

TEXTILE RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (TRA)

Ministry of Textiles has been providing financial support to the Textile Research Associations engaged in the work of research and development.

There are 8 TRAs engaged in the work of research and development: -

1. Ahmedabad Textile Industry's Research Association (ATIRA)
2. Bombay Textile Research Association (BTRA)
3. South India Textile Research Association (SITRA)
4. Northern India Textile Research Association (NITRA)
5. Man-Made Textiles Research Association (MANTRA)
6. Synthetic and Art Silk Mills Research Association (SASMIRA)
7. Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA)
8. Wool Research Association (WRA)

Besides these TRAs, University, Industry Associations, Government approved research centres such IITs/Government aided institutions/recognized engineering college/institutions approved by DST/DSIR etc. would be eligible to submit Project Proposals.

2. The revised scheme of R&D has been designed with three major components as under:

Component-I: Research and Development projects to be undertaken by reputed research agencies including TRAs, research laboratories, universities, industry associations, etc engaged in research in the textiles and allied sector (Total Outlay- Rs. 50 Crore).

Objectives:

- Ensure market-driven research in collaboration with the industry through encouraging contract research projects.
- Development of new products and processes.
- The area of research and development will cover basic and applied research in all areas of textiles value chain and especially in the frontier areas such as technical textiles.
- This component also envisages scaling up/commercializing developed technologies to bring innovative products/processes to the market for opening up new business opportunities in emerging technology areas.
- Commercialization of technology to ensure that the R&D efforts are targeted towards technology development that is relevant and necessary for sector and industry growth.

Component-II: Promotion of R&D in jute sector; transfer of technologies and dissemination activities in jute sector (Total Outlay-Rs. 80 Crore).

Objectives: The objectives of this component in the scheme is to

- Promote R&D efforts for increasing the use of jute in more diversified applications, specifically where the jute will be used in bulk.
- Promoting use of jute for jute-geo-textiles, jute-agrotextiles, technical textiles, for making paper pulp, for developing jute composites for use in automobiles and other sectors, for developing jute particle boards, etc. will be the thrust of the R&D efforts during the XIIth Plan.

- Some of the technological and engineering developments (such as woolenisation, blends, fine yarn, aromatic fabrics, fire retardant and water proof fabrics, etc.) already achieved in other textiles applications will be duly re-engineered through further R&D efforts for adaptation in Jute.
- Transfer of technologies developed and industrial/field demonstration for technology adoption.

Component-III: Benchmarking studies, knowledge dissemination and promoting green initiatives through R&D (Total Outlay-Rs. 15 Crore).

Objective: The objectives of this component of the scheme is to

- To undertake research studies to create industry standards and benchmarks and identify and document steps to attain suitable benchmarks and ensure that industry is able to implement green initiatives.
- Dissemination and training programmes to sensitize individual units on the benchmarks so created; and
- Assist accreditation for units which achieve such benchmarks to help them to achieve competitiveness and get better national international acceptability.

3. Implementing Agency and Nodal Officer:

- Office of the Textile Commissioner will be the implementing agency for Component I and III and Office of the Jute Commissioner will act as the Implementing Agency for Component II.
- Textiles Commissioner in the rank of Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary to Government of India will be the Nodal Officer directly in charge for all R&D activities and Jute Commissioner at the rank of Joint Secretary to Government of India will be the Nodal Officer directly in charge for all jute and allied Jute R&D activities under Component-II. Project Proposals would be appraised by the PAMC which shall forward its recommendations to the PAC.

4. Eligible fund support:

- In cases of projects involving **applied research**, the support will be maximum upto of 70% of the total project cost and the balance would have to arrange by the respective Project Executive Agency/Institution from the Industry or its own resources, which would have to be tied up and clearly indicated at the time of submission of Project Proposal. This would ensure that research is directed towards areas required by the Industry. If a part or whole of the contribution of the agency is in kind, that should be monetized and included in the project cost.
- For projects involving **basic research**, the PAMC can recommend up to 100% funding, on a case to case basis with strong justification.

5. The total allocation for the scheme period (2014-15 to 2018-19) is Rs. 149 crore. The budget allocation for the year 2015-16 for the research projects is Rs. 40 crores.