
Bilateral Call Application Guidelines for Collaborative Research Proposals in Agro-processing and Renewable Energy in Botswana and Mozambique

Call Opening Date: 7th June, 2023

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1.0 BACKGROUND

The Fundo Nacional de Investigação (FNI) of the Republic of Mozambique and the Botswana Digital and Innovation Hub (BDIH) from the Republic of Botswana are participating in the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) for Sub Saharan Africa.

The SGCI seeks to strengthen the capacities of the participating SGCs in supporting research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to socio-economic development of the countries. The Initiative is jointly funded by the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID), Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC), South Africa's National Research Foundation (NRF), the Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), the German Research Foundation (DFG), the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).

In contributing to their national research systems, the SGCs (in the two countries) secured a Grant from the International Development Research Centre under the auspices of the SGCI. The said Grant which aims at supporting research projects in **Agro-processing** and **Renewable energy** is based on a co-funding arrangement between the ACTS on one hand and the FNI and BDIH on the other.

2.0 RATIONALE AND SCOPE OF THE JOINT CALL

The demand for energy in the region has been rising due to economic activities in the countries, particularly in the mining, manufacturing and agriculture sectors. Energy generation in the region relies almost entirely on hydropower, however, the recent droughts experienced in the region have caused serious electricity supply deficits. Governments are now actively seeking to enhance the renewable energy sector which has abundant renewable energy resources yet to be fully exploited. The Southern African Development Community (SADC) through its Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan recommends that member states must achieve energy security by closing the current supply/demand deficit in the power sector and enable future economic growth and industrialization through transitioning to and/or increasing

the use of renewable energy sources and developing innovative ways of using energy to drive sustainable development. **Agro-processing** and **Renewable Energy** were identified as National Research Priority Areas in Mozambique and Botswana.

To contribute towards efforts to enhance the agro-processing and renewable energy sector in the two countries, FNI and BDIH will fund collaborative research projects in both areas. The objective of this Bilateral Joint Call is to generate critical knowledge that will help in strategic development and utilization agriculture production and energy sources to diversify the energy mix and accelerate achievement of the countries' energy generation targets, increase industry competitiveness, improve service delivery and reduce poverty.

3.0 THEMATIC FOCUS

The researchers in the area of agriculture and renewable energy in the two countries will collaborate to prepare joint research proposals in the priority areas named below. The FNI and BDIH will, therefore, co-fund demand-led, collaborative research projects that address issues of relevance in the following priority areas in which research project proposals are invited;

(a) Agroprocessing

(b) Renewable energy: resource efficiency; sustainability of renewable energy systems; management of renewable energy systems for socio economic development.

4.0 FUNDING LEVEL

The budget limit for project activities in each research proposal will be no more than **2000 000MT** for the research team in Mozambique. The budget limit for project activities for the research team in Botswana will not exceed **BWP850 000**. This means that a budget for one joint proposal will have two components: Budget for project activities for the research team in Mozambique and the budget for the research team in Botswana. Collaborative research projects will be implemented for a period not exceeding **twenty-two months (22) months**. Permissible budget items shall include the following:

- Material costs, if they are directly linked to the research project, in particular material of enduring value, the cost of expendable items, field expenses, travel expenses or third party charges.
- Direct costs incurred through the use of research infrastructure linked to the research.
- Costs of organizing conferences and workshops in connection with the funded research.
- Costs of national and international co-operation and networking activities directly associated with the funded research.

Note: Salaries of applicants, purchase of fixed assets and overheads are not eligible costs.

5.0 ELIGIBILITY

The following are the eligibility criteria;

- (a) Each proposal must have two research teams for project activities in both countries led by a principal investigator in each of the countries. Thus, each proposal shall have two principal investigators as main applicants each based in Botswana and Mozambique. The Principal Investigators will bear the overall responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative co-ordination as well as the timely delivery of scientific and financial reports.
- (b) Proposals that demonstrate a **strong multidisciplinary and collaborative approach among researchers and institutions** are encouraged.
- (c) Applications are open to bona fide researchers from public and private research and higher learning institutions in Botswana and Mozambique.
- (d) Letters of support from the Mozambique, and Botswana host institutions of the Principal Investigators are a prerequisite. Proposals without institutional letters of support will not be considered.
- (e) The Grant will fund only **applied research projects** in the listed thematic areas. Research proposals shall need to demonstrate the application of scientific principles or basic scientific discoveries to solve real life challenges.
- (f) Principal investigators must be in possession of a PhD degree preferably in a related field of the thematic area. Applicants are required to find their own research partners in the collaborating countries.
- (g) Principal Investigators in Botswana and Mozambique must fulfil the following requirements at the point of application:
 - (i) Have done previous research in agro-processing and renewable energy; and
 - (ii) Possess ability to provide mentorship to research teams

6.0 PROPOSAL PREPARATION

These guidelines are provided to researchers to develop proposals for possible funding in the identified thematic areas of agro-processing and renewable energy. These guidelines must be adhered to as failure to do so will result in the proposals not being reviewed for funding. Submission of a research proposal does not guarantee funding.

The **maximum** duration for the implementation of the funded projects shall not exceed **22 months**. Research and outreach projects that show potential for high impact at grass root within the project time line at a reasonable cost will be given high priority. The applicants are requested to use Times New Roman font, size 12, 1.5 line spacing using the **Research Proposal Template** available on the website and link under **section 8.0 below**.

7.0 SOME ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROPOSAL

The following information is expected to be included in the proposal;

(a) Cross-cutting considerations

The proposal should demonstrate how sex, gender equality and inclusivity, public-private partnerships, risk management and intellectual property issues will be addressed in the project. Research projects led by women Principal Investigators are strongly encouraged. More weight will be given to a team that has female co-investigators during the review and selection process of the projects.

(b) Results and Dissemination

Applicants should clearly define the major outputs expected from the research project and describe how the research findings will be disseminated or used. Who are the target audience/beneficiaries? How will the findings be used to influence policy and practice? What media engagements plans are envisaged? Indicate how open access will be fostered. Relate the specific dissemination method/approach to the target audience and briefly explain the rationale for the choice of the approach.

(c) Team composition from applicant organizations

All individuals who make a significant contribution to the intellectual direction of the research, and who may have some responsibility for tasks of the project should be listed. Team members from applicant organizations should be included. It is important to include the field of expertise of each individual. Do not include CVs of the entire research team but include a one or two paged CV for the Principal Investigators.

(d) Budget

This should include an explanation and justification for each line item in the detailed budget spreadsheet. The maximum budget is as stated in section 4.0 above. Presentation of detailed budgets is a must. Any personnel costs should include a clarification of the roles and responsibilities of key researchers and percentage of time devoted to the project. The research grant will not cover salaries for the project team members. All rates to be used for the budgeting purpose are the ones acceptable by the respective institutions of the Principal Investigators hosting the projects. Some of the project downstream eligible cost items are stated in section 4.0.

(e) Project Governance

Briefly explain how the project will be governed. What is the composition of the research team, their qualifications and specific roles in the proposed project? Describe how any partnership is planned with other universities/ research institutes? How will the private sector or beneficiaries be involved in the design/management/execution of the project? What is the role of the university's/institute's management (if any) and how might this governance structure influence the success of the programme?

(f) Proposed Project Timeline

Provide a chart of key activities, timelines and key milestones within the period not exceeding 24 months.

(g) Monitoring and Evaluation

BDIH and FNI, in collaboration with host institutions from Botswana and Mozambique will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation. Successful applicants will be provided with monitoring and evaluation templates.

(h) Ethical clearance

Where the project involves human participants and animal subjects, the Principal Investigator in the respective country shall obtain ethical clearance from an appropriate research ethics committee before any grant disbursement and implementation of the project.

8.0 SUBMISSION AND PROCESSING OF PROPOSALS

Submission of an application package should be in a form of electronic copy. The deadline for submission is **7th July 2023, 2300 hrs, CAT**. Application package shall include full proposal specified herein; Principal Investigator's covering letter; letter of support from an institution of the Principal Investigator; and CVs of the Principal Investigators. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. When the full application package is duly completed save the document as **last names of principal investigators-BDIH-FNI Call for Proposals 2023**". The electronic copy should be in PDF.

(a) The Joint full application package should be submitted electronically in the prescribed template to the following:

Upload on <https://eventos.fni.gov.mz/event/16/>

/ for principal investigators from Mozambique under a heading "**Full Joint Proposal BDIH and FNI-area (renewable energy or agro-processing)**" clearly specified.

For Botswana BIH, full research proposals should be submitted electronically to researchfund@bih.co.bw.

(b) All applications will be reviewed based on their quality and merit. A full **proposal template** is downloadable on any of the following links:

- <https://eventos.fni.gov.mz/event/16/>
- www.bih.co.bw/sgciphasetwo

(c) All documents (full research proposal, CV, detailed budget, letters of support) have to be submitted in PDF

(d) The review, selection of proposals and communication to applicants will be done by **31 August 2023**.

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- (e) All proposals will be received and processed in confidentiality with acknowledgment of intellectual property rights of the applicants.
 - (f) Decision of BDIH and FNI will be final.

9.0 ENQUIRIES

Any enquiries from researchers shall be directed as follows;

- (a) Enquiries from researchers in Botswana should be directed to Tiroyaone Tshukudu on tiroyaone.tshukudu@bih.co.bw (Tel No. 267-360-6420) and Matthews Gaadingwe on matthews.gaadingwe@bih.co.bw (Tel No. 267-369-6409).
- (b) Enquiries from researchers from Mozambique should be directed to Dirce Madeira on dirce.madeira@fni.gov.mz or dmadeiramac@gmail.com (Tel No. 258-845-633807) and Edson Faria on edson.faria@fni.gov.mz or edsonlffaria2012@gmail.com (Tel No. 258-844-122705)