Ayurveda' at its campus in Pappanamcode. The proposal is awaiting central nod.

"The proposal has been submitted to CSIR. The aim of setting up such an institute is to scientifically validate and improve the efficacy of ayurvedic products. Though prepared from natural herbs and medicinal plants, scientific trials and validation can check even minimal side effects that any medication can cause," said CSIR-NIIST director Dr A Ajayaghosh. The centre will test the efficacy of phytochemicals or chemical compounds

extracted from plants before products are released.

The centre estimated to cost Rs 25 crore will take an interdisciplinary approach and work closely with other NIIST divisions including agro-processing and chemical sciences, he said.

"Once we get the nod from our parent CSIR, we will approach other funding agencies including department of science and

technology (DST) and department of ayurveda, yoga, naturopathy, unani, siddha and homeopathy (AYUSH)," he said.

M M Sreekumar, head and chief scientist of agro-processing and natural products division said technology innovation can result in cost reduction.

The proposed centre will help in quality control, technology up-gradation, modernisation and value-addition of ayurveda products.