THIAGARAJAR COLLEGE, MADURAI
OFFICE OF THE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Intellectual Property (IP) Policy

1. Preamble

Thiagarajar College is committed to fostering innovation, creativity, and research excellence. The College encourages faculty members, research scholars, and students to create intellectual property that contributes to academic advancement, technological innovation, and societal development.

This Intellectual Property (IP) Policy establishes guidelines for the identification, protection, ownership, management, commercialization, and sharing of benefits arising from intellectual property generated within the College.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Promote innovation and research.
- Encourage patent filing and technology development.
- Protect intellectual property generated in the College.
- Facilitate technology transfer and commercialization.
- Ensure fair recognition and benefit sharing among inventors and the College.
- Prevent unauthorized disclosure of inventions.
- Promote collaboration with industries and funding agencies.

3. Scope

This policy shall apply to:

- All faculty members
- Research faculty
- Research scholars
- Postgraduate and undergraduate students
- Technical and administrative staff
- Individuals working on externally funded or collaborative research projects

4. Intellectual Property Covered

The policy covers:

- Patents

- Copyrights
- Industrial Designs
- Trademarks
- Trade Secrets
- Software and Databases
- Plant Varieties
- Integrated Circuit Layout Designs
- Any other intellectual property recognized under applicable laws.

5. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell

The College shall establish an Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Cell to:

- Promote IP awareness.
- Receive invention disclosures.
- Conduct preliminary patentability assessment.
- Coordinate prior-art searches.
- Recommend filing of patents.
- Liaise with registered Patent Agents.
- Maintain patent records.
- Facilitate commercialization and licensing.

6. Ownership of Intellectual Property

6.1 College Ownership

The College shall ordinarily own intellectual property developed:

- Using College funds.
- Using College laboratories and major facilities.
- Under College-funded research projects.
- Under College research fellowships.
- During the course of official employment.

6.2 Joint Ownership

Joint ownership may arise where:

- Research is funded by external agencies.
- Research involves another institution.
- Industry-sponsored projects specify shared ownership.

Ownership shall be governed by agreements executed before commencement of the project.

6.3 Student-Owned IP

Students shall ordinarily own intellectual property created independently without substantial use of College resources or funding.

Where the invention is developed:

- using College funding,
- College laboratories,
- under faculty supervision as part of funded research,

ownership shall be jointly determined according to this policy.

7. Invention Disclosure

Every inventor shall disclose the invention to the IPR Cell before:

- publication,
- conference presentation,
- thesis submission,
- public demonstration,
- commercialization.

Disclosure shall be made through the prescribed **Invention Disclosure Form (IDF).**

8. Confidentiality

All inventors shall maintain strict confidentiality until the patent application is filed.

No inventor shall publish or publicly disclose patentable information without prior approval of the IPR Cell.

9. Patent Evaluation Procedure

Upon receipt of an invention disclosure, the IPR Cell shall:

- acknowledge receipt;
- conduct prior-art search;
- evaluate novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability;
- obtain expert opinion where necessary;
- submit recommendations to the IPR Committee.

The Committee shall recommend whether to:

- file a patent;
- seek additional information;
- decline filing.

10. Patent Filing

Patent applications shall be filed through a registered Patent Agent approved by the College.

The College may file:

- Provisional Patent Application
- Complete Patent Application
- National Patent
- International (PCT) Patent

depending upon the recommendation of the IPR Committee.

11. Expenses

Where approved by the College:

The College may bear expenses towards:

- prior-art search;
- drafting charges;
- filing fees;
- examination fees;
- attorney charges;
- maintenance fees.

Where external funding is available, expenses shall be met from the project as permitted.

12. Revenue Sharing

Income arising from commercialization may be shared among:

- Inventor(s)
- College
- Department/Research Centre

The exact percentage shall be decided by the Governing Body/Management as per institutional regulations.

13. Publication

Researchers are encouraged to publish their work.

However, patent filing shall precede publication wherever the work contains patentable inventions.

14. Collaborative Research

For collaborative projects:

- ownership,
- filing responsibility,
- commercialization,
- revenue sharing

shall be governed through Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) or Research Agreements executed before commencement of the project.

15. Conflict of Interest

Members involved in evaluation of inventions shall disclose any conflict of interest and recuse themselves from the evaluation process.

16. Record Maintenance

The IPR Cell shall maintain:

- Invention Disclosure Register
- Patent Filing Register
- Patent Status Register
- Commercialization Register
- Licensing Register
- Annual Patent Report

17. Policy Review

The policy shall be reviewed once every **three years**, or earlier if required due to changes in applicable laws or institutional needs.

18. Dispute Resolution

Any dispute relating to ownership, inventorship, revenue sharing, or commercialization shall first be examined by the IPR Committee.

If unresolved, the matter shall be referred to the Principal and subsequently to the Governing Body, whose decision shall be final.