

SOUTH AFRICA- UGANDA JOINT RESEARCH COOPERATION

FIRST JOINT CALL FOR PROPOSALS – 2016

CLOSING DATE: 16 MAY 2016

A MAXIMUM OF SIX (6) JOINT PROJECTS WILL BE FUNDED FOR THIS CALL

Background

As part of a bilateral agenda to promote Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and integrate them into their respective national development, Uganda and South Africa signed an agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation in April 2009. This agreement allows both Governments to work together to advance science, technology and innovation on the basis of equality and mutual advantage.

The two countries have also agreed to a Plan of Action (POA) for operationalising full implementation of the Agreement. The parties intend to support research and development activities and other forms of scientific and technical cooperation between South African and Ugandan universities and research institutions. The cooperative programmes, projects, and research and development activities will be aimed at the implementation of joint research projects, human capital development, and student and staff exchanges. The National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) are pleased to announce the launch of the first joint call for joint research projects in the priority areas below.

Aims of the Cooperation

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

Areas of cooperation

Joint research proposals can be submitted in the following areas of cooperation prioritised by South Africa- Uganda collaboration:

- Renewable energy;
- Biotechnology (health and agriculture); and
- ICT (education).

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

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 participation costs in the project.

Duration of projects

The projects will be supported for a period of two (2) years.

Who may apply?

An application must designate **two principal investigators**, one in South Africa and the other in Uganda, **both in possession of a PhD**, who will bear the main responsibility for the project, including its technical and administrative coordination as well as scientific and financial reporting. The onus is on the applicant to find their own research partner.

South Africa:

This call is open to fulltime 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 Commercial institutions and private education institutions are not eligible to apply under this programme.

Uganda:

This call is open to researchers residing in Uganda from qualified institutions including public universities and research institutions, science councils, and licensed private universities or private research institutions.

How do I apply?

The joint research project proposals shall be submitted to the relevant competent authorities in both countries for evaluation (the National Research Foundation in South Africa and the Uganda National Council for Science and Technology (UNCST) in Uganda).

In South Africa

South African applicants can apply by following the steps below:

- Applications must be submitted electronically to the NRF on the NRF Online Submission System at <https://nrfs submission.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-Uganda Joint Science and Technology Research Programme Call for Project Proposals 2016.
- Complete all compulsory sections applicable to you. Please attach the required documents in PDF format in the following order: CV of partner, budget of partner and the signed page of the partner.
- Remember to **submit** 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 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.

In Uganda

- Application forms for proposal submission may be obtained from the UNCST website (www.uncst.go.ug).
- Signatures may either be signed electronically or scanned.

Proposals must be received in both South Africa and Uganda. Proposals which have only been received in either South Africa or Uganda, but not both countries, will not be considered for funding.

The call process is highly competitive; therefore submission of an application does not guarantee funding. The availability of funds and the evaluation of applications from both countries should be positive for them to be considered for funding. Both the NRF and the UNCST will not be held responsible for non-submission, non-administration or no evaluation of the application in the partner country.

Which activities may I apply for?

The purpose of this call is to support the research projects and mobility of researchers, scientists, postgraduate students between the two countries. Funding will be made

available for the following joint research activities undertaken as part of the joint research project:

- **Support for research expenses:** Expenditure by project team in their country would be borne by the respective country, i.e., UNCST in Uganda would support expenditure on Ugandan side of the project whereas NRF would meet the expenditure of South African side. A maximum of 15% of the budget may be allowed for small equipment.
- **Support for Exchange visit component:** In the case of meetings, research visits and exchanges of scientists, personnel and experts, as well as reciprocal visits undertaken as part of joint research projects and the attendance of seminars, symposia and other meetings funded under this agreement, **the sending side will be responsible for financing international travel, visas, and medical insurance, while the receiving party will be responsible for financing the accommodation and subsistence of their international partners.** These visits should be agreed to and budgeted for by the parties.

Local travel and fees relating to the organisation of events (venue, catering, audio-visual equipment etc.) will be the financial responsibility of the host investigator which is to be paid from his / her allocation of the joint funding.

Eligible Costs

The following will **NOT** be funded from the NRF grant:

- Consultant's fees
- Educational expenses (scholarships and/or bursaries, etc.)
- Large equipment
- Project management fees
- Salaries and temporary staff fees.

All other expenses, including operational running costs and research materials, may be financed from the allocation accorded in terms of this call. Should the allocated funds allow – researchers may also make use of these for joint publication costs.

Funding modalities

Funding will be available for a maximum of two years for **2-year collaborative research projects** jointly developed and completed by researchers on both sides. In both countries, all the approved projects will get funding support from the two parties in terms of the cost of activities mentioned above. Apart from the financial support from the two parties, institutions and universities in both countries are encouraged to solicit other funding resources.

How much should I apply for?

The total amount applied for jointly should not exceed R500 000 (UGX 150,000,000). Funding will be made available for a maximum of two years, to be paid in annual installments as would have been indicated on the application and exclusively for research activities commencing in 2017.

Researchers should therefore note that two separate budgets would be required; one from each side **jointly not exceeding R500 000**. Note that a commitment to both scientific and financial reporting on the project following its completion is an obligatory condition of funding. Please also note that the requested amounts do not necessarily imply that this amount will be awarded upon selection for funding.

Please do take note that:

- you will be funded only for the activities within the scope of the guidelines should you be successful;
- only a maximum of six (6) joint projects will be funded for this call; 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. The experts will evaluate each proposal based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to the call, added value expected from the bilateral research collaboration
- Scientific quality and innovativeness of the joint research plan
- Feasibility of the joint research plan
- Competence and expertise of the principal investigators and scientists/research teams concerned
- Possible impact of the research:
 - i. industrial development;
 - ii. technology capacity building;
 - iii. science and technology human resources development;
 - iv. possible commercialization of research results;
 - v. social challenges.
- Potential for promoting equity and redress / capacity building
- Student involvement

Particular emphasis is to be placed on the training of students and young researchers (not exceeding 40 years age for males and 45 for females) achieved through research and the transfer of knowledge and know-how aimed at socio-economic community 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 UNCST based on the results of the evaluations done in both countries. Please note that, although the two funding agencies 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. As such applicants are urged not to expect notification by a certain date, nor to make concrete logistical arrangements before having been thus notified.

Projects follow-up and reporting

- Joint technical progress report shall be undertaken after every six months
- A final joint technical and financial report will be submitted in English to the NRF and UNCST by both the South African and Ugandan project leader no more than 3 months after the end of the project.
- The reports will mention the outputs of the projects compared with the objectives and aims targeted in the submission.
- The joint publications will mention the support from the NRF and the UNCST.

Intellectual property

The researchers of each country, particularly the leaders, must take adequate steps to ensure protection and equitable sharing of the intellectual property that could result from the joint projects.

Closing date for applications

Applications for both South Africa and Uganda must be submitted by **16 May 2016**. Applications received after this date will not be considered for funding. Please note that neither the NRF nor the UNCST will 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.

Female applicants are encouraged to apply

Where can I obtain more information?

South Africa	Uganda
<i>For programme related queries:</i>	
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<i>For grant and technical related queries:</i>	
<p>Jan Phalane Liaison Officer: Grants Management and Systems Administration</p> <p>Tel: +27 (0) 12 481 4157 Email: jan.phalane@nrf.ac.za</p>	<p>Mr. Ronald Jjagwe Head, Grants Management Uganda National Council for Science and Technology</p> <p>Tel: 256 414 7055000 E-mail: info@uncst.go.ug or r.jaggwe@uncst.go.ug Plot 6 Kimera Road, Ntinda, Kampala Website: www.uncst.go.ug</p>