

GUIDELINES

for

Innovation Support u/ *AtmaNirbhar Gujarat Fellowship (AGF)*

1.1 Objective/ Expected Deliverable:

All AGFs are expected to work towards Creation of a Start-Up and/ or Development of an IP Right that can be licensed. The development of technology/ product/ process should be evident through advancement in the TRLs (Technology Readiness Levels).

1.2 Areas covered

Proposals from any domain of STEM including Healthcare, Diagnostics, Medical Devices, Drugs, Vaccines, Drug Formulations and delivery systems, Industrial Biotechnology, Bioinformatics, Agriculture Biotechnology, Probiotics & Food Biotechnology, Environmental Biotechnology including Waste Management, Sanitation, Clean Energy, etc.

Interdisciplinary proposals from any stream that can help conversion of innovative ideas into bio-products and technologies in any of the above fields, are especially encouraged

1.3 Categories:

Category	Minimum Qualification Required	Fellowship (₹)/month	Innovation Grant(₹)
STBI-AGF-A	STEM Graduate (BSc/ BE/ B.Tech. Completed)	18,000	2,00,000
STBI-AGF-B	STEM Graduate (MSc/ ME/ M.Tech. Completed)	25,000	4,00,000
STBI-AGF-C	Senior Fellows with PhD (At least Thesis Submitted) OR Masters' Degree + 5 yrs. Experience OR Bachelors' Degree + 8 yrs. Experience	35,000	6,00,000

1.4 Eligibility

- Any candidate who has completed BSc/ BE in any discipline is eligible to apply for STBI-AGF-A fellowship.
- Any candidate who has completed MSc/ ME/ M.Tech. in any discipline is eligible to apply for STBI-AGF-B fellowship.

- Any candidate who has completed OR at least, submitted PhD thesis OR Professionals [(any Masters' degree with at least 5 years of professional experience) OR (any Bachelors' degree with at least 8 years of professional experience)] in any discipline is eligible to apply for STBI-AGF-C fellowship.
- Teams may also apply, however, the proposal should clearly spell out the Lead Applicant who shall have the responsibility of delivering the milestones. Requests for change in Team Composition, after award will generally be not considered/ or considered by designated committee only in exceptional cases. In such cases, however, the financial liability towards the team, shall be limited to that for one Fellowship.
- Female candidates, Physically Handicapped and Candidates from SC/ ST are encouraged to apply and may be given waiver of 2 years in experience in STBI-AGF-C Fellowship experience condition.
- STBI-AGF fellows are required to work full time at STBI

Conditions leading to ineligibility for AGF:

- Candidates having a source of income, may not be considered for the STBI-AGF Fellowship. Any prize money, merit scholarship or fellowship shall not hinder in this condition.
- The same candidate should not be a recipient of sustenance allowance/ any remunerative fund, for same or any other project, under any scheme of GoG, during the same duration.
- Candidates pursuing Ph.D. on the same topic shall not be considered for the STBI-AGF fellowship grant. Selected fellows cannot pursue Ph.D. during the fellowship tenure. The purpose of this Fellowship is strictly not to support candidates pursue an academic degree, but to commercialize innovation.
- Candidates of state domicile or those who have studied in Gujarat, shall be preferred; however, the candidates are expected to register their Start-up in the state.

1.5 Nature of Proposals supported:

- Projects aiming at developing Product/ Process or Prototype or Translational research
- Proposals are expected to develop innovative products and technologies with a potential to address unmet needs.
- *AtmaNirbhar* Gujarat Fellows are expected to initiate start-ups. Hence, only proposals with potential to commercialize process, products and/ or technologies will be considered for support.

1.6 Number and Duration of Fellowship:

- Three Fellowships for STBI-AGF-A and Six Fellowships for each STBI-AGF-B and STBI-AGF-C shall be considered every year.
- Fellowship shall be provided for a period of 18 months with a provision of 6-months extension (without any fellowship) only for deserving cases.

1.7 Support provided to fellows under the scheme

- *AtmaNirbhar* Gujarat Fellows will receive a monthly fellowship, an Innovation grant (*May be given in two equal tranches, against an Undertaking on Stamp Paper*) and Continuous Hand-holding as tabulated herewith:
- **Continuous Hand-holding:** STBI shall provide incubation and continuous mentoring support to fellows, including but not limited to Technical Mentoring, IP Support, Legal Support, Networking and Outreach, Trainings, Regulatory Advice, Business Mentoring and Fund raising.

1.8 Process Flow: Application, Selection process for all categories of fellowships:

- Applications for all categories of fellowships shall be invited through advertisements in leading dailies/ website/ suitable magazines/ publications.
- The application shall be submitted online on STBI portal, before indicated deadline.
- The applicants should be asked to submit an FTO Analysis report from a qualified expert/ agency
- STBI Secretariat shall undertake eligibility check and primary scrutiny.
- Shortlisted applicants/teams (not necessarily, all eligible; but shortlisted with the approval of the Committee) will be called for a presentation before the designated Committee.
- Finally, approved Candidates/ Teams shall have to give an undertaking on a Stamp Paper of value of ₹300/- (or as decided from time to time) assuring return of entire Innovation Grant and the Fellowship amount in case of inability to complete the tenure for whatever reason, unless exempted by an authorized committee/ person.

1.9 AGF Designated Committee

- A singular Committee has been empowered for all activities related to AGF – viz. Modifications to the course of action, selection of candidates, reviewing the progress of the candidates, final graduation of the candidates from AGF, etc.

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