



जनजातीय कार्य मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
TRIBAL AFFAIRS



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

**For Submission of Innovative Ideas and Designs for Processing Machinery, Livelihood Technologies
& Value-Addition Solutions for Tribal and Forest-Based Economies in Chhattisgarh**

Issued by:

IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF)

(A Category-'A' Technology Innovation Hub established under NM-ICPS, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India)

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Last Date for Submission: 15 December 2025

Empowering tribal livelihoods through technology, innovation & sustainable value creation.

1. Introduction

IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF), a Category-‘A’ Technology Innovation Hub established under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, invites Expressions of Interest (EOI) from reputed companies, startups, MSMEs, OEMs, industrial fabricators, innovators, and technology developers. As the dedicated technology development and deployment arm of IIT Bhilai, IBITF is committed to advancing socially impactful, scalable, and sustainable technological interventions that strengthen the socio-economic foundations of tribal, rural, and forest-dependent communities. The Foundation closely collaborates with State Governments, civil society partners, and SHG-driven producer collectives to design, refine, and deploy value-adding solutions that enhance income generation and livelihood resilience.

In alignment with its mission to foster innovation-led development, this EOI also seeks to identify partners for structured Co-Development and Co-Branding engagements with IBITF/IIT Bhilai. Through this initiative, selected applicants may collaborate with IBITF’s technical experts to enhance the operational efficiency, technical robustness, and field suitability of their proposed machines or technologies. Joint activities may include prototype refinement, design optimisation, safety and reliability upgrades, and the integration of region-specific or indigenous knowledge systems to ensure contextual appropriateness.

Furthermore, solutions that meet the required performance and quality benchmarks may be considered for Co-Branding opportunities, enabling joint institutional visibility and credibility. This may encompass co-branded product variants, pilot deployments, field demonstrations, and aligned communication or promotional materials developed under mutually agreed guidelines. These collaborative pathways are intended to accelerate the development of high-quality, field-ready technological solutions that can be widely adopted across Government programmes, livelihood missions, and community-centric development ecosystems.

2. Focus Regions: Bastar & Surguja

The Bastar and Surguja divisions of Chhattisgarh are among India's richest landscapes in terms of minor forest produce (MFP), handicrafts, agriculture, minerals, and tribal heritage, yet they remain economically underserved.

In alignment with the State Government's initiatives to reduce Naxal influence by promoting livelihood growth, entrepreneurship, and socio-economic empowerment, IBITF aims to identify suitable technologies for:

- Income & employment generation
- Value addition to locally available natural resources
- Establishment of decentralised rural production centres
- Capacity building for tribal communities
- Strengthening SHGs/FPOs/cooperatives

3. Objective of This EOI

The primary objectives of this Expression of Interest (EOI) are as follows:

1. Identification of Suitable Technologies:

To identify and shortlist cost-effective, durable, and livelihood-oriented machines, tools, and technologies that can effectively support value addition and processing of tribal raw materials.

2. Assessment of Field Suitability:

To test, evaluate, and validate the operational performance of the proposed solutions under real tribal field conditions, ensuring their practicality, ease of use, and long-term sustainability.

3. Co-Development & System Improvement:

To collaborate with participating firms in refining, customising, and enhancing existing machinery or technology solutions, aligning them with the specific requirements and constraints of the identified tribal regions.

4. Certification & Government Recommendation:

To technically assess and certify selected machines/technologies and recommend them to relevant Government departments and agencies for further adoption, deployment, and scale-up.

5. Support for Commercialisation & Scaling:

To promote market linkage, commercial adoption, and large-scale implementation of proven

solutions in coordination with Government bodies, thereby enhancing livelihood opportunities for tribal communities.

4. Indicative Livelihood Sectors

Solution providers may submit technologies related (but not limited to):

Sector	Examples of Target Technologies
Minor Forest Produce (MFP) Processing	Tamarind, Mahua, Chironjee, Sal/Chironjee nut processing, Baheda/Harra, Amla, Herbal extracts, Oil expellers, etc.
Agriculture & Horticulture	Small-scale processing, cold storage, grading, and packaging solutions
Handicrafts & Tribal Art	Woodcraft, bamboo craft, metal bell craft, textile weaving tools
Food Processing & Rural Packaging	Millet processing, bakery units, spice grinders, sanitary & safe packaging equipment
Natural Resource Utilisation	Lac processing, medicinal plant value-addition tools
Sustainable Energy for Rural Use	Solar dryers, solar-powered processing machinery
Water Access & Quality	Low-cost purification and filtration systems
Other Innovative Livelihood Technologies	Any appropriate solution that supports rural income generation

(The list is indicative, not exhaustive.)

5. Submission Requirements

Interested entities must submit:

1. Company profile & manufacturing capabilities*
2. Technology/product catalogue including photos, certifications & safety standards*
3. Detailed technical specifications (as per format below)*
4. Commercial details
5. Maintenance, service support, warranty, AMC details (after deployment)
6. Details of power requirements & durability features
7. Case studies of rural/tribal deployments (if any)
8. Confirmation of willingness for validation and co-development*

*-- Mandatory Fields

6. Validation & Empanelment Process

The empanelment of machines, tools, and technologies under this EOI will follow a structured multi-stage process, outlined as follows:

I. Preliminary Screening by IBITF / IIT Bhilai:

All submissions will undergo an initial scrutiny to verify completeness of documentation, alignment with the scope of this EOI, and compliance with basic technical and commercial criteria.

II. Technical Evaluation & Field-Level Testing:

Shortlisted solutions will be assessed through detailed technical evaluation, followed by field testing in selected tribal regions to examine operational efficiency, usability, safety, durability, and suitability in actual working conditions.

III. Design Improvement & Technical Feedback:

Based on evaluation findings, improvement recommendations will be provided to applicants. Where required, applicants may be invited to collaboratively refine, redesign, or customize their systems to better match the needs of tribal communities.

IV. Co-Development & Co-Branding Opportunities:

Selected applicants may be invited to engage in structured co-development initiatives with IBITF/IIT Bhilai. This may include collaborative efforts aimed at enhancing the technical performance, operational efficiency, and field suitability of the proposed machines or

technologies. Partners may work jointly with IBITF experts on prototype refinement, design optimisation, safety improvements, and integration of region-specific or indigenous innovations.

In addition, eligible solutions may be considered for co-branding opportunities, allowing for the joint visibility of both IBITF/IIT Bhilai and the technology provider. This may include co-branded product variants, pilot deployments, demonstrations, and promotional material, subject to mutually agreed guidelines. The objective is to create high-quality, field-ready solutions with strong institutional credibility for wider acceptance across Government and livelihood ecosystems.

V. Final Certification / NOC Issuance:

Upon successful testing and validation, IBITF/IIT Bhilai will issue a formal certification or No Objection Certificate (NOC), confirming the technical suitability and recommended use of the proposed solution.

VI. Empanelment for Government-Supported Deployment:

Certified technologies will be empanelled for adoption under relevant State Government schemes, livelihood missions, tribal development programs, and other official deployment initiatives.

VII. Controlled Commercialisation through IBITF:

Approved solutions may be supported for structured and controlled commercial rollout through IBITF, in coordination with the State Government, ensuring standardised implementation, quality assurance, and sustainable market scale-up.

- *IBITF shall reserve exclusive deployment and commercialisation rights in the Districts of Chhittishgarh with more than 50% of tribal population, to ensure fairness and prevent exploitation of tribal communities.*

The revenue sharing model with the company will be mutually agreed upon after selection and signing of MOU.

For states other than Chhittishgarh, the company will be free to commercialize the products independently.

Document Submission

Email ID: tih@iitbhilai.ac.in

Subject Line: EOI Submission_Bastar and Sarguja_Livelihood Technologies_Entity Name

8. Product Submission Template

Parameter	Details to be Provided
Name of Company	
Contact Details (Website, Address, Email, Phone)	
GST/Company Registration Details	
Product Name	
Category / Sector	
Technical Specifications	
Raw Material Compatibility	
Productivity (units/hour/day)	
Power Requirements	
Safety Features	

Expected Operational Life	
Warranty / AMC	
End-user Skill Requirement	
Price (per unit) & Taxes	
Maintenance Cost	
Past Deployment Details	
Certifications	

Note: Attach product brochure, test reports, and photographs.

9. Rights of IBITF

IBITF reserves the following rights to ensure technical integrity, fairness, and suitability of solutions for deployment in tribal regions:

1. Evaluation Authority

To independently evaluate, verify, and validate the submitted products/technologies through laboratory and field assessments.

To request product demonstrations, prototype samples, additional documents, or technical clarifications as required.

2. Decision-Making Authority

To accept, shortlist, defer, or reject any submission at any stage without assigning any reason.

To recommend design changes, safety enhancements, or performance improvements as a precondition for approval.

3. Certification & Deployment Authority

To serve as the approving body for issuing Technology Validation Certificates or No Objection Certificates (NOC).

To regulate and authorise the deployment, sale, installation, and field operations of validated products in Bastar and Surguja.

4. Commercialisation & Control Authority

To oversee and coordinate commercialisation channels and deployment mechanisms in consultation with the Government to ensure equitable distribution and prevent exploitation or unfair competition.

Process Timeline (Tentative)

Phase No.	Phase Title	Updated Duration	Professional Outcome
Phase 1	Screening, Validation & Lab Testing	15 Dec 2025 – 31 Dec 2025	Eligibility screening, technical feasibility assessment, safety checks, and baseline lab validation
Phase 2	Co-Development & Co-Branding Initiation	1st– 31st Jan 2026	Joint review with IBITF/IIT Bhilai experts, refinement roadmap, preliminary design optimisation & branding alignment
Phase 3	Field Deployment & On-Ground Evaluation	1 Feb – 15 Feb 2026	Field performance validation, usability testing, community acceptance & environmental suitability assessment
Phase 4	State-Level Demonstration & Review	16 Feb – 28 Feb 2026	Demonstration before State departments, administrative review, deployment feasibility & recommendation inputs
Phase 5	Improvement Cycle & Version 2.0 Development	1 Mar – 10 Mar 2026	Technical upgrades, structural improvements, indigenous innovation integration & readiness of improved Version 2.0
Phase 6	National Showcase & Wider Evaluation	11 Mar – 15 Mar 2026	Showcase to national agencies, livelihood missions, funding bodies & multi-state deployment prospects

Phase 7	Final Deployment in Target Regions & Controlled Commercialisation	16 Mar – 31 Mar 2026	Market-grade rollout, onboarding & training support, controlled commercialisation, and adoption across identified tribal/rural/forest clusters
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10. Last Date of Submission

- All applications must be submitted with **complete technical and commercial details**.
- The final deadline for submission is **15 December 2026 (23:59 Hrs IST)**.
- **Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted** or considered for evaluation.
- Applicants are advised to ensure timely submission to avoid disqualification.

11. Contact Information

IIT Bhilai Innovation and Technology Foundation (IBITF)

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