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Capacity building of laboratories in India

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Rationale of the project

With the inclusion of more and more products/appliance under the labeling scheme, the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) felt the need to assess the present capacity of test laboratories in India.

1. The testing laboratories can be a significant guiding light in the development of realistic efficiency and performance standards.
2. Role of testing laboratories in check testing to ensure that the products meet the performance criteria .
3. Testing can also contribute towards continuous evolution and up gradation towards better performance standards.
4. Enhanced role of testing laboratories in future with the application of the concept of round-robin testing

Initiative taken by the BEE

Henceforth, BEE with the support of CLASP initiated laboratory capacity program in India
“Capacity Building for Test Laboratories – Phase I” in 2010

The purpose of this exercise was

1. To create awareness about BEE’s Standards & Labeling program amongst the various laboratories across the country.
2. To sensitize the test laboratories about their significance and role in the labeling program
3. To have an idea about the available testing facilities in India, their present capacity, its utilization and future capacity building needs and plans
4. To engage test laboratories as think tanks for the development of the labeling program

Key activities undertaken

*Under this program,
following key
activities were
undertaken*

Review of applicable Indian standards

Identification of all existing test laboratories
and their NABL status

Assessment of current/existing test facilities
across the country

Workshop for Test Laboratories

Identify key areas for capacity building and
program up gradation and prepare a
roadmap

Key outcomes of the program

As one of the major outcome of this exercise, based on information received from different laboratories, testing capacity across India for products estimated .

Product	Capacity of NABL accredited laboratories	Capacity of Non – NABL accredited laboratories	Total capacity Per annum
Frost free (no-frost) refrigerator	389	86	475
Tubular fluorescent lamps	270	20	290
Room air conditioner	695	0	695
Distribution transformer	400	0	600
Direct cool refrigerator	464	100	564
Induction motors	2400	0	2400
Agricultural pump sets	1800	0	1800

Product	Capacity of NABL accredited laboratories	Capacity of Non – NABL accredited laboratories	Total capacity Per annum
Ceiling fans	750	1400	2150
Liquefied petroleum gas stoves	1350	400	1750
Electric geysers	930	220	1150
Computer Monitors	150	0	150
Compact fluorescent lamps	252	20	272
Inverters	600	330	930
Batteries	292	1050	1342
Uninterruptible power supply (UPS)	200	1300	1500

Another major outcome was lack of financial support to the government laboratories to build their capacity.

Capacity Building of Test Laboratories- Phase-II

Based on findings of Phase-I, BEE, Ministry of Power has allocated a fund to build the capacity of test laboratories in India. The list of Products approved as per SFC are provided.

- To facilitate fund disbursement to the laboratories, BEE has taken the support from CLASP/PwC and this exercise was started in July 2011.
- In this phase, only government laboratories are considered for funding. Scope may further be extended towards private laboratories at the later stage.
- In this regard, Invitation of Proposal for government laboratories to build their capacity was floated at BEE's website on 19th October, 2011

Priority Products categories

S. No	Product Categories
1.	Refrigerator
2.	Air Conditioner
3.	CTV
4.	CFL, TFL, LED
5.	Motors
6.	Ceiling Fans
7.	Diesel Pump sets
8.	Washing Machine
9.	Electric heater, Geyser
10.	Inverters, UPS, Voltage Stabilizers
11.	Music System, VCD/DVD players, Set Top box
12.	Cordless phone, Cell phone charger
13.	Computer Monitors, Laptops, Printers, Fax Machine, Scanners
14.	Boilers (Oil & gas up to 10 Ton), Furnace
15.	Microwave oven, Water Purifier, Mixer & grinder, Toaster & Electric Iron

Key features of the program

Objective of the scheme

1. To build the capacity of the Government Laboratories in India.
2. To support check testing of products under Standards & Labeling scheme.
3. To assist manufacturing industries to get their product tested without any time delay or resource wastage.
4. To ensure good quality work assurance from the government laboratories.

Pattern of Assistance

1. Central/State Government and its organizations/Universities are eligible for grant-in-aid of entire cost of laboratory equipments required for Labs.
2. Assistance would be provided to those government laboratories who are willing to participate in the Standards & Labeling program of Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
3. Testing facilities so created will be accessible to BEE for check testing of products that are already under Standards & Labeling scheme or soon likely to be added.

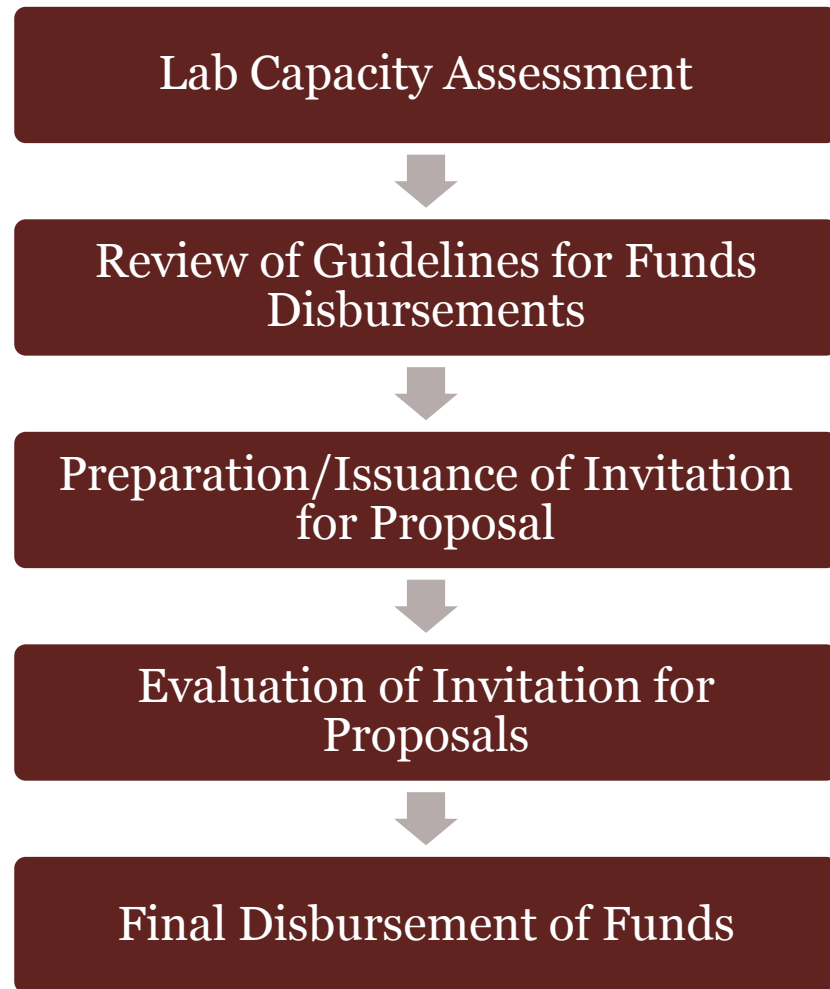
Nature of Support

Support/Assistance will be provided in the form of **Grant** and only to the Government Laboratories for acquisition of the equipments required for the product categories that comes under Standards & Labeling Scheme or likely to be added soon . The funding can be provided for following three categories.

- Capacity Addition to the existing facility
- Up gradation/Modernization of the Existing facility
- Building of the New Facility

Procedures for fund disbursement

Fund disbursement to the government laboratories for acquisition of the equipments will be carried out as per these steps



Lab capacity assessment

- Identification of the Government Laboratories and there respective ministries.
- Preparation /Circulation of the Questionnaire to the Government laboratories, to seek there requirements against the product categories under Standards & Labeling scheme
- Analysis of the response to the Questionnaire and prioritizing the requirement of different government laboratories based on there geographic location.

S.No	Labs	Concerned Ministries
1.	CPRI	Ministry of Power
2.	NTH	Ministry of Consumer Affairs
3.	ERTL	Department of Information technology, Ministry of Communications & Information Technology
4.	ETDC	
5.	EQDC	
6.	MSME	Ministry of MSME
7.	CETL	Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Government of Tamil Nadu
8.	BIS	BIS

Review of guidelines for fund disbursement/Preparation of Invitation of Proposals

- GFR (General Financial Rules) was reviewed to understand the basic guidelines which are to be followed for disbursement of government grants-in-aid.
- Review of guidelines followed by MoFPI for grant disbursement as suggested by NABL.
- Review of guidelines followed by DST in its FIST (Fund for Improvement of Science & Technology) program as suggested by NABL.
- Another scheme related to providing loan under Technology Up-gradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was also reviewed

Invitation of Proposal was floated at the BEEs website for capacity building of government laboratories on 19th October, 2011

It mainly includes three disbursement requirements along with their supporting documents

1. Minimum Eligibility Criteria
2. Financial & Legal Requirements
3. Declaration/Confirmation Letters

Evaluation of the proposal/Final fund disbursement

Evaluation of the proposal to be carried out in two steps

- Technical scrutiny of the proposals by the Screening Committee
- Fund disbursement by the Proposal Approval Committee

Initial Analysis of the proposals received from the various government laboratories is done based on following four parameters

1. Laboratory Credential
2. Regional Needs
3. Justification of the said proposal
4. Implementation Schedule

Monitoring and Verification

Monitoring and Verification plays an important role for the effective implementation of the laboratory capacity building exercise.

- Status Reporting of laboratories to BEE during implementation
- Provide utilization certificate within the stipulated time period suggested by the BEE.
- Visits to the prospective laboratories by BEE team during the implementation.
- Laboratories has to provide the performance cum achievement report at every quarter to the BEE.

Ways ahead

- More government laboratories are to be covered in next phase.
- The scope for laboratory capacity building may also be extended for private laboratories .
- More product categories under standards & labeling can be targeted in the future.

Discussions..

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