

## CALL FOR R & D PROPOSALS IN THE IGBP IDENTIFIED AREAS

The International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) launched the International Geosphere Biosphere Programme (IGBP) in 1986 with a broad objective to "describe and understand the interactive physical, chemical and biological processes that regulate the total Earth System, the unique environment that it provides for life, the changes that are occurring in this system and the manner in which they are influenced by human actions".

In India, a number of scientific departments, institutions and universities have been conducting observational, laboratory and theoretical work relevant to the goals of IGBP. During the last two years DST has been actively interacting with the relevant agencies working in these areas and felt that there is an urgent need for strengthening of R & D activities related to some of the identified areas of IGBP in a coordinated way. The scientific programmes that are interdisciplinary in nature may warrant multi-institutional collaborative approach. In view of this it is proposed to have a coordinated programme of Research in the following broad themes under the overall guidance of the Science & Engineering Research Council (SERC), an apex advisory body which has been functioning since 1974 through which the Department of Science & Technology (DST) promotes research in new emerging and frontline areas of Science & Engineering.

- i) Atmospheric chemistry
- ii) Ocean bio-geochemical processes, its influence & response to climate changes.
- iii) Landuse changes and their effects on the resources of coastal zone including anticipated sea level changes and their impact.
- iv) Vegetation interaction with physical processes of hydrologic cycle.
- v) Past global changes since 2000 years before present (including palaeoclimatology).
- vi) Effects of anticipated global changes on terrestrial ecosystems.
- vii) Analysis, interpretation and modelling in the above areas, for providing diagnostic as well as prognostic information.

Interested scientific and technological organisations, individual scientists may submit their research proposals in the DST prescribed formats which can be obtained from Dr. P. Govinda Rao, SSO-I (ESS), Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110 016. Proposals received in the said formats will be processed through the established mechanism of DST for consideration of their funding.

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P.GOVINDA RAO

### ACKNOWLEDGING HELP FROM A YOUNG SCIENTIST

Astonishingly often in history, one scientist will acclaim the ideas and help in the training of a younger man destined to unseat and overshadow him. The tradition is a venerable one. When Issac Newton was a 27 year old graduate student at Cambridge, his chief mentor Issac Benar, then only 39 himself, voluntarily resigned in Newton's favour from the chair of mathematics.

- M K Chandrasekharan  
(Curr.Sci V.64 (1993) p22)