

Bioseed Research India (BRI) and ICGEB awarded for 'Best Innovation in Agriculture Sector' at the Innovator 2012 Awards

20th November 2012, New Delhi: Bioseed Research India (BRI) and ICGEB have been awarded for “the best innovation in agriculture sector” by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt of India and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) at the Innovator 2012 awards held recently. The award was given for the significant contribution made to innovative research for development of rice hybrids with improved characteristics.

The collaborative research of BRI and ICGEB has focused on development of tolerance to abiotic stress, a major impediment to enhancing crop productivity. Significant and positive role of three genes with complementary roles in drought and salinity tolerance pathways has been successfully demonstrated in rice.

Dr Paresh Verma, Research Director, Bioseed Research India Pvt Ltd (BRI) said, “We are very happy to have received the award in the agriculture sector for our innovative biotechnology research which was carried out in collaboration with ICGEB and with financial support from BIRAC”.

He added, “This technology has been advanced to translational phase to develop drought and salinity tolerant rice hybrids.”

About BIRAC:

Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) is a section 25 company set up by DBT, Govt. of India to “facilitate and mentor the generation and translation of innovative ideas into biotech products and services by the industry, promote academia-industry collaboration, international linkages and encourage techno-entrepreneurship and enable creation and sustainability of viable enterprises”. BIRAC provides financial support to industry for high risk innovative research, for translational research, to stimulate commercialization of research, and to encourage public-private partnerships.

About Bioseed Research India:

Bioseed Research India is a subsidiary of DCM Shriram Consolidated Ltd an Rs 5000 cr conglomerate with business interests in Agriculture & Chlor Vinyl Industry. Bioseed the company's Hybrid Seeds business after India has strengthened its operations in Vietnam, The Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand .The Company's pan-Asian spread allows cross-fertilization of ideas. The yield: Unique biotechnology-based solutions for the benefit of countries with similar climatic and soil conditions. The mission: Empowering farmers with high-yielding solutions of the future, from the right hybrids to better cultivation techniques..More than 65 scientists in agriculture form the backbone of the company's research cell. Their mandate is to develop hybrid seeds of superior genetics. The focus: Biotic and abiotic stress tolerance. The scientists work with a vast pool of germplasm in technology-driven laboratories. The systems and procedures they follow and enforce are under constant microscopic surveillance by independent bodies. Nine breeding stations and more than 30 testing stations complete the infrastructure.

About ICGEB:

International Center of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB), a nonprofit research institute under the United Nations System, is dedicated to advanced research and training in molecular biology and biotechnology and holds out the prospect of advancing knowledge and applying the latest techniques in the fields of biomedicine, crop improvement, environmental protection/remediation, biopharmaceuticals and biopesticides.