



भाकृअनुप -केंद्रीयचावल अनुसंधान संस्थान

भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद, कटक-753 006, ओडिशा

ICAR - Central Rice Research Institute

Cuttack – 753 006, Odisha, India



Notice inviting Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested and eligible Young Entrepreneurs (YEs) & existing registered Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for quality production, commercialization & marketing of CRRI biofertilizers

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

The ICAR-Central Rice Research Institute, Cuttack invites Expression of Interest from Young Entrepreneurs & registered Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) for empanelment for quality production, commercialization & marketing of CRRI biofertilizers under Jaiva Poshak (ଜୀବ-ପୋଷକ) project. The EOI document can be downloaded from our website <https://icar-crri.in/> and submitted on or before **20 January 2026**

Background of the project

ICAR-CRRI, Cuttack, specialises in the field of biofertilizers, with expertise in producing high-quality bioinoculants for rice-based ecosystems. It has developed Endo-N, Endo-NPK, which compensates for NPK requirements by 25%, 10%, and 10%, respectively. Thus, minimizing the utility of chemical fertilizers, thereby decreasing the input costs on fertilizers. Moreover, biofertilizers improve soil health and are eco-friendly. Recently, a biofertilizer production unit was established with the support of RKVY, Government of Odisha for meeting the small-scale production requirement. The institute also has robust testing and quality control facilities. CRRI biofertilizers have market potential and can be a promising business opportunity for entrepreneurs, as well as existing registered FPOs.

The institute is supported by an innovative project, ‘Production, Popularization and Supply of Quality Bioinoculants for Rice-based Cropping and Farming System of Odisha’, funded by DAFE, Government of Odisha. Under this Jaiva Poshak (ଜୀବ-ପୋଷକ) project, there is provision to support Young Entrepreneurs & existing registered FPOs

| Young Entrepreneurs | Existing registered FPOs |
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| Young individuals within the age limit of (18-45) with enthusiasm to improve skills, knowledge, capacity to develop, manage and | Existing registered Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs)/ Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) are a group of legally recognized body of farmers |

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| <p>organize a business venture (in this case ‘biofertilizer business’) while keeping in mind the risks associated with it are termed as Young Entrepreneurs.</p> | <p>(registered through the Companies Act 2013) to improve the standard of their living and ensure a good status of their available support, income and profitability.</p> |
| Eligibility criteria | |
| Essential | |
| <p>1. Age Limit: Minimum 18 years Maximum 45 years (X certificate should be submitted)</p> <p>2. Educational Qualification: Applicant must have passed Higher Secondary Examination (XII certificate should be submitted)</p> <p>3. Residence: Should be a domicile of Odisha state (Residence certificate should be submitted)</p> <p>4. Experience: Should have experience in biofertilizers/ fertilizers /compost making/organic farming, agri-business or attended any training on biofertilizers. (Experience/training certificate should be submitted)</p> <p>5. Business proposal requirement: Must submit a business proposal detailing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Type of biofertilizers (e.g., compost, vermicompost, microbial inoculants, liquid biofertilizers). b) Target crops (e.g., rice, vegetables, fruits, plantation crops etc.) c) Market potential and supply chain strategy. | <p>1) FPOs should be operating in Odisha and should belong to any of the following 10 aspirational districts as per the terms of the project (Bargarh, Bhadrak, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Ganjam, Jagatsinghpur, Jharsuguda, Koraput, Nabarangpur and Puri) (Address proof of the office should be submitted)</p> <p>2) FPOs should be registered under Companies Act 2013 (Proof of registration certificate should be submitted)</p> <p>3) FPOs should be working on production of biofertilizers/ fertilizers/compost/organic farming or should have attended any training on biofertilizers. (Sales/Audit proof/training certificate should be submitted)</p> <p>4) FPOs should have a minimum of 500 registered farmer members (Proof should be submitted)</p> |

| Desirable | |
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| <p>1) Preference will be given to candidates with degrees/diplomas in agriculture, botany, microbiology, biochemistry, biotechnology and environmental science (supported by valid certificates)</p> <p>2) with industrial potential (supported by valid proof of the document supported by industries)</p> <p>3) who have UDYAM registration and startup registration (supported by valid proof)</p> <p>4) Who is a Licensed fertilizer dealer (supported by valid proof)</p> <p>5) Candidates who have access to customer base (e.g., farmer groups, FPOs, cooperatives etc.) (supported by valid proof)</p> | <p>1) FPOs who have prior experience in organizing various sensitization, demonstration and training programs to farmers on any agricultural aspects (supported by valid certificates)</p> <p>2) FPOs who are practicing farming with biofertilizers/organic methods (supported by valid certificates)</p> |
| Procedure for selection | |
| <p>1) Possession of criteria as mentioned in the schedule of EOI given in Annexure 1 carries weightage during selection.</p> <p>2) Score sheet will be prepared as per the eligibility criteria met by Young Entrepreneurs</p> <p>3) As per the score sheet, top 30 candidates will be called for interview to pitch/present their ideas/business proposals before the selection panel constituted by CRRI</p> <p>4) Top 20 candidates after their</p> | <p>1) Possession of criteria as mentioned in the schedule of EOI given in Annexure 2 carries weightage during selection.</p> <p>2) Score sheet will be prepared as per the essential criteria met by existing registered FPOs</p> <p>3) Shortlisted existing registered FPOs are invited to CRRI to present their proposals regarding opening & operational plans of their existing/proposed Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and their proposed targets in a calendar year</p> <p>4) A score sheet will be prepared considering</p> |

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| <p>presentation are encouraged to team up as a group of four members.</p> <p>5) Five Young Entrepreneur teams (each consisting of a group of four members), so formed, are encouraged to start their company and get it registered under the Companies Act 2013.</p> <p>6) These Five Young entrepreneur-registered companies will be incubated/trained at CRRI on the production aspects of biofertilizers.</p> <p>7) These trained five numbers of Young Entrepreneur registered companies will be provided with essential equipment to set up a mini biofertilizer production unit and Azolla tank for the production of CRRI biofertilizers as per the provisions available in the project.</p> <p>8) Existing registered companies working on the production/marketing of biofertilizers can also apply, but they should pass through all six steps mentioned above.</p> | <p>the merit of the proposals of existing registered FPOs</p> <p>5) The committee constituted by CRRI through due diligence will verify the necessary existing facilities of registered FPOs</p> <p>6) Upon selection, a Memorandum of Agreement shall be jointly signed between the existing registered FPOs and ICAR-CRRI</p> |
| <p>Provisions in the project for the selected entrepreneurs and registered FPOs</p> | |
| <p>1. ICAR-CRRI, through this project, shall provide the technology and training for the mass production of biofertilizers without any cost.</p> <p>2. ICAR-CRRI shall provide the facilities for mass production of quality bioinoculants, including a</p> | <p>1. ICAR-CRRI through this project will provide support to improve the existing facility of registered FPCs for storage of bioinoculants and opening of Farmer Filed Schools (FFS) to train the stakeholders.</p> |

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| mini liquid fermenter, accessories and construction of azolla tanks. | |
| Our expectations from entrepreneurs | Our expectations from FPOs |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entrepreneurs have to produce and market CRRI-biofertilizers for at least five hundred acres of rice fields within the project period. They should be able to produce and market the biofertilizers in a business mode They should make a successful career from this potential business venture, which has demand as an essential input & environment-friendly commodity to the farming community | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing registered FPOs should improve their facilities for the storage of biofertilizers They should sensitize, demonstrate, and train farmers and other stakeholders about the benefits of CRRI-biofertilizers They should be able to produce and market the biofertilizers in a business mode Thereby, these eco-friendly biofertilizers should be available to farmers at the right time, right quality, right quantity, with the right price |
| Terms & Conditions after selection | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members from ICAR-CRRI will visit the Entrepreneurs' location for due diligence. Upon selection, a Memorandum of Agreement will be jointly signed between the Entrepreneurs and ICAR-CRRI for quality production, commercialization & marketing of CRRI biofertilizers | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Committee members from ICAR-CRRI will visit the existing registered FPOs' location for due diligence. Upon selection, a Memorandum of Agreement shall be jointly signed between the existing registered FPOs and ICAR-CRRI for quality production, commercialization & marketing of CRRI biofertilizers |
| Tie breaking | |
| <p>➤ If any of the candidates who applied meet equal eligibility criteria, then weightage will be given to the desirable criteria in the same order as mentioned above</p> | <p>➤ If any of the FPOs who applied meet equal eligibility criteria, then weightage will be given to the desirable criteria in the same order as mentioned above</p> |

| Submission of EOI | |
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| <p>❖ Eligible candidates meeting the above-mentioned criteria and willing to abide by the procedure, terms & conditions should kindly ensure necessary documents are attached to the application form given in Annexure-1 and submit via email to nrribioposhak@gmail.com on or before 20 January 2026</p> | <p>❖ Eligible FPOs meeting the above-mentioned criteria and willing to abide by the procedure, terms & conditions should kindly ensure necessary documents are attached to the application form given in Annexure-2 and submit via email to nrribioposhak@gmail.com on or before 20 January 2026</p> |
| Dispute | |
| In this process, if any disputes arise, the decision of the Director/Competent authority will be final | |

Annexure-1

SCHEDULE OF EOI FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

EOI schedule conditions of eligibility for applicant(s) for empanelment for quality production, commercialization & marketing of CRRI biofertilizers

1) Name of the Entrepreneur

(Enclose valid Identity Proof – Aadhaar/PAN)

2) Age

(Enclose X Certificate / Birth Certificate)

3) Qualification

(Enclose XII Certificate / Highest Qualification Certificate)

Preference will be given to the candidate with a higher qualification

4) Experience in Biofertilizers / Fertilisers / Compost Making / Organic Farming

(Enclose Experience Certificates, Work Orders, Apprenticeship Certificates, or Proof of prior work)

Note: Experience will be given high priority, including any of the following:

- Industrial exposure
- Work with NGOs/FPOs
- Practical farm-level experience
- Processing unit experience

5) Training on Biofertilizers / Organic Inputs / Microbial Technologies (If any)

(Enclose Training Certificates – ICAR/KVK/State Agri Dept./NSDC/Private Institutes)

6) Detailed Project Report (DPR) – Mandatory

(Enclose signed DPR. Must include the following headings:)

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction to the Entrepreneur (experience, background, capability)
3. Project Description
4. Product Details – CRRI Biofertilizers (types, expected production levels)
5. Location & Land Details
6. Technical Process / Production Flow Chart
7. Machinery, Equipment & Infrastructure Requirements
8. Raw Materials & Source of Procurement
9. Quality Standards & Testing Protocols

10. Manpower Requirements
11. Marketing Strategy – commercialization and distribution model
12. Financial Estimates
 - Project Cost
 - Working Capital
 - Profitability
 - Cash Flow Projections
13. Sustainability & Safety Measures
14. Implementation Timeline
15. Risk Analysis & Mitigation Plan

(All pages of the DPR should be duly signed by the applicant.)

7) Candidate with Industrial Potential

(Enclose any of the following as applicable:)

- Industrial Tie-up / Collaboration Letter
- Proof of Land or Shed for Production Unit
- Bank Readiness / Financial Capability Proof
- Machinery Quotation or Investment Intent Letter

8) Candidate with UDYAM registration (if any)

(Enclose UDYAM registration certificate)

9) Startup Registration (if any)

(Enclose Certificate from Startup India)

10) Fertilizer Dealer License (if any)

(Enclose License Certificate)

11) Mobile Number

12) E-mail ID

13) Residential Address

(Enclose Address Proof – Aadhaar/Voter ID/Utility Bill)

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all the particulars submitted by me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that any false information will lead to the cancellation of my application. I agree to abide by all the terms and conditions of the EOI issued for empanelment for the production, commercialisation, and marketing of CRRI biofertilizers.

Place:

Signature:

Date:

Name:

Annexure-2

SCHEDULE OF EOI FOR FARMER PRODUCER COMPANIES

EOI schedule conditions of eligibility for applicant(s) for empanelment for quality production, commercialization & marketing of CRRI biofertilizers

1. Name of the existing registered FPO/FPC
(Enclose Certificate of Incorporation)
2. Year of registration/ Age of FPO
Minimum 3 years from the date of incorporation is mandatory
(Enclose Registration Certificate and CIN/Registration Extract)
3. Office Address of the FPO/FPC
(Enclose Address Proof)
4. Experience in Fertilizers / Biofertilizers / Compost / Organic Farming
(Enclose supporting documents such as Sales Records, Audit Reports, Supply Orders, or Activity Reports)
5. Training on Biofertilizers (if any)
(Enclose Training Certificates)
(Training received by BoD / CEO / Technical Staff/FPC members will be considered.)
6. Number of Registered Farmer Members
 - Minimum 500 registered members is mandatory
(Enclose Membership Register Extract / List attested by CEO/BoD)
7. Share Capital & Share Certificates
 - FPO must submit share certificates issued to members
(Enclose copies of sample share certificates + resolution approving share issuance)
8. Financial Health & Audited Reports
 - Submission of audited financial statements for the last 3 years is mandatory
 - The FPO must have a minimum turnover of ₹2 lakhs in the previous financial year
(Enclose Audited Balance Sheet, Income–Expenditure Statement, Auditor's Report)
9. Board Resolution on Compliance & Liabilities
FPO must submit a Board Resolution stating that:
 - The FPO has no financial liabilities or outstanding dues
 - All legal compliances (ROC filings, audits, GST, PAN, statutory obligations) were completed on time

- No penalties or legal actions have been imposed on the FPO (enclose signed Board Resolution + supporting documents)

10. Brief Description of the FPO/FPC

(Enclose Company Profile / Annual Report / Brochure)

11. Experience in Organizing Training for Farmers & Stakeholders

(Enclose Photographs, Attendance Sheets, Reports, Certificates, or any Proof of Trainings Conducted)

12. Type of Products Produced / Traded

(Enclose List with supporting documents if any)

13. Details of Sales & Marketing

(Enclose Sales Records, GST Returns, Marketing Materials, MoUs with Buyers)

14. Storage Capacity

(Enclose Supporting Document)

15. Available Machinery / Equipment

(Enclose Inventory List or Purchase Bills)

16. Mobile Number

17. E-mail ID

18. Communication Address

(If different from office address)

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all the particulars submitted by us are true and correct to the best of our knowledge. We agree to abide by all terms and conditions of the EOI for empanelment for production, commercialization, and marketing of CRRI biofertilizers.

Place: _____ Name of the Authorized Signatory: _____

Date: _____ Designation: _____

Seal of the FPO/FPC