



**Launching of the
Hi-Tech Pharma-Industry &
the Biotechnology Sector
in Mauritius**

20th October 2023

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Introduction

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Implementation of measures announced in Budget Speech 2020/21



Facilitating emergence of New Sectors:

- 1) Cote D'Or Technopole
- 2) Pharmaceutical Industry (in context of COVID-19 pandemic)
 - Priority investment in the Manufacturing of Pharmaceutical products, Medical Devices, Personal Protective Equipment through PPP
 - Incentives to setting up of Medical R&D centres & CROs

Implementation of measures announced in Budget Speech 2021/22



Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry:

- Incentives to purchase land and construct purpose-built factories for manufacturing pharma products and medical devices + clinical and pre-clinical trials and eventually tax rebates
- Seed capital of Rs 1 billion to MIBL for setting up of a Manufacturing plant for local production of COVID-19 vaccines and other Pharma products



Development of the Pharma Industry

High-level Technical Committee on Biotechnology and Pharma Manufacturing Industry



- A Technical Committee chaired by the Financial Secretary was set up in 2022 to submit its recommendations for the development of hi-tech pharmaceutical industry in Mauritius to the Ministerial Committee chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister

Recommendations of the Technical Committee are as follows :

First, to devise a new legislative and regulatory framework (including the revision of the existing Pharmacy Act and other relevant laws / regulations) for the development of the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Industry in Mauritius;

Second, to define a priority list of pharmaceutical products to be manufactured locally;

Third, to facilitate capacity building in human and technical resources for the Pharmaceutical industry;

High-level Technical Committee on Biotechnology and Pharma Manufacturing Industry



Fourth, to devise schemes and a package of incentives as well as support mechanisms to attract investors to start building factories and importing the appropriate equipment; and

Fifth, to explore new markets and exploit regional opportunities, mainly in the African continent

Framework (Investment Certificate)



- The EDB Act is empowered to issue an Investment Certificate and a Premium Investment Certificate.
- Depending on the Economic Activity, the Investment Certificate confers a set of incentives while the Premium Investment Certificate is issued according to requested incentives by the promoter and as may be approved.
- The certificates are only issued after submission of a full fledged business plan.

Framework (Investment Certificate)



- A comprehensive set of incentives be provided through a multi-stage process right from submission of interest to provide comfort to investors and for the business plan and financial forecast to be structured according to the incentives;
- The Economic Development Board (EDB) has worked out Guidelines, in collaboration with the Mauritius Institute of Biotechnology (MIBL).

Framework (Guidelines)



The Guidelines will, inter-alia, comprise the following components:

1. **ISSUE OF AN INVESTMENT CERTIFICATE** - Any person / organisation operating in the Pharmaceutical manufacturing industry shall be eligible to an Investment Certificate issued by the EDB under the EDB Act.
2. **PACKAGE OF INCENTIVES** - The holder of an Investment Certificate shall be entitled to the following incentives, namely, exemption of 8 years corporate tax, exemption from VAT, exemption from Customs Duty, exemption from Registration Duty and exemption from Land conversion tax.

Amendments to the Pharmacy Act



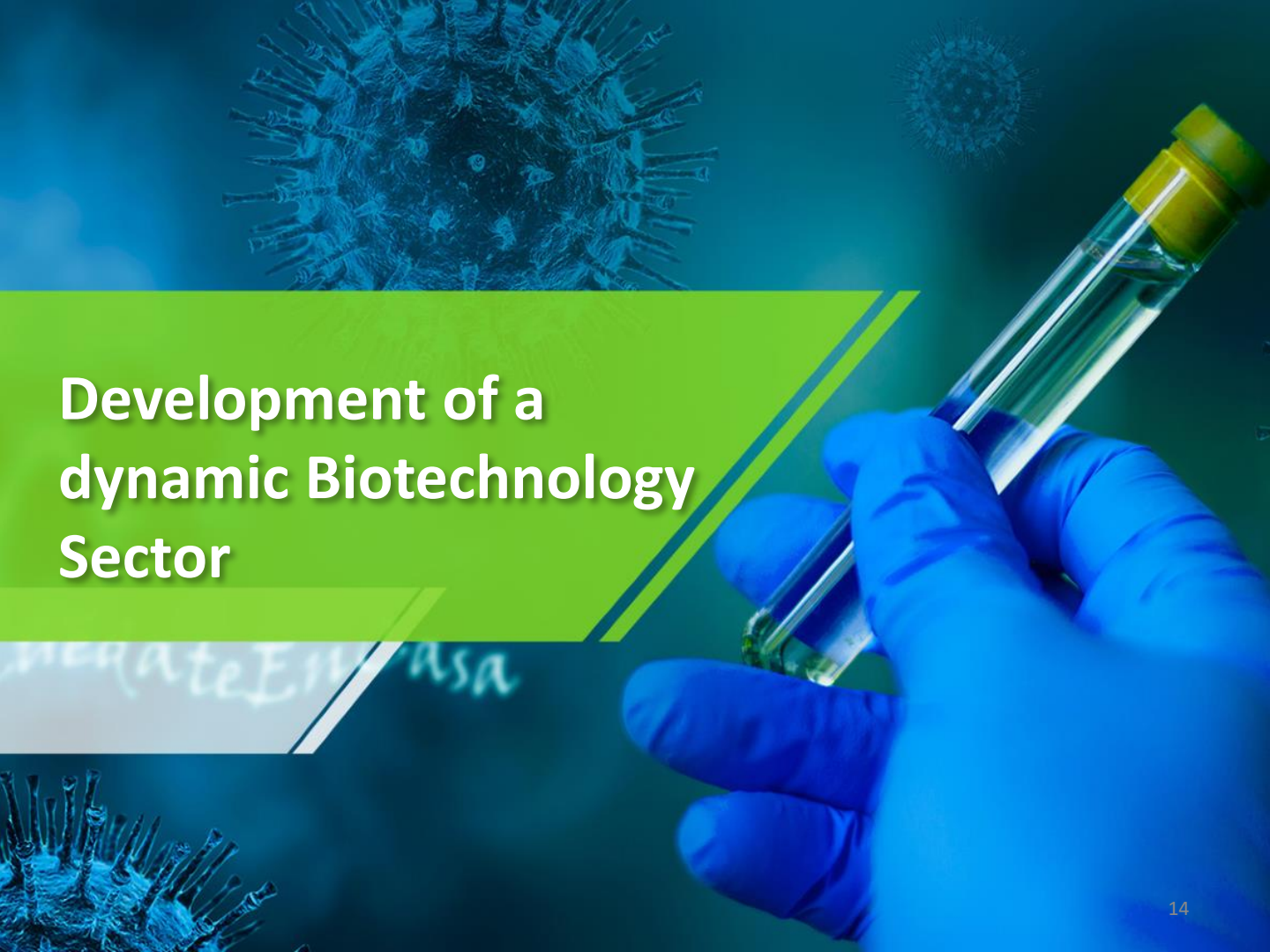
- In the Finance (Miscellaneous) Act 2023, the Pharmacy Act has been amended to –
 - a) facilitate registration of locally manufactured products under a technology transfer agreement with good manufacturing practices of the World Health Organization; and
 - b) disallow a public body, under the Public Procurement Act, to exclude locally manufactured product duly registered with the Pharmacy Board from being tendered;

Priority list of Pharma/ Biotech Manufacturing Products



- The following categories of pharma manufacturing companies will be eligible for obtaining the existing Investment Certificate issued by the EDB (Phase 1) :

Category	Manufacturing of-
1	Medicines for treatment of Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) including Diabetes, Cardio-Vascular Diseases (CVDs), Asthma, Cancer
2	Medicines/vaccines for Infectious diseases of Pandemic potential such as HIV/AIDS, COVID-19
3	Pharmaceutical products such as APIs and biologics for humans
4	Novel Diagnostic Kits/reagents using Artificial Intelligence (AI)
5	Medical Devices/Equipment
6	Medicines/vaccines for animals
7	Neutraceuticals (Food supplements additives)
8	Medicines and cosmetics from ocean-derived raw materials



Development of a dynamic Biotechnology Sector

Biotechnology Explained



- *“Any technological application that uses biological systems, living organisms or parts of them to make or modify new products or processes with specific uses”* (According to UN Convention on Biological Diversity)
- Historical examples : Use of yeast in fermentation processes for bread making, beer brewing and cheese production
- It is possible to classify the Biotech industry into sectors that include biopharma, industrial biotechnology, agricultural biotechnology, food biotechnology, environmental and bioinformatics.

Biotechnology Explained



- Biotechnology is an innovative interdisciplinary field that impacts many different sectors including medicine, pharmaceutical and fine chemicals production, agriculture, marine and veterinary sectors.
- It is emerging as one of the leading technologies for the transition towards carbon-free society and for solving critical societal challenges comprising Health Protection, Food and Energy supplies and Environmental protection.

Colour coding for Biotechnology



Yellow
Food & Nutrition



Blue
Marine & Aquatic



Green
Agriculture



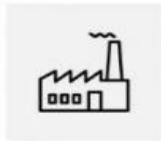
Red
Health



Brown
Dry Regions



Purple
Laws & Ethics



White
Industry



Black
Bioterror



Gray
Environment



Gold
Computational

Golden Biotech is a field that develops biotech solutions by using **computational science**

Biotechnology (BT) classifications by colours



Colour	Industries
Red	Biopharmaceutics, Biomedicine, Diagnostics
Green	Agricultural Biotechnology, Biofertilizers, Bioenergetics (Biofuels)
Blue	Aquaculture, Coastal and Marine Biotechnology
Grey	Environmental (Ecological) BT
Yellow	Food Biotechnology, Nutrition Science
White	Industrial Biotechnology (engineering enzymes etc for use)
Violet	Patents, Publications, Inventions, IPR, (Legal, Ethical and philosophical issues)
Gold	Bioinformatics, Nanobiotechnologies
Black	Bioterrorism, Biowarfare, Biocriminology, Anticrop warfare

Technical Steering Committees



- In line with its mandate and with the objective to provide support for the establishment of a thriving biotechnology sector, 5 technical steering committees have been set up as follows –
 - (i) Red Biotechnology (Medical & Pharmaceutical)
 - (ii) Green Biotechnology (Agri)
 - (iii) Blue Biotechnology (Marine)
 - (iv) Grey Biotechnology (Environmental applications)
 - (v) White Biotechnology (Industrial)

These Committees will define, monitor and drive the facilitation of existing projects, be involved in attracting new projects and also propose any regulatory amendment to provide an adequate ecosystem for the development of Biotechnology sector in the Republic of Mauritius.