BIOTECHNOLOGY PROJECT FUNDING: CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

April/2018

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

A Call for Research Proposals on Biotechnology (3rdRound Project Call)

The Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute (EBTi), a research institute under the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) is pleased to announce a call for project proposals on specific biotechnology and related disciplines that have reached end stage evaluation of research findings and are close to product development or utilization. The aim is to support translation of research findings into product development and scale-up. The fund will support researches that bridge the gap between innovative research output and early stage product development.

The Ethiopian government is initiating a Biotechnology Research and Development program with the aim of harnessing scientific advances for national growth and transformation. All indicators show that the country will have to start from very low bases and engage in a sustained effort of national capacity building through learning by doing. A national Biotechnology Research and Development Roadmap has been made available to guide the process. The Roadmap calls for prioritization, focus and product-oriented cross-sector collaboration for fast track development in various economic sectors.

Call for project proposals

The Ethiopian Institute of Biotechnology would like to provide financial support to selected projects with promising discoveries, findings, tools, methods or innovative applications that are in the final stages of development for pilot testing or scale-up. The results should lead to practical applications in the form of proof-of-concept, field tests, clinical trials, prototype development, or scaling up of manufacturing. Investigators engaged in **high priority research areas such as Ginger wilt, Coffee tissue culture, Emboch (Water Hyacinth,** *Eichhornia crassipes)* **control and management, Packaging and Product shelf-life, livestock reproductive technology and biotechnology researches (environmental, industrial, health and agricultural biotechnology)** are encouraged to apply.

The purpose of this call is to support innovative projects of Ethiopian institutions that have the potential to lead to product and/or services development.. It is intended to promote institutional collaborations and multi-sector partnerships in product development, linking research to private company, industry and services.

In order to qualify for support, the following conditions should be met:

1. The project should be a continuation of previous work of the applicants and builds on earlier achievements. The project should be able to present previous data as evidence of progress towards a promising product (including methods, tools, innovation). This could be in the form of publications, biological products, patents, or other verifiable data.
2. The project should have been developed by Ethiopian institutions or is led principally by Ethiopian investigators based in Ethiopian institutions and does not pose any legally limiting conditions for the Ethiopian institutions to develop the output further as owner.
3. The project is supported by and is promoted primarily by an Ethiopian institution or legal entity and is intended to be carried out principally within Ethiopia through collaborative efforts of Ethiopian researchers (whose institutions may engage expatriate partners where external expertise is required for the success of the project)
4. The Principal Investigators should be Ethiopian with sufficient experience in leading and implementing high quality scientific research and have a good reputation of collaboration with various institutions.
5. The Principal investigators would be expected to present written evidence from the employing Institution that they can allocate adequate time for the project along with infrastructure, basic resources, and provide administrative support upon approval ofthe grant. Institutions are encouraged to operate within clusters and multi-institutional partnership.

Eligibility Criteria

1. Any qualified investigator of Ethiopian nationality, employed by an Ethiopian institution may apply. The Principal Investigator has to be employee of the host institute within Ethiopia but some of the team members or co-investigators could be stationed elsewhere.
2. All applications will be submitted with a support letter from the Institution where the Principal Investigator is employed. The Institution takes responsibility for proper implementations of the research as per agreement in case grant is awarded, and will confirm this through its official signature and seal along with the signature of the Principal Investigator.
3. The proposal should comply with the required formats available at the Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute website (www.ebti.gov.et). All necessary documents should be provided and submitted in complete form before the deadline. All applications submitted after the deadline will not be processed.
4. All relevant work leading to the current proposal would need to be briefly described in the background of the application, and separately described in details as appropriate. The information should include names and curriculum vitae of investigators and institutions involved and should declare all sources of funding received for the work.

5. The budget should be realistic and clearly justified breakdown should be provided with precise estimates of any materials that need to be purchased.
6. Timelines should be realistic and consider variables that influence progress such as logistics.
7. All deliverables should be defined in measurable terms to facilitate monitoring.
8. Any co-funding or utilization of resources other than those listed in the budget should be clearly stated.
9. The project should state clearly roles and responsibilities of all participating investigators and institutions. There should be a clear delineation of tasks and contributions expected from all co-investigators and their institutions.
10. Project specific needs such as procurement, field site preparation, scaling up, etc should be clearly stated along with the means of acquiring these items/facilities.
11. Expected outsourcing of specific project activities should be mentioned and information provided on which institutions or facilities these are likely to be.
12. Any material export for achievement of project goals should be governed by Material Transfer Agreements and comply with national regulations.
13. The project should provide a description of the ethical and regulatory considerations that apply and where the approvals will be sought.
14. Approvals are not mandatory at the time of submission. However, any project that is selected for funding will be required to submit evidence that the project has been approved by the relevant regulatory bodies, biosafety and ethics committees before funds are released.
15. The administrative cost (overhead) should not be more than 10% of the total project proposal cost.

Funding Information

The total amount of grant requested should not exceed 5 million Ethiopian Birr. No more than 30% of the total approved budget will be made available at the end of 2010 Ethiopian fiscal year per project.

Project Duration

The project support is for a maximum of three years.

How to apply

1. Applications should be submitted in three hard copies and electronic copies to the Ethiopian Biotechnology Institute before **May 21, 2018**.
2. Applications must be submitted using the format ([download the application format](#)).

For Inquiries,

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