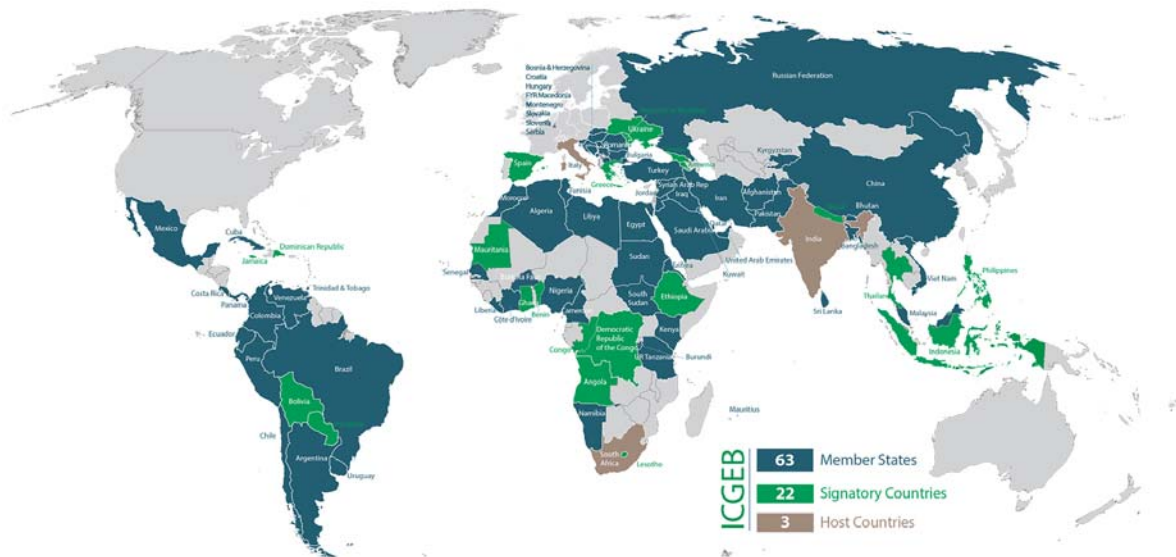




## Benefits of becoming a Member State of the ICGEB

The International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) is an International Organisation within the United Nations System. It has a dual mandate: excellence in scientific research and training, as well as the promotion and development of biotechnology for sustainable global development. It is unique amongst all international and research organisations in pursuing these goals through the combination of international technical cooperation with advanced experimental research in its own state-of-the-art laboratories, located in Trieste, Italy (which also hosts the Headquarters), New Delhi, India and Cape Town, South Africa. In addition it undertakes institutional activities, such as capacity building, event organisation, networking, as well as promotion of excellence in science via research grant programmes and fellowships in ICGEB Member States.



- Cutting-edge scientific research in its laboratories in Trieste, New Delhi and Cape Town
- Advanced education supported by long-and short-term fellowships for PhD students and post-docs
- Organisation of Meetings, Courses and Workshops at the international level
- Competitive research grants for scientists in Member Countries, including Early Career Return Grants
- Technology transfer to industry for the production of biotherapeutics and diagnostics
- Access to a state-of-the-art facilities in the three Components
- Provision of technical assistance and advisory services to Member States
- Access to a worldwide network of biotechnology experts
- Advancing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development

Being a member of the ICGEB extends far beyond the practical benefits that individual scientists and research centres can obtain from the ICGEB institutional programmes. It means belonging to an Intergovernmental Organisation with more than 60 Member States, thus constituting the global authority and advocate on all issues related to the use of

biotechnology for sustainable development. The ICGEB community is, therefore, a credible, neutral and strong global voice for biotechnology.

For the Least Developed Countries, membership in the ICGEB means having access to its vast and long-standing international network, and to be able to take

part and benefit from the global advances being made in the Life Sciences. For countries with emerging economies, membership can facilitate the creation of regional research hubs within the geographical area of the country thereby directly promoting the use of biotechnology to address the problems important to that region. Finally, for all countries, membership in ICGEB results in partnering to promote scientific learning and innovation across a unique technological and educational platform; advancing towards the achievement of the UN 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure - and benefitting from its flagship extramural programmes: Fellowships, Research Grants, Meetings and Courses.

The governance of ICGEB is constituted by a Board of Governors, composed of representatives from each Member State and by a Council of Scientific Advisors, comprising distinguished international scientists, including Nobel laureates. Both governing bodies meet annually.

The rate of the annual assessment of membership is directly linked to the UN rate, corrected by a multiplier of 0.75; the minimum level of contribution is US\$5000 and the maximum level of contribution is US\$150,000.



22nd Session of the Board of Governors, Trieste, Italy



2016 CSA members, Trieste, Italy

## ICGEB in action

The ICGEB's five macro-areas of **research** incorporate over 45 research programmes in the field of biotechnology: Infectious Diseases, Non-communicable Diseases, Medical Biotechnology, Industrial Biotechnology and Plant Biology & Biotechnology that are carried out in its laboratories in Trieste, Italy, New Delhi, India and Cape Town, South Africa. ICGEB also collaborates with other international organisations and on issues of Bioethics and **Biosafety**, for which ICGEB represents a scientific reference point for genetically modified organisms (see <http://biosafety.icgeb.org/>).



ICGEB laboratories in Trieste, New Delhi and Cape Town

In addition, the ICGEB offers the opportunity to establish **Regional Research Centres** (RRCs) to contribute to strengthen research skills, knowledge and capacities of the local scientific community while pursuing specific objectives for research, training and technology transfer to industry to benefit both the

hosting country and the region where the RRC is located.

The ICGEB awards an average of 20 **grants** per year under the CRP-ICGEB Grants Programme on a competitive basis and geographical distribution. Further

information at: <http://www.icgeb.org/research-grants-impact.html>

The ICgeb organises over 20 **scientific meetings and courses** per year in its Member States, for which Member State nationals are eligible to apply. There are a number of grants to support registration fee and/or living expenses during the meetings. There are, furthermore, many opportunities to attend other meetings organised or sponsored by ICgeb thanks to funds provided by ICgeb's donors. In 2016, ICgeb sponsored participation for 560 Member State scientists in its events. Further information at: <http://www.icgeb.trieste.it/meetings-and-courses.html>

The **Fellowships** Programme offers long and short-term fellowships (PhD: 1 call per year offering financial support for 3 years; Postdoc: 2 calls per year and offering financial support for an average period of 2 years; Short-term PhD and Postdocs; 4 calls per year offering fellowships of 1-12 months' duration). There is no specified limit on the number of trainees (Fellows) of any one nationality who can work and study simultaneously at ICgeb. The selection process for PhD and Postdoc Fellowships focuses on scientific excellence on a competitive basis, but also considers geographical distribution of awards. Further information is available at: <http://www.icgeb.org/fellowships-statistics.html>

**Technology Transfer** activities are undertaken through the Biotechnology Development Unit in Trieste, Italy and the Recombinant Gene Products Group in New

Delhi, India and focus on procedures for the development of simple and innovative technologies for the production of biosimilars, genetically engineered biomolecules for medical use, and viral diagnostics, respectively. These procedures and products are developed for easy adaptation to the conditions or requirements of Member States. Further information at: <http://www.icgeb.trieste.it/biotechnology-transfer.html>

**Outreach**, ICgeb has been running an in-house podcasting facility since 2011 and distributes its movies featuring broad scientific content on YouTube and iTunes, constituting a vast learning resource that offers free educational movies for users to download straight to their computer and mobile devices. The ICgeb Podcast facility makes a range of high quality, audio-visual assets from its international, annual meetings and courses, seminars, lessons and public events freely and openly accessible for download and sharing, with a view to communicate the diversity and strength of its international research and expertise. With over 500 movies covering 50 topics in Health & Medicine and Science, podcasts are also available on the ICgeb Web site. ICgeb movies are previewed and downloaded an average 100,000 times a year in over 80 countries. The ICgeb Web site is a major public information tool that attracts millions of visits every month and podcasts regularly feature in the top 30 pages (URLs) hit.



### Three easy steps to membership

1. The Government sends a written request to the ICgeb to become a member
2. This request is presented to the Board of Governors for approval
3. Once accepted, the Government deposits the Instrument of Accession to the Statutes of ICgeb, with the UNSG, Treaty Section, Office of Legal Affairs, New York and becomes a full Member of ICgeb.

For further information and documentation please contact:

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