

Foreigners get incubation tips at EDI

Ahmedabad,

After his recent visit to India, 46-year-old Carlos Pires from north Brazil is geared up to start an incubation centre in his region which does not have any such facility.

Pires was on a special visit here to learn how to set up and operate incubation centers. He was part of a group of 42 foreigners from 26 countries attending first-of-its-kind programme in the country called 'Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovations Through Business Incubation' at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI). The six-week-long programme, which was sponsored by the Union ministry of external affairs and supported by the states department of science and technology, will end on March 31.

Pires said, "I didn't have a clue about incubation before I came to India to take part in this programme. Now I understand the entire process and its importance for the economic development of the country. I will be starting the process of setting up incubation centers

back home now. I have lots of ideas but maybe I will begin with helping start-ups working in the area of pharmaceuticals or even agriculture." While most of the participants were from developing countries, many of them said they did not have a single incubation centre there. One such participant from Bhutan, Deepika Rai, who is working with the Bhutan government, said, "Our country is on the process of setting up incubation countries in different areas and my participation in the programme will help. I am now clear about the roles of the different stakeholders, including the government, and the importance of the aspect of sustainability," appreciating the programme Rai said, "I hope EDI will run this programme again so that another person from my country will get the opportunity to learn about incubation."

Other countries like Bulgaria, Curacao, Ecuador, Egypt, Iran, Jordan, Panama, Nepal, Thailand and Uganda had their representatives taking part

in the programme.

Faculty at EDI and course director of the programme S B Sareen said, "Our country had also gone through such a phase which these developing countries are going through now. So we wanted to teach them through our experience."