

Molecular Biology Unit

August 9, 1988

Mr. Krishna Kumar
Secretary Agriculture and Horticulture
Karnatak Govt. Secretariat - M.S. Building
Dr. Ambedkar Veedhi
Bangalore 560 001.

Subject: Allotment of land for T.I.F.R Centre for
Biological Research

Dear Mr. Krishna Kumar,

This is in pursuance of our discussion in your office yesterday. I am grateful to you and Dr. Ramakrishna for your willingness to consider the possibility of giving land in the U.A.S campus for the T.I.F.R Centre for Biological Research that we plan to set up.

The proposed Centre is one of the three National Schemes that have been approved by the Planning Commission in the 7th Plan provisions for DAE. The attached note briefly outlines the objectives of the centre.

I believe that locating the Centre in the vicinity of the Agricultural University will be of mutual benefit to the Centre as well as the University. The main objective of the Centre is basic research in biology. The areas that the Centre plans to develop, constitute the foundations of biotechnology. I understand the University has plans for developing a biotechnology programme of its own. This would inevitably require strengthening basic research in areas of biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics which are closely connected with biotechnology. Plant molecular biology is one of the areas that we intend to specially emphasise. This should allow for close collaboration and fruitful interaction between staff member of the two institutions in research programmes of mutual interest. We also hope that the Centre will have the benefit of access to motivated students and research scholars that the University produces. I can easily visualise that, with mutual interaction and cooperation between the UAS, TIFR Centre, Indian Institute of Sciences and the ASTRA Research Centre (with which I.Sc. has close connections), Hebbal will develop into a major centre of modern biological research.

Advanced training and education in contemporary biology will be an integral part of the Centres work. The training facilities that the Centre will provide will be available to research scholars and staff members of the University. In addition, if the University permits, members of the Centre could contribute to teaching in the UAS as external teachers and lecturers. We foresee such an arrangement with the Indian Institute of Science.

As I explained to you, we have requested the Karnatak Government for about 50 acres of land, half of it for the Institutional buildings and facilities and the other half for housing the staff. I realise that this much land in close vicinity of Bangalore is hard to get. The exact requirement is adjustable, depending upon the location of the site and its suitability from other points of view. But I should stress that we do need housing, if not adjacent to the Centre, at least in its vicinity. I hope you will keep this in mind in considering possible locations.

I will be most grateful if you could give this matter an early consideration. As we are more than half way through the 7th Plan, T.I.F.R is very keen not to lose any more time.

I look forward to hearing from you.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

O. Siddiqi
Professor of Molecular Biology