

JOINT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CALL ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS) IN HEALTH, NUTRITION AND AGRO-PROCESSING - NAMIBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE

CALL GUIDELINES

APPLICATION PERIOD: 08 - 29 March 2021

FUNDING PERIOD: 1 year, 9 months

1 General Background

The Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) was launched in 2015 and it seeks to strengthen the capacities of Science Granting Councils (SGCs) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) to support research and foster evidence-based policies that will contribute to economic and social development. The first phase of this initiative lasted for 5 years (2015-2020) and was jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), and South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF). In July 2018, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and IDRC agreed on a new 5-year partnership to deepen and sustain the SGCI from 2018 to 2023. This is referred to as the second phase of the initiative. The goal of the this phase of the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) in Sub-Saharan Africa (SGCI-2) is to contribute towards improving SGCs' management of research calls and grants to strengthen Councils capacities. Secondly, it has been designed to respond to the priorities identified by each Council (15 African countries).

After a call for proposals to manage research calls within the framework of the Science Granting Councils Initiative, the National Commission and Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) of Namibia and the Fundo Nacional de Investigaç o (FNI) of Mozambique secured funding to invest in research projects that respond to the national research, development and innovation priorities of the two countries. These include manufacturing and industrialization, sustainable economies and societies, and emerging technologies and development. It is against this background that the call below is issued.

2 Research Call on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS)

2.1 Background

The NCRST and FNI signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2017 in an effort to collaborate in the following STI priority areas: agriculture, bio-technology, energy, tourism, infrastructure, information and communication technology, indigenous knowledge systems (IKS), environment and climate change social and humanities, health, education, and mineral resources.

Historical policy aspects, and the advent of modernization driven by Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), has been widely discoursed as some of the factors that has contributed to the neglect and regress of IKS practices over the years. However, the two governments (Namibia & Mozambique) through the NCRST and FNI respectively, recognize the socio-economic value of IKS and has therefore identified it as a strategic thrusts with the potential for provision of benefit realization from the diverse state or mobilized resources.

In an effort to realize government commitments and redress IKS, the two SGCs jointly mobilised resources through the SGCI to fund Research, Science, Technology and Innovation (RSTI)-driven projects or developmental initiatives that strives to recognize and mainstream the use and application of IKS for a wider course of socio-economic advancement. The long term aspirations with calls of this nature is to transitionally redress IKS shortfalls and simultaneously inculcate its integration within the national systems of innovation (NSI) for inclusive national development efforts.

It is against this background that the NCRST and FNI jointly invites Namibian and Mozambican researchers affiliated to institutions at recognised public or private universities, research institutions, indigenous/ traditional knowledge holders, and NGOs to jointly submit proposals in response to the call content as expanded on below.

The primary focus area of this call is indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) with emphasis on the disciplines of "Health, Nutrition and Agro-processing". The purpose of this call is to fund joint research, development and innovation (RD&I) projects which intend to deliver feasible solutions to the socio-economic challenges faced by the two countries in the areas of Health, Nutrition and Agro-processing.

Innovative and technology-based solutions with IKS component could include, but are not limited to, traditional/herbal medicines, nutraceuticals, preservatives, medical and diagnostic technologies, therapeutics and nutritious products made or derived from indigenous resources. These RD&I

driven projects should not demonstrate any form of transgression to any international or national laws, protocols, guidelines and other policy instruments that guides IKS fundamentals. Most importantly, these successful technologies sought for must be ready to commercialize or require only short-term development.

Considering that this call is issued at the time of the global pandemic, priority will be given to proposals responding or contributing to the fight against infectious diseases including Covid-19.

2.2 Objectives of this call

- To fund socio-economic driven RD&I with IK components in health, nutrition and agro-processing;
- To enhance technology transfer efforts and interfaces with STI within the value-chains of the identified thematic areas;
- To enhance valorization of IKS through, health, nutrition and agro-processing initiatives;
- To enhance collaboration and capacity building between Namibian and Mozambican researchers, students and research institutions; and
- To exchange scientific and technological information and documentation, teaching and learning materials arising from cooperation and provide an opportunity for researchers in the two countries to engage.

2.3 Expected results

- The submitted project should demonstrate IKS valorization and affirmation as a contributor towards socio-economic development.
- The proposed project should promote the sustainable utilization of natural resources within the “Access and Benefit Sharing” value-chain in principle.
- The proposed project should demonstrate interface between STI and IKS for innovation, application and/or redress purposes;
- Project outcomes should contribute to food security, improved health, and increased households’ income.
- Products resulting from the project should include traditional/herbal medicines, nutraceuticals, preservatives, medical and diagnostic technologies, therapeutics as well as nutritious products made or derived from indigenous resources.
- The projects should build capacity and foster collaborative networks amongst knowledge holders, communities, scientists and/or innovators.

2.4 Area of cooperation

This funding instrument is intended to promote and support RD&I in order to enhance the understanding of IKS and its role in the betterment of communities. The joint proposals to be submitted should specifically focus on IKS applications in, health, nutrition and Agro-processing by offering technological, innovative and scientific solutions for the pertinent socio-economic challenges in Namibia and Mozambique.

3 Funding information

A total amount of N\$ 715,878.00 (Namibia) and 2 500 000MT (Mozambique) is available for funding this call, inclusive of all project related costs. A maximum of ONE joint project will be funded for a duration of 2 years and 4 months.

3.1 Allocation of funding

- 70% for direct research activity costs;
- 25% for workshop or conference travel and accomodation and subsistence allowance;
- 5% indirect costs .

3.2 Funds disbursments

Funds will be disbursed according to the table below:

Initial disbursement	Upon signature of agreement
Second disbursement	Upon approval of first technical and financial report (<i>covering the first six (6) months of work</i>)
Third disbursement	Upon approval of second technical and financial report (<i>covering twelve (12) months of work</i>)
Fourth disbursement	Upon approval of third technical and financial report (covering eighteen (18) months of work)
Fifth disbursement	Upon approval of fourth technical and financial report (<i>covering twenty four (24) months of work</i>)
Sixth disbursement	Upon approval of final technical and financial report (<i>covering thirty (30) months of work</i>)

3.3 Payment of funds

Funds will be managed by the organisations of the Principal Investigators (PIs) in the two countries

4 Who may apply?

The call is open to researchers, research groups and knowledge holders who are citizens of in Namibia and Mozambique. Principal Investigators, one based in Namibia and the other in Mozambique, must jointly apply for the call. Both candidates must be experts in the field of indigenous knowledge systems, and be in possession of a Masters or PhD degree in Natural Sciences. Candidates with health, nutrition or agro-processing background will have an added advantage. In addition, the applicants must be affiliated to a recognised institution in Namibia or Mozambique. Namibian applicants are required to find research partners in Mozambique and vice versa. The Principal Investigators are responsible for the overall project coordination and reporting (technical and financial).

For this call, at least two partners should collaborate, i.e, a researcher and knowledge holder in each country. Evidence thereof should be granted by relevant statutory bodies such as the Traditional Authority representative through a letter of consent. It is encouraged that the project involve students from local institutions of higher learning especially those at the post-graduate level.

4.1 Eligibility criteria and submission procedure of the FNI

- a. Mozambican researchers who are employed by the following entities:
 - Accredited private or public research institutions.
 - Accredited public or private higher education institutions.
 - Private sector.

The eligibility to submit a proposal follows the *Manual of Norms and Procedures* at FNI available at www.fni.gov.mz or on request at gms@fni.gov.mz

4.2 Eligibility criteria and submission procedure of the NCRST

- a. Namibian citizens.
- b. The call is open to all researchers and groups of researchers or Namibian citizens who are employed on a permanent or contractual basis and affiliated to the following entities:
 - Accredited Public or Private Higher Education Institutions
 - IK/TK knowledge holders
 - Private/Public Research Institutions/Centres in Namibia

- Offices / Ministries or Agencies (OMAs) in Namibia
 - Private Sector
 - NGOs
- c. The applicant's service contract must be valid during the period of the proposed project and contractual documents must be furnished as proof of employment for the period.
 - d. Projects funded through this call should be located and carried out in Namibia unless otherwise indicated in the proposal. The project may contain eligible activities that can be carried out abroad when fully justified for addressing the objective(s) of this call.
 - e. Lead applicants may participate in any number of NCRST-funded projects at the same time but can only *lead* one (1) project at a time unless otherwise agreed with the NCRST.

For additional information consult the NCRST's, Grant Management Rules and Procedures document available on request at sgcicall@ncrst.na

5 Supported activities

Under this call, joint research projects in the area of IKS to be conducted in Mozambique and Namibia will be funded. The following specific activities under the project will be funded:

- Research activities, including data-collection through laboratory, desk or field research, stakeholders consultations and field visits and any other activity necessary for a proper implementation of the proposed research project;
- Consumables and project indirect cost, which may include stationery, laboratory reagents/supplies and telecommunications, stipend and benefits of personnel supporting the project;
- Exchange visits in case of meetings, research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits are undertaken as part of joint research and the attendance of seminars, symposia and other meetings funded under this call;
- Subsistence allowance for workshops and seminars, local or international, subject to the percentage limits provided
- Contingency: contingency reserve not exceeding 5% of all the project cost may be included in the budget;

The following costs are not eligible under this call:

- purchases of fixed assets;
- currency exchange losses;
- direct or indirect taxes, including VAT;
- Overheads

6 How to apply

A joint proposal should be submitted electronically by the two PIs in the respective countries as follows:

6.1 In Mozambique

Go to www.fni.gov.mz

- Register on our online system
- Upon registration, call and application documents will be available
- Completed applications must be accompanied by a support letter by the PI's host institution.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. All applicants are requested to use the "joint project application form" provided.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

6.2 In Namibia

Go to www.ncrst.na

- Register via our online registration portal for the Joint Collaborative Research Call on Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) - Namibia and Mozambique.
- Upon registration, application documents will become available for download.
- Proposals must be submitted to NCRST by email to: sgcicall@ncrst.na (Please use the following on your email subject: **Research Call on Indigenous Knowledge Systems**);
- Completed applications must be accompanied by a support letter by the PI's host institution.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. All applicants are requested to use the "joint project application form" provided.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

7 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the joint research proposals will be organised by the FNI and NCRST in form of a joint evaluation. The following will be evaluated:

Criteria	Score
1. Scientific quality and innovativeness of the joint research proposal	20

<p>2. Feasibility of the joint research proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Practicality, realistic, feasibility and consistency of the proposed activities with the objectives of the call b. Clarity and feasibility of the methodology provided c. Addressing contemporary challenges 	20
<p>3. Added value to be expected from the collaboration</p>	10
<p>4. Gender consideration, competence, expertise and experience of the principal investigators and scientists/research teams concerned;</p>	10
<p>5. Clear deliverables</p>	10
<p>6. Relevance and impact of the research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Industrial development; b. Capacity building (institutional and /or human); c. Commercialization of research results; d. Potential for promoting gender equality and equity e. Potential impact on the end-use (market needs). f. Technology capability (Is there a prototype, or proof of concept that is illustrated and has been proven to work). 	20
<p>7. Budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consistency to budget ratio or percentage stipulated in this document. b. Does the proposed expenditure reflect the true cost of the proposed activities? 	10
<p>TOTAL SCORE</p>	100

8 Project reporting

Joint technical and financial progress reports must be submitted to FNI and NCRST every six (6) months. The project's initial fee of 30% of the total budget will be paid upon contracting. Thereafter, disbursements will be done upon progress and completion of identified project milestone. Failure to submit reports will result in the withholding of further funds disbursements and be construed as violation of the contract. A final joint technical and financial report will be submitted to FNI and NCRST by both Principal Investigators at the end of the project. A format will be provided for this purpose.

9 Intellectual property

- 'Intellectual Property Rights' (IPR) means any and all patents, patent applications, know how, unregistered and registered trademarks, trade mark applications, trade names, registered designs, unregistered design rights, semiconductor topography rights, copyright, database rights or any other similar intellectual or commercial rights in Namibia and Mozambique or anywhere in the world.
- Intellectual Property will be dealt with in accordance with the provisions made in the contract agreement between the funding institutions and the grant recipient.

10 General information

- All applicants are requested to use the "joint project application form" provided;
- Proposals must be submitted to the respective institutions (FNI and NCRST) in parallel and in accordance with the requirements of each country, as proposals received at either FNI or NCRST only, but not by both Councils, will not be considered;
- Applications submitted outside the submission process will not be accepted;
- It is advisable that applications be endorsed by the research office or its equivalent authority at higher education or research institutions/departments or centres;
- Research proposals should be practical and focused towards problem solving in the identified priority research area.
- Proposals that demonstrate a strong multidisciplinary and collaborative approach among researchers and institutions are encouraged.
- Proposals that involve young and emerging researchers and pay attention to a balanced involvement of female and male researchers (gender equality), will be positively considered.

- Both Councils (FNI and NCRST) will not be held responsible for non-submission, non-administration or for no evaluation of the application in the partner country;
- A database of potential collaborators in the IKS field is available upon request from NCRST and FNI.

11 Submission Date and Acceptance of the Grant Offer

- Proposals should be submitted not later than 17H00 on 4 September 2020, to FNI and NCRST. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- The successful partners (PIs) must accept the grant offer within one week after notification of award and start the project within one month.

The table below indicates timeline of this project:

Key milestones	Date
Deadline for submission of Application Form	29 March 2021
Notification of award	April 2021
Contract signature	April 2021
Disbursement of first instalment	May 2021
Project completion	January 2023

Contact details: Mozambique

For more information contact Ms. Dirce Madeira or Mr. Edson Faria at gms@fni.gov.mz or +258 845 633 807 / +258 845 633 688

Contact details: Namibia

For more information, contact Ms. Luiza Mazarire or Mr. Benyamen Nathanael at sgcicall@ncrst.na or [+264 61 431 7000](tel:+264614317000).