



PRESS RELEASE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY ROPAR

**IIT Ropar partners with IIT Alumni Council to set up the
First Global Centre of Excellence (GCE) in the domain of
Agritech**

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Water under the India Innovation Network (i2Net) initiative

- The centre will focus on Agritech and Water
- The centre will complement the Rs 110 crore Technology Innovation Hub (AWaDH – Agriculture & Water Technology Development Hub) established at IIT Ropar under the National Mission of the Department of Science and Technology
- MegaFund partners to invest Rs 1000 crores in twenty five GCEs and related ecosystem.
- The prime objective of this trailblazing hub is to make agriculture a profitable industry with highly optimized resource intake.

Ropar: 1st December 2020: IIT Ropar would be the first Global Centre of Excellence (GCE) under the India Innovation Network initiative to be set up by IIT Alumni Council announced today. The core areas of focus will be Agritech & Water under this centre with multi-disciplinary support from areas like artificial imaging, computer vision, IOT sensors, chemical engineering, nuclear physics etc.

IIT Ropar recently got Rs 110 crore worth prestigious project for agriculture and water from department of Science and Technology, Government of India. As part of an agrarian state, it has been one of the mandates of IIT Ropar to take up research aimed at addressing Water-Agriculture related issues.

The Global Centre of Excellence (GCE) are an extension of the overall vision of the India Innovation Network initiative which is building a **fifty-institution** ecosystem to revitalise research in India by building capacities, improving quality of researchers through better linkages globally and enhancing the brand value of India in general and the IITs and i2Net institutions in particular. **This will help India garner a higher share of the Rs 500,000 crore market for funded research and sponsored PhDs.**

Speaking during this partnership, Prof. Sarit K Das, Director, IIT Ropar said, “The entry of India into the global research marketplace is long overdue. IITs, with their rich legacy and global branding, are rightly placed to address this opportunity. Punjab is the best known for Agriculture and natural irrigation. If agricultural excellence were to be given a GI, then it would go to Punjab. We are looking forward to leading globally in research for Agritech and Water. By optimally exploiting the new paradigms emerging from the deployment of artificial intelligence, remote sensing and genomics, we are uniquely positioned to blend tradition with technology in a very different way than has been attempted thus far by traditional agricultural institutions – and this approach should lead us to new frontiers and achievements.”

IIT Alumni Council will facilitate the investment of Rs. 40 crores in GCE Punjab through PanIIT Institute and MegaFund. It will help India leapfrog to Agriculture 2.0 by increasing productivity, reducing chemical fertiliser and pesticide levels, managing water resources and creating better linkages with markets and direct consumers using disintermediation platforms.

Divulging more, Sh.Ravi Sharma, President of the IIT Alumni Council said, “IIT Alumni Council has taken up the vision to develop India as a leading location for high science research by creating an end-to-end ecosystem with revenue target of Rs 50,000 crores pa and 100,000 researchers within five years. The Agritech and water ecosystem being co-created along with existing research and academic institutions will lay the foundation for Agriculture 2.0. In addition to revitalising the agriculture economy, the research initiative will also help create a contract and funded research ecosystem capable of earning substantial foreign exchange.”

ABOUT THE IIT ROPAR-TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION FOUNDATION

The IIT Ropar – Technology and Innovation Foundation is an R & D Hub in the domain of Agritech and Water, named AWaDH (Agriculture & Water Technology Development Hub), added to the social responsibility of IIT Ropar by the President of India through the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM - ICPS), Department of Science & Technology. The mission of the Hub is to develop 30 core Agritech technologies, incubate 35 startups/spin-off companies, train more than 1000 professionals in multi-disciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems, generate employment of more than 8000 through different Agritech innovations, etc. The technology developed at Hub would advance the (i) Environment, Forest and Climate, (ii) Fisheries (iii) Food Processing and Public Distribution, (iv) Rural and Women Empowerment by Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, (v) Land Resources, (vi) Electronics and Information Technology, (vii) Fertilizers, to name a few.

About IIT Alumni Council

IIT Alumni Council is the largest global body of alumni, students and academicians across all the twenty-three IITs and partnering Institutes of the India Innovation Network (I2Net). The IIT Alumni Council aspires to catalyse India's technological renaissance. For this it catalyses the creation of rapid response short term initiatives like the C19 Task Force and perpetual strategically planned initiatives like MegaFund, MegaIncubator and I2Net. Through such initiatives, IIT Alumni Council intends to act as a network and as a bridge between various providers of knowledge, wealth, information, wisdom, ideas, expertise and entrepreneurship to promote appropriate technological solutions to known social challenges at the national level. As a demonstration, the six month C19 Task Force set up in March 2020 conceived of large start-up initiatives like the NSCI Dome, Covid Test Bus, MegaLab and MegaTx – by aggregating over 10 million hours of 20,000+ volunteers, all of it on a pro bono basis. The Council is continuing to rally the considerable resources – both financial and technological - of the global IIT alumni ecosystem to catalyse global scale interventions in the social sector.