

NCRST/SGCI RESEARCH CALL FOR PROPOSALS

APPLICATION FORM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Please read the *Call Guideline* document for this call carefully. The *Call Guideline* contains detailed information on, among others, the funding distribution among key research activities, funds disbursement arrangements and payment procedures, eligibility for application, and information on how, when and where to submit applications.
- The application must be made by a Lead Applicant (LI)/ Principal Investigator (PI) responsible for the project.
- Proposals should be submitted with a formal endorsement (e.g. support letter) of affiliated institution/organisation/cooperation
- This Application Form consists of Six (6) sections
- All Sections should be completed. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Please adhere to the word count or page number restrictions provided.
- Please enclose supplementary documents where necessary.

For enquiries, contact:

Ms Luiza Mazarire or Mr Benyamen Nathanael at sgcicall@ncrst.na or Tel: +264 431 7000.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of Project/Activity:	
Project Start Date:	Project End Date: February 2023
Priority area under this call (mark on the appropriate box below)	
Water Management	
Sustainable Agriculture	
Food Security	

	Year 1 (N\$)	Year 2 (N\$)	Year 3 (4 months)(N\$)
Overall Budget Distribution in Namibian Dollars (N\$)			

Names, Addresses and Affiliations of Principal Investigators

Full name:	
Title:	
University/Institution:	
Dept./Faculty:	
Address:	
Telephone No.:	
Fax No.:	
E-mail:	
Nationality	
Identity / passport No.	

SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT

An abstract should be written in the space below, describing the work in such a way as to be comprehensible to a non-specialist in the research field (approximately 400 words)

Names of other participants (researchers/ students, others (specify) to participate in the activity (add rows where required) All fields below are compulsory.

Full name And Contact number / E-mail address	Current Academic Qualification	Institution (State if student or researcher, or other (specify)	Year of Study (if student)	Nationality

Signatures (All copies submitted should contain the signature of the Principal Investigator and the Research Authorising Officer of his/her institution)

Name of Lead Applicant / Principal Investigator:	
Signature:	Date:

Name of Authorising Officer:	
Position:	
Signature:	Date:

PART II: DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT/ACTIVITY

A full technical project description should be included here.

The following is a suggested outline for this section:

1. The rationale of the project/activity
[State the scientific and technological background (including references and the relationship to previous research activities relating to the present proposal). This includes the major problem this project tackles, i.e. the need for the project, main research question(s) or hypothesis or hypotheses to be addressed in relation to the key priority area.]
2. Specific objectives of the research project/activity
3. Methodology and plan of work
[Describe the methods of the research, including overview of activities to be conducted and the respective roles of the cooperating partners in carrying out the proposed research.]
4. Anticipated outputs and outcomes
5. Record of preliminary results relevant to the proposal
6. Detailed account of available resources including all personnel and equipment
7. Mode of cooperation between the research team members.
8. Possible socioeconomic benefits
9. Potential commercialization or utilization of research findings
10. Bibliography relevant to the research area

Note: Items 1 to 10 should be limited to 12 pages.

PART III: TIME SCHEDULE AND WORK PLAN

Please outline the activities planned by the research team for the total period of the project/activity (extend space or add rows where required)

Research Activity	Location of Research Activity		Proposed Duration			
	Institution	Region	Start		End	
			Month	Year	Month	Year

PART IV: BUDGET DESCRIPTION

1. BUDGET DETAILS FOR FUNDING

Note: All project costs should be given in Namibian Dollars (NAD). The maximum research funding available for this project is N\$ 715,878.00

1.1 Total direct research-related activity costs- please specify (add rows where required). Direct research related costs should amount to 70% of the total budget.

Activity	Year 1 (N\$)	Year 2 (N\$)	Year 3, (4 months) (N\$)

TOTAL			

1.2 Total Workshop and Conference (travel, accommodation), Subsistence allowance of the project. Add rows where required in line with the activities indicated above.

Workshops and conferences related costs should amount to 25% of the total budget; indirect costs should amount to 5% of total project budget.

Description	Year 1 (N\$)	Year 2 (N\$)	Year 3 (4 months) (N\$)
Travel cost:			
Accommodation:			
Subsistence (Amount per day & number of days):			
Indirect costs (e.g. support personnel).			
TOTAL			

PART V: OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT

1. Is this research/activity currently being supported through other sources?

YES NO

If yes, please indicate the sources, amounts and periods of support.

2. Has this project/activity been submitted to other agencies for financial support?

YES	NO
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If yes, please indicate which agencies, and when.

PART VI: BIOGRAPHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

1. Principal Investigator

This resume concerns the Principal Investigator whose name appears in Part 1.

Title	
First Names	
Family Name	
Nationality	
Date of Birth	

Resume (Relevance of the researcher’s professional background to the proposed research).

In addition, please enclose an abridged Curriculum Vitae, which should include the following:

- I. Academic and professional training, including names of institutions, years of study, degrees and diplomas.
- II. Academic and professional experience, including names of institutes and companies, role and period.
- III. Research areas (detailed areas of research in which the researcher has been involved).
- IV. Publications and patents (during last two years).
- V. Any additional detail which may assist in evaluating the professional background of the researcher.

In addition, attach the following documents (for the lead applicant/Principal Investigator)

- I. Certified copies of the identity documents, academic qualifications, and proof of academic or professional experience.
- II. Institutional support letter, which shows that your host institution will manage research funds.

Please identify the names of at least four to six peer reviewers: (Preferably a mix of local and international peer reviewers). Please do not include participants in the project or reviewers affiliated to your institution

No	Name	Institution	Tel & postal address	E-mail	Brief reason why you think the person can be a reviewer
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					



RESEARCH CALL: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND DEVELOPMENT IN NAMIBIA, FOCUSING ON SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

CALL GUIDELINES

APPLICATION PERIOD: 07 August – 04 September 2020

FUNDING PERIOD: 2 years, 4 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 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 proposal to manage research calls within the framework of the Science Granting Councils Initiative, the NCRST secured funding to invest on research projects that are responding to Namibia's national priorities. These includes 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 Emerging technologies and development: Sustainable Agriculture

2.1 Background

The agricultural sector in Namibia heavily relies on prevailing climatic conditions. Given Namibia's rainfall variability and arid environment, the agricultural sector performance is normally affected periodically, with weakening food security observed in many households that depend on this sector over the past years.

Moreover, underperformance in the agricultural sector deprives nearly 70% Namibians of their means of survival while at the same time reducing its contribution to national development. In Namibia's fifth National Development Plan (NDP 5), the government targets to reduce food-insecure households to 12% by 2022. This requires concerted efforts from all sectors, including research, technology and innovation.

Despite several initiatives undertaken by various stakeholders, there are still challenges regarding farmers / pastoralists' absorption and adaptation to agricultural technologies as well as access to market. This is concomitant to unique community characteristics including literacy, culture, gender, as well as environmental and economic factors. Accordingly, a modified approach needs to be pursued based on past experiences and international best practices.

This call is issued by the National Commission on Research, Science and Technology within the framework of the Science Granting Councils Initiative. It aims to safeguard optimal harvest and market access for agricultural produce through innovative approaches.

2.2 Call objectives

The objectives of the call are:

- To mitigate the impact of climate change and variability on the agriculture sector by adopting climate smart technologies, and techniques to foster market access to agricultural produces;
- To enhance collaborations amongst researchers in the fields of sustainable agriculture, climate and environmental science, and agricultural economics;
- To strengthen capacity of institutions and researchers.

2.3 Expected results

- Eased community's adaptation to agricultural technologies;
- Developed communities tailor made climate smart applications;
- Use of space technologies (communication, drones, nanosatellites) in agricultural early warnings and to ease access to information and markets;
- Improved decision making;
- Increased climate resilient farming.

2.4 Area of funding

Proposals must employ climate smart technology solutions to address challenges faced by farmers and pastoralists in Namibia in terms of agricultural production / resilient farming and market

access. Applicants must explicitly state the issue that they would like to address within the project focus areas responding to expected results above.

3 Funding information

The total amount of N\$ 715,878.00 is available for funding this call, inclusive of all project related costs. One project under sustainable agriculture 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 accommodation and subsistence allowance;
- 5% indirect costs.

3.2 Funds disbursements

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 (<i>covering eighteen (18) months of work</i>)
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 months of work</i>)

3.3 Payment of funds

- Funds will be paid into the accounts belonging to the organisations of the Principal Investigators (PIs).

4 Who may apply?

The call is open to researchers residing in Namibia. Principal Investigator (PI) must apply and submit the proposal on behalf of the project team. The PI must be an expert in the field and be in possession of a PhD degree preferably in sustainable agriculture or related field. PI in possession of Master degree may be considered based on relevant experience. In addition, the Principal Investigator must be affiliated to a recognised institution in Namibia. PI will be responsible for the overall project coordination and reporting (technical and financial).

4.1 Eligibility criteria and submission procedure

- a. Namibian citizens or Researchers with a valid work or study permit or permanent residence in Namibia may apply.
- 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
 - Private/Public Research Institutions/Centres in Namibia
 - Offices / Ministries or Agencies (OMAs) in Namibia
 - Private Sector
 - NGOs
- c. Non-Namibians working under a contract with any of the above institutions are eligible to apply. However, the project must include a Namibian co-researcher who is permanently working on the project from any institution in the country, well-versed with the project, to ensure its completion in the event the contract is no longer valid.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Principal Investigators 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 on with the NCRST.

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

5 Supported activities

Under this call, research projects in the area of sustainable agriculture 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 exchange of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of 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 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

The proposal should be submitted as follows:

Go to www.ncrst.na

- Register via NCRST online registration portal for the Research Call.
- 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 Emerging technologies and development: Sustainable Agriculture)
- 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 project application form provided.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

7 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the research proposals will be organised by NCRST. The following will be considered:

Criteria	Score
1. Scientific quality and innovativeness of the research proposal	20
2. Feasibility of the research proposal <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
3. Added value and capacity to be expected from the collaboration	10
4. Gender consideration, competence, expertise and experience of the principal investigators and scientists/researchers involved;	10
5. Clear deliverables	10
6. Relevance and impact of the research <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). 	20

f. Technology capability (is there a prototype, or proof of concept that is illustrated and has been proven to work).	
7. Budget	10
a. Consistency to budget ratio or percentage given by the call guideline	
b. Does the proposed expenditure reflect the true cost of the proposed activities?	
TOTAL SCORE	100

8 Project reporting

Progress technical and financial reports will be submitted to 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 disbursements and be construed as violation of the contract. A final technical and financial report will be submitted to NCRST by the Principal Investigator 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 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 "project application form provided by NCRST";
- 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;
- The NCRST will not be held responsible for non-submission.

11 Submission Date and Acceptance of the Grant Offer

- Proposals should be submitted not later than 17H00 on 04 September 2020 to NCRST. Applications received after this date will not be considered.
- The successful applicant must accept the grant offer within two weeks after notification of award and start with the project within one (1) month.

The table below indicates the timeline of this project.

Key milestones	Date
Deadline for submission of Application Form	04 September 2020
Notification of award	October 2020
Contract signing	November 2020
Disbursement of first instalment	November 2020
Project completion	February 2023

12 Contact details

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



RESEARCH CALL: WATER MANAGEMENT AND DROUGHT MITIGATION IN NAMIBIA, FOCUSING ON MINIMISING WATER LOSSES

CALL GUIDELINES

APPLICATION PERIOD: 07 August – 04 September 2020

FUNDING PERIOD: 2 years, 4 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 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 NCRST secured funding to invest on research projects that are responding to Namibia's national priorities. These includes 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 water management and drought mitigation: water loss minimization

2.1 Background

Globally, water resources are becoming increasingly vulnerable as a result of escalating demand, arising from population growth, expanding industrialisation due to rising standards, pollution and

climate change impacts. This situation is further exacerbated by poor management practices and unsustainable extraction water for various consumptive uses. Consequently, many regions especially the developing countries are becoming water stressed and conflicts over access to water are becoming ever more common. Literature indicate that ever-increasing populations and expanding services in developing countries, have resulted to the struggle of water utilities providing drinking water to its customers.

Water insecurity and poor sanitation are major transition impediments to the sustainable development and the attainment of Vision 2030 in Namibia. They affect agricultural production, public health and industrialization. A significant percentage of the country's population does not have access to clean water and sanitation, and rural subsistence farming is persistently constrained by water scarcity while industrial activities in mining and construction are operating at sub-optimal levels because of water scarcity.

It is common knowledge that Namibia is the most arid African country south of the Sahara characterised by low and spatial variability in rainfall from a maximum of 650 mm in the north east to less than 50 mm per year along the coast. It is estimated that only 2% of the rainfall end up as surface run-off and a mere 1% becomes available to recharge groundwater aquifers. Current climate models have projected this situation to worsen in future due to climate change.

Call Statement

The Government of Namibia has formulated a range of strategic plans to address the challenge of water insecurity and poor sanitation. These include the National Integrated Water Resources Management (NIWRM) Plan of 2010. Vision 2030 and related development plans have set goals to attain water security and improved sanitation. However, the achievement of the goals is hampered to a large extent by inadequate and uncoordinated scientific research and technological innovation. To augment supply in Namibia, new water sources need to be discovered and in the absence of new water sources, water needs to be transferred from where it is available to where it is needed.

To achieve efficient supply and allocation of water and ensure equitable access to clean water and sanitation toward socio-economic development of Namibia, critical interventions are required. Water demand management and integrated water resource management complemented by

engineering, scientific, economic, social, environmental knowledge and innovative approaches are essential.

Therefore, the purpose of this call is to improve water resources management in order to ensure water is efficiently used to enhance social and economic development of Namibia. This is through the application of international recognised methodologies to water losses determination and reduction.

2.2 Call objectives

The objectives of the call are:

- To conduct studies aimed at investigating root causes of water losses in all local authorities' water supply networks and water supply schemes;
- To develop or select innovative economic technologies and management systems aimed at minimizing water losses;
- To build scientific, technological and engineering capacities to address water insecurity and sanitation challenges;
- To enhance the collaboration amongst researchers in the fields of water resources management, water planning and economics, and technology and innovation.

2.3 Expected results

- Improved decision making.
- Improved understanding of the main causes of water losses
- Improved in water resource conservation, management and planning for water supply infrastructure
- Availability of interventions or measures to reduce water losses.
- Developed model suitable for water loss that is adaptable throughout the country

2.4 Area of funding

This call focuses on finding solutions to water losses in local authority areas by 1) determining challenges leading to water losses, 2) quantifying the amount of water loss, and 3) devising innovative solutions to minimize such losses. Applicants must explicitly state the issue that they would like to address within the project focus areas responding to expected results above.

3 Funding information

The total amount of N\$ 715,878.00 is available for funding this call, inclusive of all project related costs. Only one ne project under this call 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 accommodation and subsistence allowance;
- 5% indirect costs.

3.2 Funds disbursements

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>)
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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 months of work</i>)

3.3 Payment of funds

- Funds will be managed by the organisation of the Principal Investigator (PI).

4 Who may apply?

The call is open to researchers residing in Namibia. Principal Investigators must apply and submit the proposal on behalf of the project team. The PI must be an expert in the field and be in possession of a PhD degree preferably in sustainable water resources management, water engineering or related fields. PIs in possession of Master degree may be considered based on relevant experience. In

addition, the lead applicant must be affiliated to a recognised institution in Namibia. PIs will be responsible for the overall project coordination and reporting (technical and financial).

4.1 Eligibility criteria and submission procedure

- a. Namibian citizens or Researchers with a valid work or study permit or permanent residence in Namibia may apply.
- 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
 - Private/Public Research Institutions/Centres in Namibia
 - Offices / Ministries or Agencies (OMAs) in Namibia
 - Private Sector
 - NGOs
- c. Non-Namibians working under a contract with any of the above institutions are eligible to apply. However, the project must include a Namibian co-researcher who is permanently working on the project from any institution in the country, well-versed with the project, to ensure its completion in the event the contract is no longer valid.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. Principal Investigators 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 on with the NCRST.

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

5 Supported activities

Under this call, research projects in the area of sustainable agriculture 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 exchange of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of 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 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

The proposal should be submitted as follows:

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- Register via NCRST online registration portal for the Research Call.
- 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 water resources management)
- 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 project application form provided.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

7 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the research proposals will be organised by NCRST. The following will be considered:

Criteria	Score
1. Scientific quality and innovativeness of the research proposal	20
2. Feasibility of the research proposal <ol style="list-style-type: none">Practicality, realistic, feasibility and consistency of the proposed activities with the objectives of the callClarity and feasibility of the methodology providedAddressing contemporary challenges	20
3. Added value and capacity to be expected from the collaboration	10
4. Gender consideration, competence, expertise and experience of the principal investigators and scientists/researchers involved;	10
5. Clear deliverables	10
6. Relevance and impact of the research <ol style="list-style-type: none">Industrial development;Capacity building (institutional and/or human);Commercialization of research results;Potential for promoting gender equality and equityPotential impact on the end-use (market needs).Technology capability (is there a prototype, or proof of concept that is illustrated and has been proven to work).	20
7. Budget	10

<p>a. Consistency to budget ratio or percentage given by the call guideline</p> <p>b. Does the proposed expenditure reflect the true cost of the proposed activities?</p>	
TOTAL SCORE	100

8 Project reporting

Progress technical and financial reports will be submitted to 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 disbursements and be construed as violation of the contract. A final technical and financial report will be submitted to NCRST by the Principal Investigator 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 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 "project application form provided by NCRST";
- Applications submitted outside the submission process will not be accepted;
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- The NCRST will not be held responsible for non-submission.

11 Submission Date and Acceptance of the Grant Offer

Proposals should be submitted not later than 17H00 on 04 September 2020 to NCRST. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

The successful applicant must accept the grant offer within two weeks after notification of award, and start with the project within one (1) month.

The table below indicates the timeline of this project.

Key milestones	Date
Deadline for submission of Application Form	04 September 2020
Notification of award	October 2020
Contract signing	November 2020
Disbursement of first instalment	November 2020
Project completion	February 2023

12 Contact details

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

JOINT RESEARCH CALL FOR PROPOSALS - NAMIBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE

JOINT PROJECT APPLICATION FORM

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Please note that this is a **joint** proposal. Thus, each member of a partnership must have a clearly identified role in the planning and execution of the project activities in the proposal. This role must be clearly specified in this application, including the project expenditures.
- Please read the *Call Guidelines* for this call carefully. The *Call Guidelines* contains detailed information on, amongst others, the funding distribution among key research activities, funds disbursement arrangements and payment procedures, eligibility for application, and information on how, when and where to submit applications.
- The application must be made by two Principal Investigators (PIs) representing a Namibian and a Mozambican institution. That is, the PIs in both Namibia and Mozambique should submit the copy of the joint proposal to their respective funding institutions by email.
- Proposals should be jointly submitted with the formal endorsement (e.g. support letter) of host institutions.
- This Application Form consists of Six (6) sections.
- All Sections should be completed fully, as incomplete applications will not be accepted.
- Please adhere to the word count or page number restrictions provided.
- Please enclose supplementary documents as required or where necessary.

For enquiries contact:

At FNI, Mozambique: Dirce Madeira or Edson Faria at gms@fni.gov.mz or Tel: +258 84 563 3807 / 84 563 3688

At NCRST, Namibia: Luiza Mazarire or Benyamen Nathanael at sgcicall@ncrst.na or Tel: +264 431 7000.

PART I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Title of Joint Project:	
Project Start Date:	Project End Date: February 2023
Discipline/Priority area: <i>Indigenous Knowledge Systems</i>	

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3 (4 months)	Total project distribution
Overall Budget Distribution in Metical (MT) (Mozambique):				
Overall Budget Distribution in Namibian Dollars, (Namibia):				

Names, Addresses and Affiliations of Principal Investigators

	Mozambique	Namibia
Full name:		
Title:		
University/Institution:		
Dept./Faculty:		
Address:		
Telephone No.:		
Fax No.:		
E-mail:		
Nationality (compulsory)		
Identity No		

SUMMARY OF JOINT RESEARCH

An abstract should be written in the space below, describing the work of both partners (Mozambican and Namibian) in such a way as to be comprehensible to a non-specialist in the research field (approximately 400 words)

Names and affiliations of other Mozambican researchers/ students/others to participate in the activity (add rows where required) All fields below are compulsory.

Full name And Contact number / E-mail address	Current Academic Qualification	Institution (State if student or researcher, or Others (specify))	Year of study (if student)	Nationality

Signatures (All copies submitted should contain the signature of the Principal Investigator and the Research Authorising Officer of his/her institution)

Names and affiliations of other Namibian researchers/ students/others to participate in the activity (add rows where required) All fields below are compulsory.

Full name And Contact number / E-mail address	Current Academic Qualification	Institution (State if student or researcher, or Others (specify))	Year of Study (if student)	Nationality

Signatures (All copies submitted should contain the signature of the Principal Investigator and the Research Authorising Officer of his/her institution)

Principal Investigator Name (Mozambique):	
Signature:	Date:

Research Authorising Officer Name (Mozambique):	
Position:	
Signature:	Date:

Principal Investigator Name (Namibia):
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Signature:	Date:
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Research Authorising Officer Name (Namibia):	
Position:	
Signature:	Date:

PART II: DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT/ACTIVITY

A full technical project description should be included here.

The following is a suggested outline for this section:

1. The rationale of the project/ activity
[State the scientific and technological background (including references and the relationship to previous research activities relating to the present proposal). This includes the major problem this project tackles, i.e. the need for the project, main research question(s) or hypothesis or hypotheses to be addressed in relation to 'Indigenous Knowledge Systems' and how this contributes to socio-economic development in Mozambique and Namibia.]
2. Specific objectives of the research project/ activity
3. Methodology and plan of work
[Describe the methods of the research, including overview of activities to be conducted and the respective roles of the cooperating partners in carrying out the proposed research.]
4. Anticipated outputs and outcomes
5. Record of preliminary results relevant to the proposal
6. Detailed account of available resources including all personnel and equipment
7. Mode of cooperation between the Mozambican and Namibian research teams
8. Possible socio-economic benefits of the proposed partnership to both countries
9. Potential commercialization or utilization of research findings
10. Bibliography relevant to the research area

Note: Items 1 to 10 should be limited to 12 pages.

PART III: TIME SCHEDULE AND WORK PLAN

Please outline the activities planned by Mozambican and Namibian investigators for the total period of the project/activity (extend space or add rows where required)

Research Activity	Location of Research Activity		Proposed Duration			
	Institution	Country	Start		End	
			Month	Year	Month	Year

Accommodation:			
Subsistence (Amount per day & number of days):			
Indirect costs (e.g. support personnel).			
TOTAL			

2. BUDGET DETAILS FOR FUNDING (FOR RESEARCH IN NAMIBIA)

Note: this is the budget breakdown for the part of the research project to be undertaken in Namibia. All project costs should be given in Namibian Dollars (N\$)

2.1 Total direct research-related activity costs in Namibia- please specify (add rows where required).
Direct research related costs should amount to 70% of the total budget.

Activity	Year 1 (N\$)	Year 2 (N\$)	Year 3, (4 months) (N\$)
TOTAL			

2.2 Total Workshop and Conference (travel, accommodation), Subsistence allowance of the project in Namibia.
(Add rows where required in line with the activities indicated above).

Workshops and conferences related costs should amount to 25% of the total budget; indirect costs should amount to 5% of total project budget.

Description	Year 1 (N\$)	Year 2 (N\$)	Year 3 (4 months) (N\$)
	Travel cost:		
Accommodation:			
Subsistence (Amount per day & number of days):			
Indirect costs (e.g. support personnel).			
TOTAL			

PART V: OTHER SOURCES OF SUPPORT

1. Is this research/activity currently being supported through other sources?

YES NO

If yes, please indicate the sources, amounts and periods of support.

Mozambican side:

Namibian side:

2. Has this project/activity been submitted to other agencies for financial support?

YES NO

If yes, please indicate which agencies, and when.

Mozambican side:

Namibian side:

PART VI: BIOGRAPHICAL AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

1. Principal Investigator - Mozambique

This resume concerns the Principal Investigator whose name appears in Part 1.

Title	
First Names	
Family Name	
Nationality	
Year of Birth	

Resume (Relevance of the researcher's professional background to the proposed research).

In addition, please enclose an abridged Curriculum Vitae, which should include the following:

- I. Academic and professional training, including names of institutions, years of study, degrees and diplomas.
- II. Academic and professional experience, including names of institutes and companies, role and period.
- III. Research areas (detailed areas of research in which the researcher has been involved).
- IV. Publications and patents (during last two years).
- V. Any additional detail which may assist in evaluating the professional background of the researcher.

In addition, attach the following documents (for the Lead Applicant/Principal Investigator)

- I. Certified copies of the identity documents, academic qualifications, and proof of academic or professional experience.
- II. Institutional support letter, which shows that your host institution will manage research funds.

2. Principal Investigator - Namibia

This resume concerns the Principal Investigator whose name appears in Part 1.

Title	
First Names	
Family Name	
Nationality	
Date of Birth	

Resume (Relevance of the researcher's professional background to the proposed research).

In addition, please enclose an abridged Curriculum Vitae, which should include the following:

- I. Academic and professional training, including names of institutions, years of study, degrees and diplomas.
- II. Academic and professional experience, including names of institutes and companies, role and period.
- III. Research areas (detailed areas of research in which the researcher has been involved).
- IV. Publications and patents (during last two years).
- V. Any additional detail which may assist in evaluating the professional background of the researcher.



In addition, attach the following documents (for the Lead Applicant/Principal Investigator)

- I. Certified copies of the identity documents, academic qualifications, and proof of academic or professional experience.
- II. Institutional support letter, which shows that your host institution will manage research funds.

Please identify the names of at least four to six peer reviewers: *(Preferably a mix of local and international peer reviewers)* **Please do not include participants in the project or reviewers affiliated to your institution**

No	Name	Institution	Tel & postal address	E-mail	Brief reason why you think the person can be a reviewer
1.					
2.					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					



JOINT COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH CALL ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS (IKS) - NAMIBIA AND MOZAMBIQUE

CALL GUIDELINES

APPLICATION PERIOD: 07 August - 04 September 2020

FUNDING PERIOD: 2 years, 4 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 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 proposal to manage research calls within the framework of the Science Granting Councils Initiative, the NCRST and the FNI secured funding to invest on research projects that are responding to Namibia and Mozambique national priorities. These includes 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, recognizes 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 SGC 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, IK/TK knowledge Holders, science councils, NGOs to jointly submit proposals in response to the call content as expanded on below:

The purpose of the call is to fund RSTI related projects or development oriented initiatives with IKS components focusing on Agro-processing. The proposed initiatives should promote the sustainable utilization of natural resources within the "*Access and Benefit*" value-chain. Moreover, the submitted projects or initiatives should demonstrate IKS volarization aspects as well as the interface with RSTI and how it intends to deliver feasible solutions to challenges in the Agro-processing field.

2.2 Objectives of this call

- To identify Agro-processing activities with IKS components and related challenges;
- To enhance volarization of IKS through Agro-processing initiatives;
- To contribute to capacity building and development in Agro-processing;
- To enhance collaboration between Namibian and Mozambican researchers and research institutions;

- 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

- Affirmation of IKS as a contributor towards socio-economic development
- Enhance technology transfer efforts within the Agro-processing value-chain
- Interface between STI and IKS for innovation, redress and application purposes (*e.g. through mechanization initiatives*)

2.4 Area of cooperation

The joint research proposals to be submitted should specifically focus on IKS applications in Agro-processing, by offering technological and scientific solutions for related challenges in Namibia and Mozambique.

3 Funding information

The 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 disbursements

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)

4 Who may apply?

The call is open to researchers, research groups and knowledge holders residing in Namibia and in 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 PhD degree in Natural Sciences. Candidates with Agro-processing background will have 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 knowledgeholder 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 or Researchers with a valid work or study permit or permanent residence in Namibia may apply.

- 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. Non-Namibians working under contract with any of the above institutions are eligible to apply. However, the project must include Namibian co-researcher who is permanently working on the project from any institution in the country, well-versed with the project, to ensure its completion in the event the contract is no longer valid.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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 on 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

The joint proposal should be submitted electronically by the two PIs 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

The proposal should be submitted as follows:

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
2. Feasibility of the joint research proposal <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
3. Added value to be expected from the collaboration	10
4. Gender consideration, competence, expertise and experience of the principal investigators and scientists/research teams concerned;	10
5. Clear deliverables	10

<p>6. Relevance and impact of the research</p> <ol 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> <ol 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
TOTAL SCORE	100

8 Project reporting

The joint technical and financial progress reports will 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;

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 this date will not be considered.
- The successful partners (PIs) must accept the grant offer within two weeks after notification of award and start the project within one (1) month.

The table below indicates timeline of this project:

Key milestones	Date
Deadline for submission of Application Form	04 September 2020
Notification of award	October 2020
Contract signature	November 2020
Disbursement of first instalment	November 2020
Project completion	February 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).



RESEARCH CALL: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES AND DEVELOPMENT IN NAMIBIA, FOCUSING ON BIOTECHNOLOGY AND FOOD SECURITY

CALL GUIDELINES

APPLICATION PERIOD: 07 August - 04 September 2020

FUNDING PERIOD: 2 years, 4 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 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 proposal to manage research calls within the framework of the Science Granting Councils Initiative, the NCRST secured funding to invest on research projects that are responding to Namibia's national priorities. These includes 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 Emerging Technologies and Development: Biotechnology and Food Security

2.1 Background

Food insecurity continues to persist in Southern Africa region deep levels of this has been exacerbated by the severe drought experienced in recent years with the worst occurred in 2019. Although international organisations and governments have tried to respond to this problem through frameworks and strategies, Namibia is still experiencing limited access to food. Amongst many attributes, food production has limited access to sustainable modern technological food and feed production. This has also led to heavy dependence on food and feed imports.

The African Agenda 2063 calls for the expansion in the introduction of modern agricultural systems, technology, practices and training which is in line with the sustainable development goal, 2 of ending hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture. This call is in response to increase small holder farmers` productivity and increase animal health and productivity as part NDP5 outcome.

Call Statement

Ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture are among the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), at global level. The African Agenda 2063 calls for; “Consolidate the modernisation of African agriculture and agro-businesses,” as a continental priority. Countries like Namibia have also prioritised social progression and economic advancement – cross cutting issues linked to food and nutritional security – for the period 2016 - 2020. To be specific Namibia`s national Development Plan 5 (NDP 5) highlighted that at least by 2022, the proportion of food insecure should decline to 12% and increase food production to 30%, using 2016 as a baseline.

In response to the global, continental, regional and national frameworks, the NCRST with the support from SGCI, is providing funding at the value of N\$1 million to support one project targeting the impact area of biotechnology nutrition solutions in food OR feed production in Namibia. This funding will support projects that provide scalable biotechnology solutions in food or animal feed production including solutions addressing post harvesting losses. A project that will be supported should have prototypes that have been tested in the relevant environments and are aiming to scale up production. Such solutions should be affordable to the populations at the lower end of the pyramid (low-income households).

2.2 Call objectives

- To improve the production and storage of food and feed using modern biotechnology techniques.
- To build scientific and technological capacities to address socio-economic challenges.
- To enhance the collaboration amongst researchers in the fields of agricultural biotechnology, food technology and related field.

2.3 Expected results

- Enhanced biofortification of food and feed.
- Reduced food spoilage / loses.

2.4 Area of funding

The proposals should entail biotechnology innovative solutions aimed at improving food or animal feed production in agriculture sector, covering value addition to local foods, animal feed production or post-harvest technologies to reduce food losses and other biofortification technologies. The solutions proposed should at least be at proof of concept leading to scale-up to manufacturing or prototypes at small scale production leading to industrial scale production.

2.5 Technology criteria

The successful technologies must be:

- Safe for human OR animal consumption;
- Affordable to the low-income farmers;
- Ready to use or require only short-term development;
- Made from ingredients with a well-established supply chain.

The following technologies are not of interest:

- Ideas or concepts that have not been proven;
- Fortified products with no health claims;
- Solutions that require long term development;
- Solutions made from ingredients that cannot be sourced locally;
- Solutions that require large capital investments.

3 Funding information

The total amount of N\$ 715,878.00 is available for funding this call, inclusive of all project related costs. Only one project under this call 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 disbursements

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 organisation of the lead applicant.

4 Who may apply?

Namibian innovative farmers, Small Medium and Micro Enterprise (SMMEs) and research groups can apply. For this call, at least two partners (researcher and industry/farmer partner) should collaborate in finding a solution. Project teams must include at least a business expert in food or feed production, and other experts needed to implement the project. A researcher should be in possession of a PhD/ Master degree preferably in the Biotechnology and food security and the project must produce an Honour`s degree or Master`s student.

4.1 Eligibility criteria and submission procedure

- a. Namibian citizens or Researchers with a valid work or study permit or permanent residence in Namibia may apply.
- 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
 - Private/Public Research Institutions/Centres in Namibia
 - Offices / Ministries or Agencies (OMAs) in Namibia
 - Private Sector
 - NGOs
- c. All Namibian Farmers, Small Medium and Micro Enterprise and Cooperatives.
- d. 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.
- e. Projects funded through this call should be located and carried out in Namibia unless otherwise indicated in the proposal.
- f. The lead applicant 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 on 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, the research project in the area of Biotechnology and Food Security 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;
- 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:

- Workshops and seminars involving the lead researchers;
- purchases of fixed assets;
- currency exchange losses;
- direct or indirect taxes, including VAT;
- Overheads

6 How to apply

The proposal should be submitted as follows:

Go to www.ncrst.na

- Register via NCRST online registration portal for the Research Call.
- 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 Biotechnology and Food security).
- Completed applications must be accompanied by a support letter by the Lead Applicant's institution/organisation/cooperative
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. All applicants are requested to use the project application form provided.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered.

7 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of the research proposals will be organised by NCRST. The following will be considered:

Criteria	Score
1. Technical, scientific quality and innovativeness of the proposal	20
2. Feasibility of the proposal	20

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Practicality, realistic, feasibility and consistency of the proposed activities with the objectives and priorities of the call b. Clarity and feasibility of the methodology provided c. Addressing contemporary challenges 	
3. Added value to be expected from the collaboration	10
4. Competence, expertise and experience of the principal investigators (researcher and industry/farmer partner);	10
5. Clear deliverables	10
6. Relevance and impact of the innovation <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
7. Budget <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consistency to budget ratio or percentage given by the call guideline b. Does the proposed expenditure reflect the true cost of the proposed activities? 	10
TOTAL SCORE	100

8 Project reporting

Progress technical and financial reports will be submitted to 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 technical and financial report will be submitted to NCRST by the Lead Applicant 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, trademark applications, trade names, registered designs, unregistered design rights, semiconductor topography rights, copyright, database rights or any other similar intellectual or commercial rights in Namibia 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 recipients.

10 General information

- All applicants are requested to use the “project application form by NCRST”;
- 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;
- The NCRST will not be held responsible for non-submission.

11 Submission Date and Acceptance of the Grant Offer

- Proposals should be submitted not later than 17H00 on 04 September 2020 to NCRST. Applications received after this date will not be considered.
- The successful applicant must accept the grant offer within two weeks after notification of award, and start the project within one (1) month.

Table below indicatives the timeline of this project

Key milestones	Date
Deadline for submission of Application Form	04 September 2020
Notification of award	October 2020

Contract signature	November 2020
Disbursement of first instalment	November 2020
Project completion	February 2023

Contact details:

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