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IIT

INDIAN
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY
BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY

☎ 0542 2366676: e-mail : pro.ppc@itbhu.ac.in

कुलसचिव कार्यालय
(प्रेस एवं प्रचार प्रकोष्ठ)



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To boost innovative ideas, agri incubator set up at IIT-BHU

HT Correspondent

• letters@hindustantimes.com

VARANASI : A new incubator (startup) -- Mahamana Agri Business Incubator (M-ABI) -- has been started at IIT-BHU to promote innovative ideas in agriculture and allied sectors.

The incubator has been set up with help of department of agriculture, cooperation and farmers' welfare (DAC and FW) in the department of chemical engineering, IIT-BHU under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana – Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied Sectors Rejuvenation (RKVY-RAFT-AAR).

Prof P K Mishra, who has been made the principal investigator of this incubator, said: "At least 250 applications have been received for the incubator from Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, New Delhi and West Bengal.

"These ideas include how to convert waste to wealth, food processing, information and communication technology platforms for direct sale, internet of things (IoT) devices for farm mechanization."

He said the final selection for the incubation and training will



• Senior expert Peter Van Dijk and Prof P K Mishra at the IIT-BHU campus on Friday.

HT PHOTO

take place on July 18 and 19.

Mishra said IIT-BHU had recently signed up an MoU with UP State Bio-energy Development Board (UPSDBD) to speed-up activities of agri-incubator.

"This collaboration will help farmers in knowledge-based training, development of new value added products as per market demand and business development through sale of bio-energy, enzymes, oil extracts and herbal bio-molecules," he said.

The institute has also sought help from PUM Netherlands which sent a senior expert - Peter Van Dijk -- on June 30 for a two-week workshop.

Peter said while in India majority of startups were working for strengthening the economy and creating sustainable source of income in developed economies startups were meant to explore, innovate and for chasing their own dreams. Startups in developed countries were more structured and professional, he added.