

KERALA

NIIST seeks to forge link with industry

T. Nandakumar

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM: JANUARY 04, 2017 18:32 IST

UPDATED: JANUARY 04, 2017 18:32 IST

The National Institute for Interdisciplinary Science and Technology (NIIST), a constituent laboratory of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), is scouting for industrial partners to transfer technologies in key areas.

In a move to identify potential partners, scientists at the institute are gearing up to showcase technologies developed by them. An R&D-industry interface to be held here on Friday will provide them a platform to recognise industry needs and respond to challenges.

NIIST is looking to forge tie-ups with small and medium enterprises in select areas of expertise. These include agricultural products and nutraceuticals, advanced materials and minerals, new generation pigments and nanomaterials, environmental remediation, industrial odour control, renewable energy, Ayurvedic drugs and process control.

“Our scientists have made remarkable progress in the development of technologies for value-addition of agricultural products, municipal waste management, sewage treatment, industrial effluent control, biomass energy conversion and solar cells. The R&D- industry interface is expected to create an environment to put these technologies to use, thereby benefiting the State,” says A. Ajayaghosh, Director, NIIST.

“Traditional industries in Kerala such as cashew, coir and coconut need technological solutions for environmental issues. Similarly, sustainable utilisation of regional resources like ilmenite also requires technological assistance,” Dr. Ajayaghosh says. “NIIST can also provide critical technological support for the proposed agricultural parks in all districts.”

The interactive meet on Friday is designed to provide an arena to showcase various technologies available off the shelf and highlight those in the pipeline. Industry can enter into MoUs for technology transfer or provide inputs for tailor-made solutions.

An environment-friendly process for upgradation of ilmenite is one of the technologies to be flagged at the meet. Earlier this year, NIIST had entered into an MoU with a Tamil Nadu-based company to transfer the critical technology which involves the conversion of ilmenite to beneficiated titanium feedstock with a 70 per cent reduction in acid consumption. The pilot plant at Bellary has entered the second stage of production.

More than 80 industry representatives from Kerala and other States are expected to attend the interactive meet, along with officials from the Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, KINFRA and KSIDC. “We have plans to organise the event every alternate year,” Dr. Ajayaghosh said.

Printable version | Jan 5, 2017 2:47:54 PM |

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/NIIST-seeks-to-forge-link-with-industry/article16987698.ece>

© The Hindu