



## DBT's North Eastern Programme

Source: [PIB](#)

The **Department of Biotechnology (DBT)**'s North Eastern Programme is driving a **biotechnology**-led transformation in [India's North East Region \(NER\)](#).

- **DBT's North Eastern Programme:** Initiated in 2010-2011, the DBT has since allocated **10% of its annual budget** to biotech programmes in NER, focusing on enhancing education, research, and bio-entrepreneurship.
  - Enabled R&D projects, benefiting researchers and students, and 6 biotech hubs established across NER to support research and training.
  - **DBT** introduced **Biotechnology Labs in Senior Secondary Schools (BLISS)** to promote biotechnology education. Additionally, the **Visiting Research Professorship (VRP) programme** engages top scientists to drive advancements in biotechnology across NER institutions.
  - DBT also supports farmers through initiatives like the **DBT-North East Centre for Agricultural Biotechnology (DBT-NECAB)**.
- **Major Achievements:** The **"Patkai" rice variety**, developed by **Assam Agricultural University**, integrates **blight resistance** (protection against bacterial blight disease) from **Improved Samba Mahsuri** (rice variety).
  - A **Lateral Flow Assay (LFA)** for rapid brucellosis (bacterial infection) detection in livestock was standardized, improving disease diagnostics.
  - Additionally, the **Pig Disease Diagnosis Expert System (PDDES)**, a mobile application, was developed to assist veterinarians and farmers in diagnosing and managing pig diseases.

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### Objectives of the NER Programme

- To facilitate biotech-based development in the North Eastern Region of India through conceptualization, implementation, mentoring and monitoring of biotechnology intervened R&D programs for holistic developments in the region.
- To initiate Bio-resource based Entrepreneurship programmes in NER to uplift rural income of farmers and small entrepreneurs of the Region.
- To implement programmes to ensure that human resource development matches the evolving needs of the North East Region.
- To establish of Research Resources, Service Facilities and Platforms to provide support to a broad range of multidisciplinary, shared research resources critical for advancing various areas of life sciences and biotechnology in the North East Region.

### North Eastern Program

Major Outputs

No. of Projects supported:	>1200
No. of Institutes supported:	>130
No. of Publications:	>2700
No. of Patents filled/ granted:	29
No. of Manpower trained:	>1500

Read more: [India's Biotech Revolution](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/dbt-s-north-eastern-programme>

