

PRESS RELEASE

India-Ethiopia Innovation and Technology Commercialization Programme

India and Ethiopia have had a long standing partnership in the area of science & technology which has been an important pillar of the bilateral relationship. In order to further this partnership and as part of India's efforts as a development partner to Africa in sharing its innovation and technology for greater growth and prosperity, the two countries have agreed to launch the **"India-Ethiopia Innovation and Technology Commercialization Programme"**.

Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, Forests and Climate Change launched the programme along with his Ethiopian counterpart Minister of Innovation and Technology, Dr. (Eng) Getahun Mekuria at the 6th DST-FICCI Global R&D Summit held in Hyderabad on 21-22 February 2019. The theme of the Global R&D Summit 2019 was 'International Collaboration in Research and Development for Sustainable Growth'. Africa was the partner continent and other than Ministers from Ethiopia and Zambia, senior officials from Rwanda, other delegates from African continent and 200 institutions, academic centres of excellence and R&D experts of India participated in this Summit.

At an interaction of stakeholders held in Addis Ababa on 23rd May 2019, Ambassador of India Mr. Anurag Srivastava provided further details of the programme. He highlighted the fact the innovation programme with Ethiopia has been conceived as part of India's commitment under the India-Africa Forum Summit-III held in October 2015 in New Delhi. It is inspired by the ten guiding principles of India's engagement with Africa as outlined by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. In November 2018, as part of a similar initiative, the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Leadership and Entrepreneurship was set up in Djibouti to support and train youth and equip them with requisite skills as future entrepreneurs. He informed that the India-Ethiopia Innovation and Technology Commercialization Programme would aim to deploy at least 50 demonstrated and validated Indian technologies and innovations over a period of five years. The joint projects/ventures thus created with Ethiopian partners will deliver at least 50 sustainable small & medium enterprises to stimulate job creation and economic growth in Ethiopia. The Programme would create an ecosystem to foster innovation and equip future entrepreneurs with requisite

skills to contribute towards economic and social development of Ethiopia. Technologies and innovations offered through this Programme would focus on priority sectors for Ethiopia like agriculture, food processing, energy, waste management, education, information technology, healthcare, etc. The programme would be implemented by Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce in coordination with Ministry of Innovation & Technology, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia.

H.E. Dr. (Eng) Getahun Mekuria, Minister of Innovation & Technology graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. Speaking about the Programme, Minister Getahun Mekuria thanked the Government of India for its support in delivering robust, affordable, easily deployable technology-led innovative solutions from Indian R&D institutions that can create socio-economic impact development per the assessed needs and national priorities determined by the Government of Ethiopia. He said that he looked forward to working with Indian partners - Department of Science & Technology (DST) of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Embassy of India, Addis Ababa and the Federation of Indian Chamber of Science & Technology (FICCI) to ensure the bilateral programme meets its objectives and goals.

As part of its S&T cooperation with Ethiopia, India is supporting the setting up of Centres of Excellence in Ethiopian Universities, implementing capacity building programmes for individuals and institutions and endeavouring to benefit the medical community, patients & students by providing telemedicine and teleeducation services through Indian educational and healthcare institutions.

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