ABOUT KSCST

**Karnataka State Council for Science and Technology (KSCST)** was established in 1975 to play a catalytic role in promoting the application of Science and Technology in developmental processes of the state in order to benefit a large segment of people. KSCST is the first State Council to be set up in the country to fulfill the long-felt need of bringing together administrators, field level officers from various government departments, scientists and technologists from research laboratories and research institutions. The Council has chosen many areas like Energy, Agriculture, Water, Housing, Waste management, Health and Education for its activities. The Council has completed several projects in these areas such as Mid-day meals for school children, Low cost housing, Solar energy applications, Zoning atlas, Mapping for use in district administration, Water resources development, Hand pumps for drinking water wells in villages, Implementation of Virtual Laboratories in high schools, Biofuel and Bioenergy activities, etc.

The objectives of the Council are:

- To identify areas for application of Science and Technology to development needs, objectives and goals for Karnataka, and in particular, to the prevailing conditions of backwardness, rural unemployment and poverty;
- To advise government on the formulation of policies and measures including technical, administrative and legal devices, which will promote such applications to identified needs, objectives and goals; in particular to health, education and manpower utilisation with special emphasis on the development of human skills in the rural areas and in the slums; and which will promote the scientific management of the natural resources of the State;
- To promote effective coordination and to develop and foster communication and other links between centres of scientific and technological research, Government agencies, farms and industries so that promising Research and Development work is initiated, promoted and effectively deployed in agriculture, in government and elsewhere;
- To initiate, support and coordinate applied research programmes in universities and other institutions in areas identified to be specially suitable for the application of Science and Technology;
- To prepare Science and Technology plans relevant to the development needs of the State;
- To consider, and advise the government on such other matters as relevant to the application of Science and Technology to the problems of Karnataka State.

The Council has constantly involved several institutions and governmental agencies to identify research areas of major concerns in sectors such as Housing, Energy, Water supply, Ecology and Environment, Industries and Rural employment. The Council has evolved a methodology of conducting workshops with participation of leading scientists and administrators and technocrats to identify problems faced in the state in each area and to formulate research projects based on these identified problems. These problems were given
to different research labs for study and to evolve solutions and these have also been implemented in the fields wherever found suitable.

The Council has undertaken several path breaking programs in the area of Energy. To name a few, it has setup a rotor windmill for pumping water at Ungra, a community biogas service unit supplying water and electricity in Pura, Energy Parks in different parts of the state, Solar water heating systems in several places and identification of potential sites to establish wind farms. It has also set up Microhydel stations at Elaneer village in Dakshina Kannada district and Vanachalu village near Mercara, which uses a modern technology of cross flow turbines.

The Council has assisted the state in district level planning in 30 districts through setting up of Natural Resources Data Management System (NRDMS) centers in these districts. These centers use modern scientific tools like Geographic Information System (GIS) and spatial data support system for identifying locations with problems like drinking water supply, location of hospitals, schools, etc. This helps in empowerment of local bodies of governance in optimal use of resources. Recently, under Karnataka State Spatial Data Infrastructure (KSSDI), a project undertaken jointly with Department of Science and Technology of Government of Karnataka and Government of India, the Council has launched ‘Karnataka Geoportal’ wherein any interested person / institution can access, discover, publish geospatial data of the state, such as administrative boundaries, thematic maps, infrastructure facilities etc.

Rainwater Harvesting is one of the important programme of the Council. Council is running “Help Desk” jointly with BWSSB, to promote Rainwater Harvesting in Bangalore City. The Council has conducted state-level survey on treatment of municipal solid and liquid wastes and their recycling. The Council has participated in the identification of research programmes in the area of biodiversity and has involved in identifying the problems and strategies for S&T inputs in various sectors. Patent Information Centre (PIC) has been functioning to bring awareness about Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) among scientific and student communities and to assist in filing applications.

One of the major objectives of the Council has been to improve the quality of education in our colleges and, in view of this, the Student Project Programme (SPP) was started during 1978–79 to sponsor engineering student projects. This innovative programme has been playing a very important role in engineering education sector for last thirty nine years and has become a flagship programme of the Council. Many projects, sponsored in this programme, deal with technology applications very relevant to the State. During the 39th series (2015-2016) of this programme, activities of which were initiated September 2015, a total of 636 projects from more than 140 institutions were sponsored by the Council.

Since its inception in 1978, the Council has supported more than 8000 projects under this programme. The success of this programme is mainly due to excellent co-operation which the Council has been receiving from different departments of the Government and the scientific community in different research institutions of Karnataka, particularly from Indian Institute of Science and National Aerospace Laboratories. The support and co-operation extended by many senior functionaries of the State Government, like the Chief Minister, Minister for Science and Technology, Finance Minister, Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj as well as the Chief Secretary, Additional Chief Secretary, Development Commissioner, Finance Secretary, Planning Secretary, Science and Technology Secretariat are extremely important in the success of the activities of the Council. The Council has completed 41 years and is looking forward for even more participation from various institutions for improving the performance further.

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