



science  
& technology

Department:  
Science and Technology  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



## International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) – Grants Collaborative Research Programme (CRP)

### Call Guideline

#### Background

South Africa is a member of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) since 2004. As part of this membership, ICGEB offers a dedicated source of funding for outstanding projects in ICGEB Member States, with the goal of promoting collaboration, training of young scientists and the development of research facilities. The programme provides support for research activities in **basic life sciences, human healthcare, industrial and agricultural biotechnology**, and **bioenergy** through a competitive grant process.

#### Collaborative Research Programme (CRP) Grants

All funding opportunities for grants are made available through the CRP-ICGEB Research Grants. The CRP-ICGEB funding instrument is aimed at funding projects that respond to national challenges. For South African applicants, topics can fall into one or more of the ICGEB research areas, aligned to the following national grand challenges:

- **The “Farmer to Pharma” value chain to strengthen the bio-economy** with the focus on biotechnology industry;
- **Human and social dynamics** with linkages to human healthcare;
- **Energy security with focus on renewable energy resources** with particular focus on bioenergy;
- **Climate change science** with a focus on “Green biotechnology” to be applied for agriculture and food production.

#### Early Career Return Grants

A special category of **CRP-ICGEB Early Career Return Grants** is available to young researchers with an outstanding track record, who have spent a minimum of 2 years abroad and have recently returned to South Africa to establish their own independent laboratories. Applicants for Early Career Return Grants should be no more than 40 years of age at the time of application.

#### Who May Apply

Applicants at any of the following South African institutions are eligible to apply for CRP grants:

- Universities /universities of technology;
- Recognised national research institutions such as the national facilities;

- Science Councils.

To be eligible for funding, applicant must also be in possession of a PhD degree.

### CRP section criteria

A call for applications is launched annually via the ICGEB website (<http://www.icgeb.org/research-grants.html>). In adherence to the ICGEB mandate to equally support its [Member States](#), each ICGEB Member State can endorse up to 3 standard Research Grant applications, plus up to 2 Early Career Return Grants for each call. In order to select the final project to be funded, a two-phased approach is used as outlined below:

### Screening, review and endorsement

Applications should be submitted to the ICGEB Liaison Officers based at the Department of Science and Technology (DST). A peer review process facilitated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) is conducted to review and select applications to be endorsed and submitted to ICGEB for further review (*refer to the ICGEB proposal evaluation below*). The NRF screening and selection process is based on the following criteria:

- Scientific and technical merit of the application
- Suitability and feasibility of the project
- Potential impact of the research
- International significance of collaboration
- Potential for promoting equity and redress / capacity building / student involvement
- Budget feasibility and co-investment
- Linkage of proposal objectives to the grand challenges.

### ICGEB proposal evaluation

A maximum of five applications (3 CRP and 2 Early Career Return Grants) selected by South Africa are submitted to ICGEB for further evaluation. The ICGEB evaluation is based on a two-tier procedure: in the first phase all proposals will be reviewed by a Committee of 5 internationally recognized experts, who will collate all the applications and select those for the second phase of the review. The projects that passed the second phase will be sent out for peer-review by independent external experts. On the basis of the peer-review evaluations an ICGEB Committee will select the proposals to be funded.

Additional information on the ICGEB application process can be found at: <http://www.icgeb.org/research-grants.html>

### Type of Support

Grants are awarded to contribute to the implementation of the outstanding scientific research projects. An important element of successful applications is the feasibility of the proposed project within the designated time-frame (maximum 36 months). The maximum annual contribution from ICGEB is Euro 25,000. Funds can only be used to cover expenditures that are directly relevant to the project. This may include purchasing consumable items, scientific literature and basic standard laboratory equipment. Travel and training costs can also be covered.

Salaries of the Principal Investigators and infrastructural support (e.g. normal administrative and overhead expenses of the institution, maintenance and rental of capital equipment, building, etc.) are not admissible and cannot be funded. An estimate of the foreseen expenditure must be described on page 8 of the application form.

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