

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (DST)

and

RESEARCH COUNCIL OF NORWAY (RCN)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS on Bio-Economy (2017)

Last date for submission of proposals: 22 November 2017

Sustainable Innovation in Food and Bio-based Industries (BIONÆR)

India and Norway have started a program for joint funding of Indo-Norwegian joint research projects in mutually agreed fields to achieve bilateral world-class scientific results in the field of bioeconomy.

Guidelines and important considerations relevant to all types of applications in this call for proposals:

Under the Agreement of Cooperation in Science & Technology concluded between the Government of India and the Government of Norway, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India and the Research Council of Norway (RCN) have started a program for joint funding of Indo-Norwegian joint research projects in mutually agreed fields to achieve world-class scientific results.

Norwegian funding for this call for proposals is part of the two RCN programs [INDNOR](#) and [BIONÆR](#).

DST and RCN invites Indian and Norwegian researchers and research institutions to submit research proposals within the fields indicated below. The proposed collaboration should strengthen already on-going research activities in each research group and contribute significantly to added value to these on-going activities.

Research areas covered

The call is in the field of Bio-economy research and the following topics are covered by the call:

- Agriculture and land based food (covered in the BIONÆR program)
- Biotech (applied for Bio-economy)
- Aquaculture
- Bioenergy/Biofuel

The call encompasses research activities within technology and natural sciences.

What types of activities are eligible for funding

Funding may be sought for researcher projects. Joint researcher projects might have a duration of up to 3 years, including dissemination and network activities (workshops, conferences). For quantum of funding from Norwegian side, the Investigators may see the details on the RCN website.

Proposals incorporating own/additional funding and projects that can demonstrate sustainable commitments from own institutions or other sources during and/or beyond the project period are encouraged.

Any grants to support recruitment of PhD students and post doctoral fellows should be integral components of the project proposal. Proposals for individual fellowships on their own will not be given priority.

The scope of the project should be realistic within the timeframe and budget limitations of the project. Plans for publication in peer-review journals that are accessible in Norway and India are strongly encouraged.

For more information about costs that can be sought from RCN, see [general requirements and guidelines for researcher projects](#).

The financial support from DST shall be available for mobility (up to 2 visits per year from each side with sending side provides international travel-related expenses while the receiving side provides the local hospitality as per their national norms) of project participants; one manpower ie JRF/SRF, RA etc; minor equipment (accessories) for up to Rs. 5.0 Lac; and chemicals / consumables/ contingency up to Rs. 5.0 Lac per year. Maximum funding from Indian side project is Rs.50.00 lakhs.

The funding from Indian side shall be released through a sanction order issued by DST indicating all terms and conditions of the grant. Any formal clearance/ approval pertaining to any kind of regulation by nodal departments/organizations concerning foreign collaboration must be completed before sanction of the project by DST.

The provisions for local hospitality, as mentioned above are as follows:

- Norwegian scientists visiting India shall be paid an amount of INR 2500/- , - per day towards food and out of pocket allowances, or as agreed in contract negotiations for each project plus fully furnished guest house accommodation on actual cost at the host Institute. In case a suitable guest house accommodation is not available at host institute, accommodation would be arranged by the host institute in a suitable hotel/guest house subject to max charges of Rs. 4000/- per day.
- Indian scientists visiting Norway on short term basis shall be provided an amount of NOK 460,- per day and 13 800,- per month on a long term visit towards food and out of pocket allowances, or as agreed in contract negotiations for each project
- For short term visits the maximum payment shall not exceed the total per diem for 20 days
- Free furnished accommodation in a guest house or a hotel with reasonable amenities and facilities shall be provided

- Transport to and from the airport for visiting scientists shall be arranged. In case of senior scientists (in the rank of director or above), transport shall be provided for all official engagements.

Assessment and joint decision-making procedure

The project proposals will be assessed separately according to the rules of procedure in each country. In addition to the general scientific criteria, the level of integration of partners and distribution of resources (financial and in-kind) as well as project organization will be subject to consideration. Grant proposals will be assessed on the basis of the criteria for Researcher Projects, as well as in relation to the special guidelines, requirements and assessment criteria set out for this call for proposals.

The RCN will use international scientists in its assessment procedure, either expert panels or referees, followed by the ranking of recommendations by BIONÆR and INDNOR.

The DST and the RCN will implement a joint decision-making procedure to determine the outcome of the call. Projects must receive a high assessment score in both countries to be funded. The selected projects will receive funding from the DST and the RCN.

Who can apply / Application procedure

Joint proposals must be developed in cooperation between Principal Investigators (PIs) representing a research institution in Norway and a research institution in India. Each proposal should have one Norwegian and one Indian Principal Investigator (PI). Norwegian PIs must submit the proposal to the RCN. Indian PIs must submit the proposal to the DST. The proposals should be identified with a common short name/acronym, and a joint project description should be enclosed.

In the joint project description ([designated template](#)):

- Relevance for the India-Norway Collaborative Research Program and the research areas stipulated in the call must be carefully addressed.
- Activities should be clearly described according to a timeline, and organised into well-defined work packages with corresponding responsibility
- Milestones should be identified that can be used to easily follow the progress of the project.
- Budget information should be detailed and clearly represented, including in-kind and financial contributions by each partner.
- Management structure and partner roles/responsibilities must be described.
- Research methodology should be described in detail as well as technology transfer, if appropriate.
- Significance and benefits that the results of the project will have for the users, the research field and society at large must be described.

- Capacities for implementing research findings in practice must be described.
- Dissemination and communication of research results to key decision-makers, the public administration and the public at large is of particular importance. Grant applications must include a communication plan that describes concrete measures and activities targeted towards various user groups.

Project cooperation should be well-rooted in research institutions in both countries and organized to ensure relevance and benefit to society and industry. To ensure adequate participation of all project partners and encourage long-term cooperation, the project description should clearly describe specific in-kind and financial contributions by each partner, as well as their role in the joint project.

Additional information

Contracts

The RCN will enter into a contract with the Norwegian applicant for the Norwegian portion of the project.

Agreement on rights to and use of findings and partner obligations (collaboration agreement)

A consortium agreement detailing the obligations of each partner must be drawn up before the contract with the RCN is signed. A plan for effective dissemination of results to users is required. The collaboration agreement should include specification of the rights to and use of findings (IPR). A copy of the consortium agreement between the project partners must also be submitted to DST at the time of submission of the proposal.

Language

The call for proposal is in English language only which also legally binding.

Requirements and criteria for this type of application:

In the joint project description ([designated template](#)) , activities should be clearly described according to a timeline, and may be organised into work packages when appropriate.

- Milestones should be identified that can be used to easily follow the progress of the project.
- Budget information should be detailed and clearly presented, and should, when necessary, be specified in the project description.
- Management structure and partner roles must be described.

Proposals for funding from the DST must be submitted according to the rules and regulations of the DST.

Proposals for funding from the RCN must be submitted electronically according to the rules and regulations of the RCN. The following specific guidelines apply to RCN proposals submitted under this call:

- Grant applications must satisfy the [general requirements and guidelines for Researcher Projects](#).
- The proposal and project description must be well-structured and clearly written in English.
- A resource table showing the different sources of funding and in-kind contributions should be part of the project description or a separate attachment. It is important to clearly state the distribution of total funding as well as financial and in-kind contributions from different partners and other sources for assessment purposes.
- All relevant items in the application form must be completed.

Mandatory attachments, uploaded in PDF format:

- A project description using the [designated template](#). The project description is not to exceed 10 pages, including the list of references. The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman 11-point font. It is permitted to use 9-point font for the list of references and figure text
- CVs including publications lists (maximum 4 pages per CV). The page format must be A4 with 2 cm margins, single spacing and 11-point font (Arial, Calibri or Times New Roman). It is permitted to use 9-point font for the list of references and figure text. Websites and documents accessed via links will not be included in the application review process.
- All international cooperation must be documented by letter of intent.

Rejection on administrative grounds

Applications for projects that fall outside the thematic priority areas and guidelines set out in the call for proposals or that have not employed the relevant templates for Researcher Projects will be rejected on administrative grounds.

Earliest permitted project start:01.05.2018 Minimum duration (months):24 Maximum duration (months):36

Anticipated date for notification of results of application process:March 2018

Proposal Submission

Indian and Norwegian applicants shall submit applications in English to DST and RCN.

For Indian applicants may use the Application given at **Annexure**. The application should include a jointly formulated and identical copy of the project description,

including acronym, submitted to the RCN by the Norwegian partner. Only one original hard copy of the completed application (by post through proper channels) at the following address. Soft copy in a single soft file (do not include any scan page in the soft copy as signatures are not required in softcopy of the proposal) in ms-word or pdf format as email attachment are required to be submitted. However, only the hard copy of the applications received before the due date will be accepted. DST does not hold any responsibility of not receiving the proposal due to postal delays etc. Incomplete applications will be rejected. Proposals by hand at DST are also not accepted.

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For Norwegian applicants, application as per the procedure indicated above be submitted to RCN via the RCN electronic application system (www.rcn.no for guidelines).

Contact Persons in Norway:

Senior Adviser Inderjit Singh Marjara, Department for Land-based Bioresources and Environmental Research, ism@rcn.no, mobile +47 98 82 38 14

Senior Adviser Merethe Sandberg Moe, Department for Cooperation and Development Research, mm@rcn.no, mobile +47 90 11 36 90

The Research Council of Norway (RCN), P.O. Box 564 N-1327 Lysaker, Norway

Last date for submission of the proposals in India and Norway :

22 November 2017

APPLICATION FORM

PART 1: General information

1. Title of the project:

2. (Subject Area, as specified in the announcement)

3. Contact details / Address of the project leaders:

	Indian project leader	Norwegian Project leader
Name & Designation		
Department & Institute/ University (address)		
Telephone (Work)		
Telephone (Residence)		
Fax No.		
Email ID		

4. Other participants in the project:

Indian side	Norwegian side

INSTITUTIONS ENDORSEMENT

Certified that –

- i) The project participants involved in the project as mentioned above are affiliated to the Institute/ University.
- ii) All information provided in the project proposal is correct; and
- iii) the necessary facilities including scientific equipments etc for implementation of the project are available in the Institution and all necessary administrative support will be extended to the project

Signatures of the Indian PI	Signatures of the Norwegian PI
Signatures of the Head of Indian Institution with seal	Signatures of the Head of Norwegian Institution with seal

PART-II

1. Project title
2. Scientific objectives
3. Current state of the research/ technology of the topic
4. Proposed activities including methodology of the proposed research work
5. Preliminary activities by the Indian side
6. Preliminary activities by the **Norwegian** side
7. Detailed description of the Indo-**Norwegian** co-operation
(Justification/ Rationale for collaboration)

7. Compatibility of intentions of both sides with regard to individual components of the project, working method etc

8. Expected results and dissemination plan

(Describe in detail the expected outcomes of the proposed activities and outline potential follow-on interactions between the involved institutes/institutions. If applicable, explain how you will disseminate your findings to key stakeholders and community and address potential for knowledge transfer to industry)

9. List of milestones

(Outline major milestones of your project on a time-scale of months and list the activities that will be required in order to achieve the milestone)

10. Ethical, safety and regulatory issues
(Does your proposed work raise ethical, safety or regulatory issues? If yes, how will you deal with it? Clearly indicate)

11. List of the five most important publications of the project participants, which have a bearing on the project (please do not send copies of the publications themselves or lists detailing all publications of the group)

PART-III Budget requirement:

A. Indian side (In Rupee only)

i. Visit of Indian scientists to **Norway**

Name of Indian Scientists visiting Norway	Tentative dates of proposed visit and duration of stay in Norway	Anticipated budget estimates for international travel (including domestic travel in connection with the international travel, visa fees, medical insurance, etc)
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		Please indicate break-up for each head
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

ii. Visit of **Norwegian** scientists to India

Name of Norwegian Scientists visiting India	Tentative dates of proposed visit and duration of stay in India	Per-diem charges @ Rs. 1000/- per day	Accommodation charges @ Rs. _____ per day
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

iii. . Other project costs:

Item	Details ie name, number, quantity etc	Budget requirement (1 st year)	Budget requirement (2 nd year)	Budget requirement (3 rd year)

Scientific manpower				
Spare parts / Consumables				
Contingency etc				

NOTE: The total project cost (ie A(i), A(ii) and A(iii) must not exceed Rs. 40 Lac)

B. Norwegian side (In Norwegian currency only)

i. Visit of German scientists to India

Name of Indian Scientists visiting Norway	Tentative dates of proposed visit and duration of stay in Norway	Anticipated budget estimates for international travel (including domestic travel in connection with the international travel, visa fees, medical insurance, etc) Please indicate break-up for each head
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

i. Visit of Indian scientists to **Norway**

Name of Norwegian Scientists visiting India	Tentative dates of proposed visit and duration of stay in India	Per-diem charges as per the norms indicated above	Remarks
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

iii. Other project costs:

Item	Details ie name, number, quantity etc	Budget requirement (1 st year)	Budget requirement (2 nd year)	Budget requirement (3 rd year)
Scientific manpower				
Spare parts / Consumables				
Contingency etc				

PART-IV (For Indian partners only)

1. List of on-going/completed research projects with the Indian project participant(s):

Title of the project	Brief description	Duration with dates of commencement and completion of the project	Funding available and source of funds

2. Infrastructure available/required to implement the project:

Facilities	List of items required for the project	If not available presently, how it is proposed to be procured/recruited. Please indicate the source of funding
Equipment		
Manpower		
Consumables and Contingencies		

3. Does the project involve (i) Biological Material Transfer / Use of GMOs / Radioactive materials; (ii) Human / animal trials?
(If yes, submit necessary clearance of nodal agency / department of Govt in this regard)

4. Is the collaborative proposal involves IPR related issues?
(If yes, the partners need to submit the IPR sharing agreement by the collaborating institutes before sanction of the project by DST and RCN.

5. Please mention Name/Address/Contact details including email address/ area of specialization of 3 possible peer-reviewers.