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Biocon Foundation in partnership with NCBS and BeST Cluster launches BioWISE programme to empower women in STEM

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25 women students to receive internship, training, and mentorship in Life Sciences segment



Biocon Foundation, the Corporate Social Responsibility arm of BEngaluru-based Biocon Group, in collaboration with The Bengaluru Science and Technology (BeST) Cluster, and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), has announced the launch of first-of-its-kind programme BioWISE - Women in STEM Empowered, aimed at disadvantaged science students from tier 2 and 3 universities across Karnataka, to build a career in life sciences.

BioWISE, a part of Biocon Biologics CSR initiative, is a transformative initiative aimed at enhancing access, participation, and retention of women from underserved communities in STEM, particularly life sciences. By supporting 25 women students from diverse communities through scholarships, extended internships, and mentorship, this programme is a significant step towards building a scientific ecosystem, which is diverse, inclusive, and equitable.

As the first state-level cohort, the BioWISE programme will support 25 women students, including 15 postgraduates (PG) and 10 undergraduates (UG) from life sciences backgrounds. The initiative is designed to run for 6 months for PG students and 3 months for UG students, offering them extensive exposure, training, and mentorship. BioWISE provides a multi-dimensional platform to build competencies, foster mentorship, and open up research and industry pathways for women entering the STEM specifically life sciences workforce.

Biocon Foundation will enable the initiative through funding and experts from Biocon Biologics, industry partner, will support with mentorship; while NCBS will serve as the host institute and academic mentoring partner. BeST Cluster will contribute to the program's design, management, and implementation.

- **Regular Mentor-Mentee Sessions**: Participants will engage in continuous mentorship sessions with experts from Biocon Biologics, NCBS, and other institutions to gain insights into research and career opportunities.
- **Lab Visits & Scientific Exposure:** Structured visits to NCBS, TIGS (Tata Institute for Genetics and Society), IISc (Indian Institute of Science), and JNCASR (Jawaharlal Nehru Centre For Advanced Scientific Research) will provide practical exposure to world-class research labs and facilities.
- **Bio-Incubation Centre Visits:** Participants will explore bio-incubators and entrepreneurial ecosystems to understand innovation pathways in life sciences.
- **Hands-on Training & Research Seminars:** Focused workshops, wet-lab experiences, and research-oriented seminars/webinars will help participants build core technical and scientific thinking skills.
- **Soft Skills & Communication Training**: Emphasis will be placed on workplace readiness, professional communication, and career planning to ensure sustainable reintegration into STEM fields.