SOUTH AFRICA / INDIA JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH COLLABORATION

CALL FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS (2015)

CLOSING DATE: 30 October 2015

Within the framework of the agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the governments of the Republic of India and the Republic of South Africa signed in Pretoria on 19 July 1995 and renewed in 2007. Following the last Joint Committee meeting held in Pretoria in June 2015 we are pleased to announce a call for joint research project proposals between South African and Indian researchers, and herewith invite all interested parties to submit their applications.

Aims of the Programme

- To contribute to scientific advancement in both countries through the funding of joint research activities in specified research fields;
- To provide an opportunity for young researchers in the two countries to meet and interact;
- To support the advancement of basic research; and
- To contribute meaningfully to research capacity development.

Areas of Cooperation

Joint research proposals may be submitted in the following designated thematic areas prioritised by South Africa / India collaboration:

- **Agricultural–Biotechnology**
  Sustainable agricultural biotechnology particularly on crops: vegetables, legumes, and cereals
- **Indigenous Knowledge Systems**
  Specifically nutraceuticals, drugs and cosmeceuticals

In terms of human capital development, South African applications from previously disadvantaged individuals are encouraged, as is the involvement of historically disadvantaged higher education institutions.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of three years.

Who may apply?

South Africa:
This call is open to working researchers residing in South Africa and affiliated with a recognised higher education or research institution such as a university, university of technology or science council. The South African applicant must be in possession of a PhD.

India:
The lead Indian applicants should be scientists/ faculty members working in regular capacity in universities, academic institutes and national research and development laboratories/ institutes. The Indian Principal Investigator (PI) should not be retiring or leaving the parent institute during the proposed duration of the project.

A multi-institutional/ consortia approach will be preferred. Participation of an industry partner on both sides will be encouraged. However industry is expected to meet their own expenditure for participation in the project.

An application must designate two principal investigators, one in South Africa and one in India, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting.

How do I apply?

Indian and South African applicants shall write a common application to be submitted to both DST and NRF. The common application must be written in English.

South Africa: Applicants can apply by following the steps below:
- Applications must be submitted electronically to the NRF on the NRF Online Submission System at https://nrfsubmission.nrf.ac.za/
- Register/Login using your ID number and password.
- Go to "My Applications" and select "Create Application".
- Select the call for which you are applying for: **South Africa/India Joint Science and Technology Research Collaboration Call for Project Proposals 2016**.
- Complete all compulsory sections and the non-compulsory sections (i.e. CV sections). Please attach the required documents in PDF format in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and a signed support letter of the partner.
- Remember to <u>submit</u> your application on completion.
- Complete applications will go to the host institutions for verification before being forwarded to the NRF for further processing.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria will not be considered (please refer to call document for details on eligibility).
- Please contact your research office or Designated Authority if you have any queries.

Please note:
Applications submitted outside the NRF Online Submission System will not be accepted. **No hard copies will be accepted and will automatically be disqualified by the NRF.** Only applications endorsed by the research office or its equivalent at higher education or research institutions will be accepted.

India: Indian applicants should submit completed application form and all relevant attachments in a single document (MS-word or PDF) to this email address: jain.s@nic.in by 5:30 pm on **October 30, 2015.** An email acknowledging receipt of the application will be provided to the applicant in 3-5 working days. Applicants are also are also requested to submit **three hard copies** to DST by **November 10, 2015**. It should be ensured that application with identical title has been submitted by his / her South African counterpart scientist with NRF by due date **(Indian side). Only applications endorsed by the competent authority will be accepted.**

The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner. **Proposals must be received in both India and South Africa**. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or India, but not both countries, will not be considered for funding. The call process is highly competitive therefore application does not guarantee funding. The evaluation of applications from both countries should have positive ratings before consideration for funding. Both the NRF and DST will not be held responsible for non-submission, administration or evaluation of the application in the partner country.

Which activities may I apply for?

Basically, each selected project will be funded for a period of three years. However, projects of both sides must pass the annual evaluation in each country for continuation of funding. To facilitate the objective of the Project, the manpower cost, consumables and minor accessories, research expenses, project related visits of Indian and South African researchers to the counterpart country may be supported. This funding will cover the following expenses in connection with a project:

- **Support for research expenses:** Expenditure by project team in their country would be borne by the respective country, i.e., DST in India would support expenditure on Indian side of the project whereas NRF would meet the expenditure of South African side. Participating Indian institutions are responsible for expenses regarding equipment.
- A maximum of 30% of the budget may be allowed for consumables and accessories.
- Participation of Research students would be encouraged. On the Indian Fellowship one student (JRF/SRF/RA) for each group can be supported. No fellowships will be supported on the South African side.
- **Support for Exchange visit component:** The sending side will provide round-trip economy-class airfare to the relevant entry city of the host country as well as medical insurance. The sending side will also provide accommodation and living expenses, i.e., transportation including pick-up service to and from the airport, food, etc. **Two flights per year** with a maximum of **one month stay** at a time will be allowed;
- While the exact nature of expenditure is not fixed, the following may **NOT** be funded from this allocation: consultant's fees, educational expenses, insurance and medical care, large equipment, project management fees, salaries and temporary staff fees.
- **Indian Applicants:** Institutional overhead will be determined in accordance with specific R&D program regulation of the Indian government.

In both countries, all the approved projects will get funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of exchange of experts, scientists and other specialists unless specified otherwise by the two parties. Besides, each party may provide additional research funds to some/all of the approved projects based on its internal evaluation of the projects. **Researchers will only be allowed to apply for one activity / project. Researchers who are currently being funded under the SA/India programme are not eligible to apply.**

How much may I apply for?

South Africa:
The total amount requested from the NRF should not exceed **R 450 000** .Funding will be made available for a maximum of three years, to be paid in annual installments (**R 150 000 per year**) and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2016.

Please do take note that:
- should you be successful you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines;
- the requested amounts do not necessarily imply that this amount will be awarded upon selection for funding; and
- scientific and financial reporting on the project is an **OBLIGATORY** condition of funding in subsequent years.

How are applications evaluated?

Following the closing date indicated below, applications will be submitted to both a postal and a panel review. The panel will include recognised local experts in the various fields of research represented by the proposals received. These experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit
- Suitability and feasibility
- International significance
- Possible impact of the research / national priority
- Potential for promoting equity and redress / capacity building
- Student involvement.

Particular emphasis is to be placed on the training of students and young researchers achieved through research and the transfer of knowledge and know-how aimed at socio-economic development. The integration of young researchers and students, and the exchange of post-doctoral

researchers are encouraged, as is the involvement of students and researchers from previously-disadvantaged communities.

Following local evaluation, a shortlist of projects to be funded will be constituted through consultations between the NRF and DST based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. Please note that, although the two Parties undertake to execute the evaluation and selection process as quickly as possible so as to notify applicants of the results as soon as possible, the nature of the bilateral process requires the alignment of the commencement of each phase of the process with the partnering country, whose schedules may differ significantly.

Project follow-up and reporting

- A final scientific and financial report will be submitted in English by both the South African and the Indian project leaders no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The report will mention the outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims of the proposal.
- The joint publications by the researchers will mention the support from the India and South Africa.

Intellectual property

In the interest of encouraging meaningful collaborations, the concerned parties are strongly encouraged to engage in appropriate discussions and negotiations to determine issues such as ownership of any arising intellectual properties and each party's rights and obligations under the collaboration.

When is the closing date for applications?

Applications for both South Africa and India must be submitted by **30 October 2015**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding.

Please note that the NRF or DST will not be held responsible for applications that were not received. Researchers are also advised to ensure that their research partners' applications are submitted and have also been received in the partner country.

Where can I obtain more information?

For South Africa	For India
Program related queries Ms Nombuso Madonda Professional Officer: Overseas Cooperation International Relations and Cooperation Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4285 Email: nombuso.madonda@nrf.ac.za **Technical & grant related queries** Ms Tania Diederiks Professional Officer: Grants Management and Systems Administration (GMSA) Tel: +27 12 481 4118 Email: tania.diederiks@nrf.ac.za	Dr. Sulakshana Jain Scientist C, International Bilateral Cooperation Division, Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology, Technology Bhavan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016 Tel: +91-11-26590582 ; 410 E-mail: jain.s@nic.in