

## **ESTABLISHMENT OF SCHEDULE CASTE AND SCHEDULE TRIBE CELLS IN STATE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCILS**

Principal Investigator	:	H. Hemanth Kumar, Executive Secretary
Co- Principal Investigator	:	K. N. Venkatesh, Senior Project Engineer
Budget	:	Rs. 217 lakhs
Submitted to	:	DST, Gol
Duration	:	3 years

Scheduled Castes are the largest single group in the state; however, they are also slightly weak in terms of political, economic, social and cultural resources. They are largely concentrated in the rural areas and depend upon agricultural labour or agriculture related activities for sustenance. Most of them have migrated to the cities and townships have taken up occupations such as construction work, street sweeping and other manual labour, which are not economically remunerative.

The majority of them take up low-end jobs and remains below the poverty line according to the empirical evidence. The ownership of agricultural land is minimal and the majority of the land holders have small holdings. They depend on cultivation and other manual labour operations for their livelihood. They have limited sources of income since they earn their livelihood from less remunerative sources. The income levels of SCs reveals a wide gap when compared to other sections of society in the state. The expenditure level is also low because of limited income generating opportunities. (Ref: Bhende&Yatanoor, 2017). In this vision KSCST is establishing SC/ST cell for sustainable growth of SC and ST.

The objectives of the project are:

### Phase I

1. To assess the Livelihood System for sustainable livelihood planning through science, know-how, and practices
2. To capture traditional & indigenous knowledge and upgrade the skills, building on local innovation & local knowledge systems
3. Establishment of a database of promising technologies that can be taken up for widespread adaptation
4. Mapping of the above data and resources on a Spatial Domain

### Phase II

1. To act as Coordination Cell to promote adaptation of appropriate and relevant
2. technologies for socioeconomic development of target population
3. Promotion, replication and scaling up of successful technologies leading to socioeconomic empowerment and capacity building
4. Development of programs and projects for strengthening human capacities
5. Institutional capacities and technology deployment