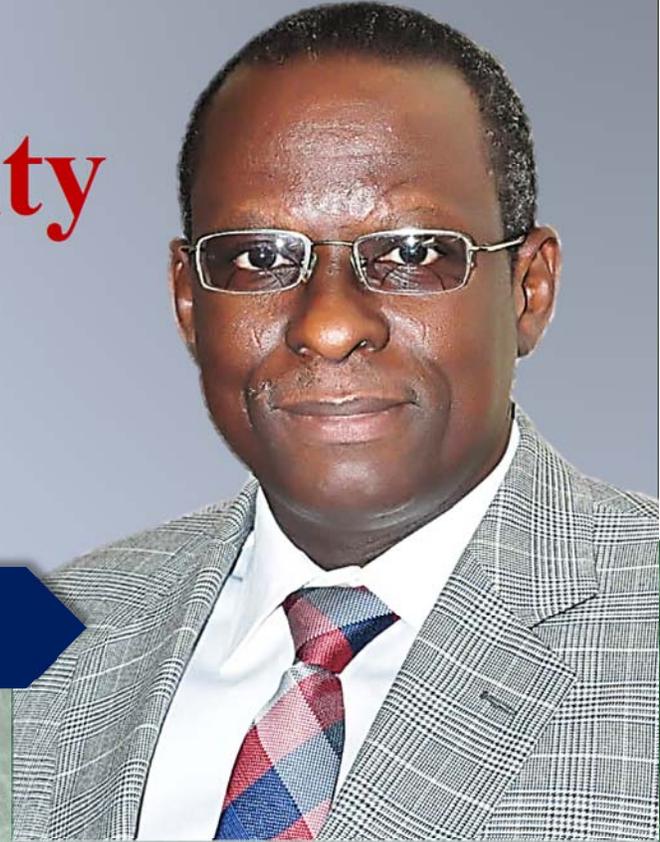




UI-RESEARCH NEWS

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Role of Integrity in Scholarly Publications



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Scholarly publication is a reliable indicator of academic productivity and achievement^(1, 2). The benefits of scholarly publications are numerous for authors: respect among peers, promotion, and visibility for authors and their institutions. Society also benefits since scholarly publications are typically derived from innovative research in science, technology, new therapies, and vaccine production which contribute to quality of life and longevity.

Most scholars disseminate their work through journals which subject manuscripts to peer review⁽³⁾, a quality control mechanism in which an informed third party scrutinizes the rigor of the methodology and ethics of conduct of the work described in the manuscript, before it is published⁽⁴⁾. Despite the limitations associated with peer review, including delay in publication of findings and bias⁽⁵⁾, it is still considered the best method of assessing the rigor of science and ethical appropriateness of the research being reported in the paper.

It is a global best practice that all stakeholders in the journal publishing process including editors, authors, and reviewers demonstrate integrity throughout the entire manuscript review process; from submission of manuscript, initial assessment by the editor, assigning reviewers, peer review, revision, to acceptance or rejection of the manuscript. Simply defined, scientific integrity refers to the ability of a scientist to perform his/her professional duties with honesty and truthfulness. Integrity is one of the pillars that has contributed to the progress and development of the research enterprise.

With respect to publication of findings in a journal, the first integrity test a researcher encounters during the submission process is when he/she is required to attest that the manuscript has not been published before, that it is not under any consideration for publication in any other journal, and that all authors have approved of it⁽⁶⁾.

Unfortunately, dishonesty in research remain widespread globally including in Nigeria^(7, 8). Considerable attention has been paid to the classical examples of dishonesty in research namely fabrication, falsification, and plagiarism.

As the name suggests, to fabricate is to fraudulently create or make up data or results. To falsify is to intentionally alter data to serve purpose of the researcher and plagiarism is theft of ideas. However, there are other infractions of dishonesty that are not often mentioned in published literature. Examples are fragmentation (salami slicing), duplication, simultaneous submission of a manuscript to multiple journals, complimentary/gift authorship, and unfair exclusion from authorship.

Fragmentation is a practice whereby authors inappropriately divide study outcomes or components into several articles primarily to inflate the value of authors' curriculum vitae for pecuniary purposes⁽⁶⁾. The goal of those involved in fragmentation is to prioritize quantity over quality publications. This practice has negative impact on journals and readers. As O'Hair has explained, 'fragmentation consumes journal spaces excessively and unduly complicate literature searches; the convenience of readers is 'better' served if reports of related studies are published in one article in the same journal or in a small number of journals'⁽⁶⁾. However, a caveat on fragmentation must be provided.

Due to word limit constraints, it is often not feasible to present in a single paper all findings from a large, multi-center research. Instead, the ethically acceptable responsible behavior is for authors to publish related outcome data in an article and make full disclosure that data presented in the current paper is a component of a big study. Authors are also expected to cite previous related publications, if any, to enable readers have full understanding of the current research and how this is related to previous or subsequent papers.

“Duplicate publication” and “self-plagiarism” refer to a publication “which has duplicated previous, simultaneous, or future publications by the same author or authors”⁽⁶⁾. Duplicate publication is a dishonest practice intended to mislead readers into believing that each article is the outcome of a different research.

The simultaneous submission of a manuscript to multiple journals for publication is unacceptable not only because it is a breach of integrity but also a waste of resources. Manuscript review is a cumbersome process that consumes a lot of resources including time and money. It is therefore a waste of valuable resources when two or more journals simultaneously review the same manuscript. Of course, authors can submit the same manuscript to another journal after it has been rejected by the first journal.

Complementary/honorary/gift authorship is a practice whereby someone’s name appears on a paper when he/she does not deserve to be an author. According to the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors the four criteria for authorship are substantial contributions to the development of the protocol for the research, participation in implementation of the research, performance in analysis and interpretation of the data collected and most importantly, contributions to the development of the manuscript⁽⁹⁾. Authorship gives credit and responsibility for the published work⁽⁹⁾. Undeserved allocation of authorship is misleading; someone listed as an author who has not made any contribution to the published work cannot defend or take responsibility for the contents.

The opposite of gift authorship is unfair exclusion in authorship. This occurs when a deserving person is not included as an author; examples include situations when a supervisor of a students’ research project publishes the work without including the student as a co-author or a supervisor presents students research project at a conference without knowledge or approval by the student.

Each one of the infractions described above is a serious breach of integrity with potentially serious consequences for the author, the journal, and research community. For example, a researcher may ruin his/her career as an academic if found guilty of any of these infractions. Journals may lose their reputation when they publish materials which are products of infractions. The entire research community are likely to suffer collateral damage when a researcher is found guilty of dishonest practices.

Several factors contribute to the persistence of research infractions in Nigeria including lack of knowledge especially among junior faculty, the pressure to succeed arising from the publish-or-perish syndrome, and the proliferation of predatory journals⁽³⁾, which are unable to detect publication infractions due to weak or non-existing peer review mechanism. Regardless of the causes the fact that these infractions continue to occur underscore need for interventions to prevent and mitigate their impact on the research enterprise.

All stakeholders involved in scholarly publications including editors, authors, and institutions have important roles to play to limit incidence of publication dishonesty. Editors of journals must continue to inform readers and researchers interested in submitting manuscripts to the journal of the importance integrity throughout the entire process of submission of manuscript to the publication of the paper. As a means of deterrence, it must be clearly stated in the Instructions for Submission of Manuscripts that journals will blacklist authors who are found to be dishonest. In addition, journals now use software to screen manuscript for duplicate materials and plagiarism⁽¹⁰⁾.

Authors, especially junior faculty, need initial and continue education on the need for integrity. Senior faculty have a duty to mentor junior researchers and serve as role models for integrity in all scholarly activities including development of grant applications, conduct of research, and publications of research findings. In signing attestation forms during manuscript submission, authors must understand the implications of dishonesty and its consequences.

Institutions to which authors belong must organize educational programs to train junior and all newly hired faculty on responsible conduct in research of which integrity is a major component. In addition, institutions must develop clear policies and inform their staff of the need for integrity not only in conduct of research but also in disseminating findings. Institutions also have a responsibility to impose sanctions on affected authors in proven cases of publication infractions to serve as a deterrence.

These concerted efforts will promote integrity among researchers, contribute to prevention of publications infractions, and enhance the profile of journals as credible sources of scientific information. In conclusion, integrity in scholarly publications is an essential prerequisite for success as an academic. Integrity burnish the reputation of the researcher, contributes to the progress of science, and is vital to the development of the community.

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PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COVID-19

The novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is a new strain of the virus that has not been previously identified in humans. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Federal Ministry of Health, through the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has activated a national Emergency Operations Centre at the highest level and is leading the national response. A National Rapid Response Team has been deployed to support affected State Governments with response activities.

As at 1st of May 2020 there were 18 laboratories in NCDC's molecular laboratory network with the capacity to test for COVID-19 in Nigeria, more are still being added. These laboratories were sufficiently equipped with reagents and supplies for testing.

On the 27th of April, President Muhammadu Buhari announced that there would be a phased and gradual easing of the lockdown in these locations. He added that, however, the following additional preventive measures would be enforced:

- Mandatory use of non-medical face mask/covering for all persons while in public spaces. Use of medical latex hand gloves are prohibited
- Mandatory provision of handwashing facilities/sanitizers and extensive temperature checks in all public spaces. Anyone with temperature above 38 degrees Celsius will not be allowed into public spaces and should be told to return home
- Mandatory temperature checks in public spaces
- Prohibition of interstate travel except for essential travels and services
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons outside of a workplace
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons at a funeral; all infection prevention and control measures and physical distancing of 2 metres must be adhered to
- Controlled access to markets and locations of economic activities
- Physical distancing of 2 metres between people in workplaces and other public spaces

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Members of the University Community should undertake simple measures to prevent the spread of the virus, by following these measures:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap under running water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitiser if water is not available
- Cover your mouth and nose properly with a tissue paper when sneezing and/or coughing. Dispose of the tissue properly immediately after use. You may also cough into your elbow if a tissue is not available
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing repeatedly
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance with other people when in public places
- Wear a non-medical face mask/covering when leaving the house
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Ensure routine cleaning of high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones, light switches etc.
- Consciously distance yourself at least two (2) meters to the next person. Stay 6 feet away, especially if the person around is coughing or sneezing.
- Do not shake hands or hug any person.
- Unnecessary visitors should not be allowed
- An ill person should be asked to stay away from the office
- Offices can practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example tables, desk, light switch, sinks, electronics, door handles, toilets, etc.
- If you have recently returned from a place or area within the last 14 days with widespread of transmission and have a fever, cough, or breathing difficulty, stay at home and call your state hotline or the NCDC on 080097000010.
- Self-isolate if you returned from any place or area within the last 14 days with widespread transmission of COVID-19

ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

COVID-19 appears to cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like fever, cough and difficulty breathing. From current evidence, about 80 persons out of 100 persons with the disease will recover. In about 10- 15% of cases, it will cause severe illness. It appears that death is not a common outcome and occurs mostly in patients with underlying health issues.

There is no specific treatment yet for COVID-19. However, many of the symptoms can be treated. Treatment is based on the patient's clinical condition, but supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

The above are precautionary measures to guide and protect us as individuals and entire system at large. Therefore, we are encouraged to kindly observe the prevention measures conscientiously.

NEWS

Commissioning of Fabrication Laboratory (Fablab) Donated by the Embassy of France in Nigeria Through the Research and Innovation in Adapting to Climate Change Adaptation (AIRACC) Nigeria Project

The full fablab donated by the Embassy of France in Nigeria, Abuja, to the University of Ibadan was commissioned on Tuesday 13 October 2020. The laboratory is placed under the responsibility of the Faculty of Technology, University of Ibadan with Professor Adebola B. Ekanola, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) overseeing the administration of the project for its implementation phase and the first two years of its operation.

Present at the event were the Ambassador of France to Nigeria, Mr. Jerome Pasquier, the Consular General of France to Nigeria, Mrs. Monmayrant Laurence, the Science and Higher Education Attache at the French Embassy, Prof. Mathieu Lila, Head of Cooperation and Culture, Mr. Rafael Pont and the Lead Consultant on Fablab, Mr Antonin Devillers.

Prior to the commissioning, three staff of the Faculty of Technology (Dr I .A. Kamil, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Dr O. O. Ajide, Mechanical Engineering and Mrs. O. Temitope Ayodele, Civil Engineering) were trained on the installation and operations of the fablab by the Embassy of France in Nigeria at the Nile University, Abuja between 21 and 26 September at Abuja. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) also attended the opening ceremony of the training programme.



Picture taken at the opening ceremony of the training workshop at the Nile University, Abuja. Third from Right is the Ambassador of France to Nigeria, Mr. Jerome Pasquier

Named the Unilbadan Fablab:Hub for Innovation and Creativity, the fablab is designed to accommodate anyone with ideas to develop them into prototypes in any discipline. Through the fablab, the University of Ibadan will be collaborating with researcher and innovators from other universities and fablabs within and beyond Nigeria. It promises to be a place where cutting-edge innovations will be taking place very shortly.

The French Embassy in Nigeria remains one of the most active partners of the University of Ibadan. Apart from the Institut Francias de Recherche en Afrique (IFRA, French Institute for Research in Africa), established in the University in 1990, the partnership between the University of Ibadan and the French Embassy was renewed and invigorated in 2018. The following are noteworthy:

- Visit of Ambassador of France, Mr. Jerome Pasquier to the University of Ibadan on 13 May, 2019 to discuss partnership between UI and the Embassy of France in Nigeria and universities in France.

- Meeting between the University of Ibadan School of Business (UISB) and Five Schools of Business from France on 14 May 2019..
- An institutional meeting of the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic), Prof. A.B. Ekanola, with representatives from 20 universities from France in Abuja to discuss collaboration with UI on 5 November, 2019.
- Collaboration between UI and other 6 universities in Nigeria with the French Embassy in Nigeria on the Innovation and Adaptation to Climate Change Project in April 2019. It started with the visit of Dr Emmanuel Nymphas of UI to the University of Grenoble, France (sponsored by the French Embassy in Nigeria). Several other meetings subsequently held in Abuja, Nigeria with Six other researchers from UI subsequently nominated to take part in the research project, which is still ongoing. Total project cost is €30,000.
- The ongoing opportunity for 2-3 PhD students from UI to work on atmospheric pollution/ environmental pollution /environmental health science, etc, during some short scientific stays in France. This is a component of the ongoing AIRACC project spearheaded by the Embassy of France in Nigeria.

The University of Ibadan is excited about and grateful for the opportunity of collaboration with the French Embassy, and through the Embassy with several universities in France. As we thank the Ambassador of France to Nigeria, Mr. Jerome Pasquier, and the entire envoy of France in Nigeria for their active participation in the development of higher education in Nigeria, we look forward to a continued mutually beneficial relationship between us.

Idowu Olayinka

Vice-Chancellor

University of Ibadan

#1 in Nigeria; #7 in Africa;

Top 500 in the Times Higher Education World Universities Rankings 2021

UI Dean of Pharmacy Oluwatoyin Odeku appointed Humboldt Ambassador Scientist

The Dean of Pharmacy, University of Ibadan, Prof. Dr. Oluwatoyin Odeku, Fellow Nigerian Academy of Science, has been appointed Humboldt Ambassador Scientist of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Bonn, Germany. The preferment is for the period October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2023.

As a Humboldtian and an established, highly respected academic and mentor, Dean Odeku is fully integrated in the specialised networks in Nigeria and the rest of Africa.

She will use her new position to encourage young researchers in the region to gain interest in a research visit to Germany. Her expertise would be invaluable in this assignment.

I am sure you will like to join me in congratulating Professor Odeku in this new position as part of her sustained interest in promoting science, technology and innovation.

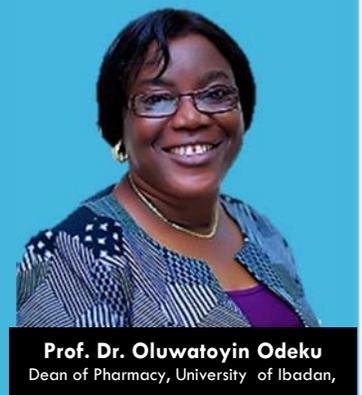
Thank you.

Idowu Olayinka

Vice-Chancellor

University of Ibadan

Thursday, 15th October 2020



Prof. Dr. Oluwatoyin Odeku
Dean of Pharmacy, University of Ibadan,

IDRC Canada/Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) AI4D Africa Initiative 2020 for African Research in Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) invite proposals from independent policy research organizations from across the African continent that are committed to using research to inform and influence national-level artificial intelligence (AI) policies and research ecosystems.

Application Deadline: 4th November 2020 by 23:59 (EDT)

About the Award: The aim of the AI4D Africa initiative is to ensure that policymakers across Africa can find and leverage state-of-the-art, objective and high-quality AI-related policy research that will inform decision-making on key responsible AI policy issues. In turn, this will allow communities across the continent to benefit from the opportunities that AI offers, including improved health, agriculture, governance, education and economic prospects, while being shielded as much as possible from the potential harms of AI.

To this end, the approach of the AI policy centres program is to provide financial support for implementing a responsible AI policy research agenda, mentorship, and capacity building, along with knowledge networking opportunities that will support broad-based responsible AI policy research organizations in Africa.

Eligible Field(s): Policy and research themes can include (but are not limited to):

Enabling beneficial AI research and development
Economic impacts, labor shifts, inequality, and technological unemployment
Accountability, transparency, and explainability
Surveillance, privacy, and civil liberties
Fairness, ethics, and human rights
Diversity and gender equality
Data capacity, analytics, protection and governance
Political manipulation and computational propaganda
Human dignity, autonomy, and psychological impact
AI safety

Type: Grants

Eligibility: This call for proposals is open to established research organizations from [eligible countries](#) across the African continent with strong research and policy engagement track records in the subjects that are critical for responsible AI. Only institutions that meet the eligibility criteria outlined here should submit proposals for possible funding.

To be eligible, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Possess a track record of research and analysis on the governance of digital technologies, and experience with developing and giving input on digital policies and regulations in a national and/or regional context. This includes experience with the cluster of issues that intersect with AI and the digital ecosystem;
- Applicants must demonstrate subject area expertise in at least three of the main AI policy and research themes listed in [policy research areas](#) below and show capacity and drive to augment work in other critical areas. Given the complexity of AI policy issues, this precludes institutions that focus exclusively on one sector or policy issue; and
- Be committed to using research to inform national (and regional) public debates and to create spaces for discussion and new ideas.

Final decisions will be based on selecting one Centre from each linguistic category.

Institutions must at the minimum:

- Be legally registered in the country of operation;
- Have and provide audited financial statements;
- Have a Board of Directors and a chief executive that is accountable to the Board;
- Have ethics protocols in place for research;
- Have the ability to convene researchers from other countries in the region;
- Be a non-governmental, non-profit independent organization;
- Not depend exclusively on the government for funding;
- Carry out policy-oriented research;
- Carry out “multi-sector” research on advanced technology policy issues that brings together social and economic policy issues.
- Organizations must be currently existing policy research organizations. Funding will not be provided for the creation of new centres/think tanks, nor to centres created for the purpose of applying for a grant from this initiative.

The desired outcomes include credible research, strong organizational performance, high quality research and policy planning capacity with demonstrated impact on AI policies and improved policy engagement.

Eligible Countries: African countries (This funding opportunity will provide funding to two (2) AI policy research organizations representing distinct linguistic regions (anglophone and francophone))

Number of Awards: 2

Value of Award: CA\$2.5 million for 2 centres

Duration of Award: 3 years

How to Apply: Proposals will be submitted via [baobab.ai4d.ai](#). You will need to create an account, which will allow you to access your application as many times as you need until you decide to submit. You will also need additional information and documentation to complete the proposal, including examples of your research and policy work and the CVs of your research team.

The proposal and all requested supporting materials must be submitted through [baobab.ai4d.ai](#) no later than **23:59 EDT on November 4, 2020.**

APPLY NOW!

It is important to go through all application requirements in the Award Webpage (see Link below) before applying.

[Visit Award Webpage for Details](#)

Smart Farming Innovations for Small-Scale Producers

Summary

Smart Farming Innovations for Small-Scale Producers Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks Smart Farming solutions that leverage digital technology innovations that have the potential to drive positive impact for smallscale producer (SSP) entrepreneurs delivered through bundled farmer services and enabled by scalable digital and data platforms ([Figure 1](#)). Solutions should address one or more challenges faced by smallscale crop and livestock producers in one or more areas of agricultural advisory, farm management decision support, input supply, finance, insurance, market access and linkages. Solutions should use human-centered design to elucidate the barriers that prevent SSPs from improving productivity, profitability and income – then propose Smart Farming solutions that can help elevate small scale production entrepreneurs.

Some of the fundamental challenges to address include: 1) low productivity driven by lack of access to information and services; climate change, weather variability and pest and disease outbreaks; 2) lack of access to tailored financial and insurance products, and 3) lack of access to and choice of market and offtake options. Additionally, solutions will need to consider barriers to adoption of digital farmer services, such as low language and digital literacy, the high relative cost of services and devices and, in particular, gender gaps and other potential downsides of digital solutions (e.g. the growing digital divide).

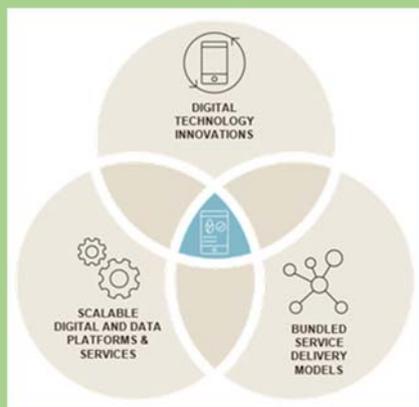


Figure 1. Smart Farming Innovations for SSPs

Awards: There are two grant types – Seed Grants and Scale-Up Grants – each with its own requirements. Applicants can only apply for one of these grant types must select which level for which they are applying (proposal should not be submitted for both grant types).

Seed Grants – Up to USD 250,000 to be implemented up to 12 months. Seed Grants are proposals for Smart Farming solutions that can demonstrate potential in meeting the following criteria:

- **Leveraging digital technology innovations** with the potential to scale, for example, utilizing a proven technology that has been applied in agriculture in another geography; transferring a technology from another sector such as health, infrastructure or finance; sourcing an entirely new technology;
- Show potential to improve **SSP incomes, productivity and ability to adapt to climate change**;
- Address **barriers to scaled adoption of digital services**, such as access, affordability and language and digital literacy. This includes addressing **women's access** to digital services and closing the digital divide between those who have access and marginalized populations who do not;
- Have the potential to be **bundled** with multiple farmer-facing services into an integrated solution;
- Are enabled by robust **digital and data technology platforms and services**;
- **Provide fit-for-purpose solutions** (e.g. developed using human-centered design) for SSP enterprises who seek to sell a portion of production to markets;
- Show **potential to be scaled using a sustainable business model and are affordable and able to provide positive return on investment** at a smallholder farm level through successful pilots, scaling partners, or higher volume production driving down prices.

Scale-Up Grants – Up to **USD 1,500,000** to be implemented up to **24 months**. Scale-Up Grants are proposals with demonstrated ability and sufficient evidence to have positive impact. In addition to the criteria listed above for Seed Grants, Scale-Up Grants must also:

- Leverage digital technology innovations with demonstrated **readiness to scale** and proven ability to bundle with other services;
- Meet all criteria regarding technology innovations, scalable platforms, and sustainable bundled service delivery models;
- Demonstrate that additional funding will enable value capture by SSPs or other value chain actors and sustainable and viable service delivery models over the long term.
- Please upload a separate document – **1 additional page maximum** – that describes your partner consortium in more detail, including the various partners' capabilities, and additional evidence of value add, income, productivity, women's empowerment and long-term sustainability of the solution.

Consortiums: To increase the probability that projects funded through this RFP will continue after the initial project completion and evolve into a continuing global public good or sustained solution, applicants are encouraged to consider a range of partners to form a consortium. This investment will prioritize those who partner with organizations interested in Smart Farming in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) as long-term opportunities. There are several types of organizations we envisage being part of consortia submitting proposals: Enterprise Technology Platforms (Big-Tech), Enterprise Agriculture (Big-Ag), Ag-Tech Startups (Ag-Tech + Farm-Tech), Research Organizations (R&D), national and international NGOs and farmer-based organizations (Implementors), Government and International Organizations.

Geographies: While we primarily seek solutions applicable to the LMICs listed below and favor those forming local partnerships. Other geographies will be considered if a strong case is made for doing so.

- Africa: Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Rwanda, Ghana, Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique
- Asia: India (Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh), Bangladesh

APPLY FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

INITIATIVE: Grand Challenges

DATE OPEN: Oct 19, 2020, 6:00 am PDT

DEADLINE: Feb 25, 2021, 11:30 pm PST

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

- [Farming Digital Technologies - Rules and Guidelines](#)
- [Farming Digital Technologies RFP with background – English](#)
- [Farming Digital Technologies - Application Instructions](#)
- [Farming Digital Technologies - Budget Template](#)
- [Emerging Technologies Flyer](#)
- [FAQs for Grand Challenges](#)

Tuberculosis: Science Aimed at Ending the Epidemic

December 2-4, 2020*

The aim of this symposium is to mobilize the rigor, creativity and forward-momentum of scientists worldwide to discover and develop new tools that will end the TB epidemic. A few unique features of this conference include sessions that will explore advances across the ecosystem from early discovery through translation and real-world application, as well as sessions that address scientific bottlenecks to be overcome in the search for new tools to prevent, diagnose and definitively cure TB.

Finally, the conference will include sessions dedicated to lessons learned from leprosy. There will be numerous opportunities for scientists to catalyze scientific advances that address the global burden of TB.

Program is intended for scientific researchers and clinical audiences. Join us for this landmark virtual event, brought to you by Keystone Symposia.

Pricing:

Regular Registration Rate: \$275 USD

Student Registration Rate: \$150 USD

Deadlines:

Abstract Submission

for Short Talk Consideration: October 29, 2020

ePoster Abstract Submission: November 18, 2020

Financial Aid Application: November 18, 2020

Showcase your work to global audiences on the eSymposia platform! **Submit your abstract for the opportunity to be selected for a short talk presentation alongside field leaders on the meeting program!** See Abstract Deadline for Short Talk Consideration

ePoster presenters will be provided with their own dedicated page on the event website to display their work in multiple formats and interact with meeting participants. ePoster features include:

- Abstract
- Poster PDF for download
- Lightning talk— up to 5 minute video presentation, available on-demand
- Live chat function to answer audience questions in real-time
- Contact information for private follow-up discussion

UNITED NATIONS DEMOCRACY FUND

UNDEF funds, helps design, manages, mentors, and generates projects that contribute to strengthening democracy

[Click to visit](#)

United Nations Democracy Fund invites organizations to apply for project funding (Grants up to US\$300,000)

Read more: www.opportunitiesforyouth.org

Do you have a bright idea? Submit it to UNDEF in November! The UN Democracy Fund invites civil society organizations to apply for project funding. Project proposals may be submitted on-line in English or French, the two working languages of the UN, between 1 November 2020 and 1 December 2020 at www.un.org/democracyfund. You can find guidelines, FAQs and lessons learned for applicants [here](#).

UNDEF supports projects that empower civil society, promote human rights, and encourage the participation of all groups in democratic processes. Most UNDEF funding goes to local civil society organizations. In this way, UNDEF plays a distinct role in complementing the UN's other work — the work with Governments — to strengthen democratic governance around the world.

This is the Fifteenth Round to be launched by UNDEF, which provides grants of up to US\$300,000 per two-year project. Since 2006, UNDEF has supported more than 800 two-year projects in over 100 countries at a total amount of over US\$200 million. Proposals are subject to a highly rigorous selection process, with fewer than two per cent of proposals chosen for funding.

UNDEF invites project proposals covering one or more of eight thematic areas:

- Gender equality
 - Community activism
 - Rule of law and human rights
 - Youth engagement
 - Strengthening civil society interaction with Government
 - Media and freedom of information
 - Tools for knowledge
 - Electoral processes
- In this Round, UNDEF particularly welcomes projects that address challenges to civic space and democracy as a result of the Covid-19 crisis.

[Click here to view a template of the proposal form from a previous year.](#)

[Read more](#)

New Approaches to Integrating Molecular Surveillance into Malaria Control Programs (Global Grand Challenges)

THE OPPORTUNITY

At the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we believe that malaria eradication within a generation is possible. We recognize that in order to achieve this, National Malaria Control Programs (NMCPs) must be empowered to use timely, high-quality data to inform their malaria strategic planning, decision-making, program implementation, and evaluation. As we work to sustain the decline in incidence rates that have marked the last fifteen years of malaria control, this concept of data-to-action has never been more important.

Our vision for data-to-action, recently endorsed by WHO's Malaria Policy Advisory Committee (MPAC), is one of stratification and sub-national tailoring. In the first step, multiple data sources – from geospatial to epidemiological data – are used to define district-level strata within a country. Next, additional data types are used as the input to mathematical models that output the optimal package of interventions that result in maximum malaria burden reduction within a given resource envelope. The success of stratification and sub-national tailoring is highly dependent on the underlying data, which may not always be complete, high-quality, and / or timely. We are therefore exploring new data streams that might improve our understanding of factors driving changes in malaria epidemiology or be used to optimize the choice of interventions modelled. One of these new data streams is serological, genetic, and / or genomic data which arises from malaria molecular surveillance.

Malaria Molecular Surveillance (MMS) is an umbrella term which describes the use of molecular biology approaches – from serology to genotyping to whole genome sequencing (WGS) – to interrogate parasite and / or vector populations in order to derive epidemiologically actionable information. MMS does not include research-oriented genetic and genomic investigations, such as studies using genomics to investigate parasite or mosquito biology. Rather, the emphasis is on analyses that can directly influence malaria control policy and practice. In addition to the laboratory techniques used, MMS also includes the bioinformatics tools and resources necessary to process, interpret, and share the resulting data.

THE CHALLENGE

Initial work in the MMS space focused on methods development and proof-of-concept pilot studies. Now, the tools and analyses are maturing, the infrastructure is in place, and the time-to-result is much shorter, meaning that MMS is beginning to influence program planning and execution. In elimination settings, genetics has been deployed in focused investigations of malaria importations. In higher-burden settings, MMS is being used to visualize the spatio-temporal spread of antimalarial drug resistance markers, influencing treatment guidelines, and to track the effect of different interventions on parasite genetic diversity as a surrogate measure of transmission intensity.

In June 2019, a WHO Technical Consultation on the role of parasite and vector genetic and genomic data in malaria surveillance ([workshop report](#)), stakeholders from MMS community – both on the research and programmatic sides – gathered with the goal of identifying those MMS use cases for which sufficient evidence exists to recommend routine use for malaria control and elimination, and those for which more upstream research is needed in order to generate a broader evidence base for future recommendations.

The list of use cases that are ready or near ready (marked with an asterisk*) for programmatic deployment includes:

- Detect drug resistance: monitor the prevalence/frequency of molecular markers of drug resistance to inform intervention selection, treatment guidelines, and surveillance
- Detect hrp2/3 deletions: monitor the prevalence/frequency of hrp2/3 deletion affecting RDT efficacy to inform diagnostic selection
- Assess drug resistance gene flow: determine the origins of drug resistance markers and monitor their spread within/among regions and parasite populations to inform containment strategies and regional policies around intervention selection, treatment guidelines, and surveillance*
- Predict emerging resistance: detect signatures of positive selection suggesting emerging resistance to inform intervention selection, treatment guidelines, and surveillance*
- Identify local transmission: identify focal areas of high transmission and clusters of infections to inform resource deployment*
- Distinguish local and imported cases: in elimination settings, classify cases as imported or otherwise for case investigation and elimination certification*
- Reconstruct transmission chains: elucidate contributing factors (e.g. seasonality, migrants, asymptomatic cases, and highly infectious individuals) to ongoing transmission patterns to inform intervention selection, resource deployment, surveillance, and case investigation*
- Determine connectivity of parasite populations: assess degree to which transmission is linked among regions due to linked parasite populations to inform program planning and resource deployment*
- Survey for allelic variation in target sites for gene drive: determine whether SNPs that would prevent CRISPR site recognition exist in wild populations to optimize gene drive release planning*

As MMS transitions from proof-of-concept work in academic institutions to operational reality in NMCPs, Ministries of Health, and National Public Health Institutes, the challenge lies in conducting the work in a way that engages country programs and malaria decision-makers and that empowers them to understand and use their data actively for programmatic decision-making.

The purpose of this call is therefore to identify new and innovative approaches to integrating malaria molecular surveillance into malaria surveillance and programmatic decision-making in malaria endemic countries.

What we are looking for:

We are looking for innovative proposals that will use MMS data to enable NMCPs to inform their national and sub-national surveillance efforts, national strategic planning, and/or intervention implementation. These may include proposals that: create or expand laboratory, bioinformatics, and data interpretation capacity within NMCPs or at institutions closely affiliated with an NMCP; create or implement tools for communicating and sharing parasite and/or vector molecular surveillance data; and/or build relationships between groups with MMS capacity and NMCP partners. Proposals should target the use cases identified above that are ready or near-to-ready for programmatic deployment. We do not want respondents to be generating MMS data for research purposes; rather, the intent of this

call is to support the application of MMS approaches to routine malaria surveillance and planning within NMCPs, Ministries of Health, or similar organizations.

While we welcome respondents from around the world, **we are particularly interested in proposals from respondents working in high-burden malaria settings. All proposals must include a principal investigator or co-investigator from a malaria-endemic country.**

Winning proposals should:

- Explain the rationale for and potential benefits of using MMS data in their setting
- Address one or more of the use cases outlined in the Challenge section above
- Include representation from the NMCP, Ministry of Health (MOH) representation, government agency or healthcare provider responsible for malaria control in the country / region
- Describe how MMS information arising from the project will be shared with the NMCP, MOH and other key stakeholders

A few examples of work that would be considered for funding:

- Implementing or scaling-up a laboratory assay for hrp2/3 deletion and / or antimalarial drug resistance marker surveillance in partnership with an NMCP
- Developing a web interface or reporting tool for communicating molecular data to stakeholders who do not have genomics / bioinformatics experience
- Creating a bioinformatics workflow for MMS data that goes from fastq file to a readable report summarizing the analysis results in a user-friendly way
- Developing and implementing a training program to familiarize NMCP staff with the use and interpretation of MMS data

We will not consider funding for:

- Proposals that do not include an investigator from a malaria-endemic country
- Proposals that do not include an explicit partnership with the NMCP, MOH or other authority responsible for malaria surveillance and control in the country / region
- Proposals that do not demonstrate how the results will immediately influence malaria decision-making by the relevant NMCP, MOH or other authority

APPLY FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY

INITIATIVE: Grand Challenges Explorations

DATE OPEN: Oct 19, 2020, 6:00 am PDT

DEADLINE: Dec 02, 2020, 11:30 am PST

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

- [GCE Round 26 - Rules and Guidelines](#)
- [Malaria Surveillance RFP - English](#)
- [GCE Round 26 Application Instructions](#)
- [GCE Budget Template and Narrative](#)
- [Official WHO Malaria Endemic Countries List](#)
- [Emerging Technologies Flyer](#)
- [FAQs for Grand Challenges Explorations](#)
- [Application Guidelines for Grand Challenges Explorations](#)

Eligibility

This call is open to individual Southern organizations or consortia of up to three organizations. The applicant organization/lead institution must have legal corporate registration and the capacity to administer foreign funds.

Proposals from consortia must name one lead organization that can subgrant to additional organizations. The lead organization must be a Southern organization based in Africa. Other consortium members may include members from within the region; national, regional, or international offices of multi-lateral organizations or international NGOs; or other organizations from outside the region.

This call is NOT open to individuals, governments, or organizations interested in using this grant to conduct research on the for-profit provision of core education services.

Scope

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and IDRC invite proposals for regional grants from individual organizations or consortia of multiple organizations for national, sub-national, or regional level projects to generate and mobilize knowledge to support national education systems in developing country contexts in addressing shared policy challenges related to improving access, quality, and the performance of their systems.

Projects funded through this call will:

- Scan for and identify relevant approaches and innovations to address shared policy challenges;
- Adapt and test those approaches to assess how to scale positive impacts in GPE-member countries; and
- Mobilize knowledge and build capacity to improve the uptake of approaches in policy and practice.

This call is designed to respond to the demands of GPE member countries for knowledge and innovation. Proposals should address one or more of the following four policy challenges shared among GPE member countries in East, West, and Southern Africa:

- Strengthening in-service teacher mentorship and support
- Increasing access to early childhood care and education for rural and marginalised children
- Increasing access to quality education for rural and marginalised children; and
- Strengthening utilisation of learning assessments

More details

Please refer to the detailed call for proposals for more information about the call objectives, eligibility, timelines, selection criteria, review process, application guidelines, and regional challenges.

You are strongly encouraged to read the [detailed call for proposals document](#) before applying. [Register for a webinar about this call](#) on September 17, 2020.

Please e-mail your questions in advance to kixcalls@idrc.ca by September 10, 2020.

Please consult the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) Interested in applying?

[Click to Apply online](#)

Balance the Equation - A Grand Challenge for Algebra 1 (Global Grand Challenges)

Overview

Grand Challenges is a family of initiatives fostering innovation that historically solve key problems in global health and development for those most in need. These initiatives use challenges to focus attention and effort on specific problems. They can be traced back to over a century ago when a mathematician named David Hilbert defined a set of unsolved problems to spark progress in the field of mathematics. Each initiative is an experiment in the use of challenges to focus innovation on having an effect.

Balance the Equation is the first-ever Grand Challenge focused on U.S. education.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is seeking to disrupt the deeply imbalanced system against this generation – and previous generations – of Black, Latino, English Learners (ELs), and students experiencing poverty in the United States, who we will refer to as priority students, as it relates to their Algebra 1 experience in 7th, 8th, or 9th grade, in-class or online.

Submissions are welcome from across the globe for a chance at a **Phase 1: Planning and Prototyping** grant for US\$100,000 to develop a pilot study plan alongside our external learning partner, American Institute for Research ([AIR](#)). Upon completion of the first Phase, awardees can then apply for a **Phase 2: Pilot Study** grant for up to US\$1 million. Applicants are encouraged to consider how their solution* could benefit from the expertise of two or more organizations in a partnership or combine with emerging or existing in-market solutions. Partnerships representing collaboration with a full-course Algebra 1 or relevant middle grades mathematics series provider are especially encouraged, as this would represent a clear go-to-market pathway.

[Read more](#)

Grand Challenges for Human Flourishing

Templeton World Charity Foundation has launched a new strategy to support new scientific research on human flourishing and to translate related discoveries into practical tools. Over the next five years, the Foundation will support a range of projects across three distinct stages: discovery, development, and launch. We hope that this commitment will lead to the development of innovative solutions and the launch of new practices that make a lasting impact on human flourishing.

You can find more information about our new strategy [here](#).

Before picking a focal point for the **discovery** stage of this five-year strategy, we plan to gather new ideas through an open-submission process. To achieve this, we've issued this **Request For Ideas** (RFI) to gather input as broadly as possible. We invite researchers across disciplines to participate in an initial phase of idea generation and development. Ideas selected will be used by the Foundation to shape its priorities for scientific discovery. This has the potential to lead to several new portfolios of grants. We seek bold ideas and rigorous experiments that use new conceptual frameworks to move past age-old debates and lead to significant breakthroughs.

We expect to invest approximately \$40,000,000 through the Grand Challenges for Human Flourishing. Priority will go to interdisciplinary scientific research on humanity's cognitive, affective, social, and spiritual well-being.

We are particularly interested in capacities that can be enhanced to promote human flourishing. We are also committed to the use of open science practices, such as the preregistration of hypotheses, replication studies, and data sharing.

Key dates

- **Launch RFI:** September 14, 2020
- **Submission Deadline:** November 11, 2020 (portal closes at midnight US Pacific Time)
- **Announcement of selected topics:** March 2021
- **Earliest grant application submissions:** June 2021

Key Selection Criteria

The Foundation will consider the following criteria during the review process.

- Does the idea fit with the strategic goals of the Foundation?
- What is the potential for new scientific discovery?
- Is the idea clearly articulated?
- Is the idea based on a sound conceptual framework?
- Is the idea supported by rigorous methodologies?
- Is the timeline realistic?
- Is the budget reasonable?

[Apply here](#)

Integrating Tradition and Technology for Fermented Foods for Maternal Nutrition (Global Grand Challenges)

THE OPPORTUNITY

Embracing the tradition of microbial fermentation to transform locally available foods into naturally vitamin-fortified, toxin-free, flavorful, and shelf-stable products could empower local communities to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on supply chain/food security and improve the health and nutrition of mothers and children in the most vulnerable settings. Historical advances in food processing have largely employed strategies that involve supplementation with micronutrients and additives to improve nutritional content and stability, but these approaches require highly centralized supply chains.¹ In addition, chemical additives for preservation, flavor and texture purposes may have unintended consequences of contributing to compromised gut health and increased prevalence of metabolic disease (hypertension, diabetes, obesity).²

Fermentation is an ancient practice through which locally-sourced food substrates can be transformed naturally by environmentally occurring microbes. These processes are thought to be intricately intertwined with human biology, and it is hypothesized that our primate ancestors adapted to natural fermentation processes millions of years ago.³ While many fermented foods (e.g., yogurt, cheese, coffee and alcohol) remain popular, certain types of fermentation are a dwindling art in many settings, representing a loss of cultural heritage and a natural way to improve the qualities of foods across several distinct axes⁴:

- Improve macro- and micro-nutrient quality and bioavailability (e.g., B vitamins)⁵
- Remove anti-nutrients (mycotoxins; phytates, which decrease iron availability)⁶
- Transform taste, flavor and texture⁷
- Improve the preservation and stability of foods by excluding pathogens (through lowering pH, bacteriocin production, removing simple sugars)⁸

Historical approaches of macronutrient supplementation and micronutrient fortification have been the basis for transformative global health nutrition interventions, ultimately saving millions of lives each year.⁹ These approaches have also focused on pediatric populations, although recent work suggests that solutions targeting maternal nutrition may be even more impactful on pediatric health and have the important benefit of also improving maternal health.¹⁰ Given limited access of nutritional interventions by the populations in greatest need¹¹ and formulations that are not optimized for gut and metabolic health,¹² malnutrition remains one of the most significant global health problems facing society today.

COVID-19, with disruption of supply chains and a predilection for individuals with metabolic diseases, has served to increase the urgency for identifying locally-sourceable health-promoting maternal nutrition solutions that treat undernutrition without increasing the risk of obesity, diabetes, and hypertension. Ironically, it may be that these new solutions already exist in the form of ancient traditions reevaluated and revalued through a next-generation and evidence-based lens.

THE CHALLENGE

Beyond many of the well-known examples of microbial fermentation, the vast majority of fermentation processes around the world remain uncharacterized and their potential human health benefits are unknown. These ancient practices may hold the key to impactful and locally targeted nutritional interventions that combine tradition and science to tackle malnutrition. Rigorous scientific evaluation has been limited and characterization to understand potential benefits could be pursued to validate and underscore the importance of preserving this cultural heritage.

What we are looking for

This call seeks to fund pilot studies that investigate the biological effect of traditional locally fermented foods on key microbiome, gut, and health biomarkers in local populations. The goal is to provide investigators in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia with the resources to build local capacity to investigate fermented foods as novel maternal nutrition interventions. In particular, sequencing technology – a transformative tool that has enabled in-depth investigation of microbial communities – will be provided to all investigators to democratize the ability to investigate foods and health effects, and build local capacity. Ultimately, the goal is to empower local communities to develop geography and culture specific interventions powered by fermentation, in country.

- effects of the food itself. Different subpopulations
- approaches of food (including effects of fermentation on the nutritional profile) or biological samples using conventional or existing techniques
- Proposals should specifically address existing laboratory infrastructure and capacity for integrating next generation sequencing into existing laboratory workflows (e.g. nucleic acid extraction, PCR, etc.)

As a part of this 18 month Grand Challenges award, sequencing platforms (funded with up to USD \$40K for sequencing technology out of this USD \$200K award) and training will be provided to investigators to enable local sequence-based characterization of the fermented foods and microbiome effects. The output of this study will be pilot data evaluating the biological effect of traditional fermented foods on gut, microbiome and health axes in local populations. Any additional points on the sustainability of the intervention and the empowerment of local champions to continue the work, integrating with state and national level Maternal, Infant and Young Child Nutrition (MIYCN) programs would also be welcome.

Proposals should specifically address the following core elements, but investigators are welcome to propose creative strategies and designs to accomplish the core goals of this call and account for local cultural traditions. In addition, it is expected that study design will be refined after award through a collaborative forum involving other awardees and the foundation:

- Identification of a local (geographic/cultural) fermented food for study
- Many foods may not be colloquially considered to be fermented, but any process that incorporates biotransformation by microbes is acceptable
- Living microbes were actively employed as a part of the fermentation process and final product consumed retains live organisms
- Fermentation may be driven by known organisms, e.g. bacterial *Lactobacillus* sp., fungal *Aspergillus* sp., or less studied food-borne organisms
- Must be plant-based (e.g., grain or staple crop). Plant-based fermented foods are a requirement due to lower cost of goods for scalability compared to animal-based foods

The African Academy of Sciences

Promoting innovations to advance food security and nutrition in Africa

Globally, there are 690 million people who are hungry with the burden of malnutrition, in all its forms, yet to be tackled. Recent data from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), indicates that 144 million (21.3%) of children under 5 years are stunted, 47 million (6.9%) wasted and 38.3 million (5.6%) overweight. About 2 billion people in the world lack regular access to sufficient and nutritious food.

The Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA), announced today, new funding for innovations to improve food security and nutrition. AESA is a funding, agenda-setting and programme management initiative created in 2015 through a partnership of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), founding and funding global partners, and through a resolution of the summit of African Union Heads of Governments.

AESA has partnered with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to fund innovations for food security and nutrition, which can promote sustainable access to safe, nutritious and adequate food that lead to healthy and productive lives under the Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa) programme. GC Africa seeks to promote Africa-led scientific innovations to help countries better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by awarding seed and full grants to the continent's most impressive solutions.

"This call addresses the funding gap, seeks solutions that present ideas with potential to create long-lasting impact for individuals, families, communities, farmers, service providers and decision makers. We are also interested in innovations addressing components of food infrastructure, networks, and systems," says Dr Moses Aloba, Grand Challenges Africa, Programme Manager.

This is the 12th call to be issued under the GC Africa programme since the launch of the Grand Challenges Africa Innovation Grants in 2015. Up to \$100,000 will be awarded to each successful project for two years to spearhead innovations that:

- Address food security and nutrition gaps whilst responding to climate change needs.
- Catalyse application of technologies, innovations and agribusinesses to achieve food security and nutrition targets.
- Solve cross-cutting issues that promote food security and nutrition.
- Promote achievement of the nutrition and health targets of the African Union.
- Provide solutions that result in sustainable commercialization and production of indigenous foods.

"Achieving food security will require careful thought to effective approaches that ensure that no one is left behind when it comes to eliminating hunger, safeguarding food security and better nutrition as well as promoting sustainable agriculture. This especially with consideration of the devastating socio-economic and health effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The funding hopes to address urgent gaps to provide effective and resilient innovations to safeguard safe and nutritious food for all and especially for the most vulnerable," says Markus Moll, Research Advisor with Sida Sweden.

Food security and nutrition is part of the 9 priorities of the African Science, Technology and Innovation Priorities (ASP) programme. Over a five-year period, the programme will be developing, publishing and disseminating to relevant stakeholders, a set of policy papers and briefs communicating the top scientific priorities for Africa. ASP is coordinated by AESA and AUDA-NEPAD convening scientific leaders in Africa and policy makers to review the priorities set by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), African Union Agenda 2063, Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA 2024) and National Development Plans and help build consensus around which top priorities will give African countries the greatest return on investment.

In June 2020, AESA convened a diverse group of experts from across Africa to deliberate on research and development priorities to achieve food security and nutrition targets in Africa. Here, it became apparent the need

- Food with a cultural precedent in maternal nutrition are of high interest
- The food being investigated must be produced in compliance under all relevant local food manufacturing regulations and modern food safety practices
- Pilot study design for longitudinal intervention study for understanding the effect of the fermented food in a naïve (no, or limited, fermented food consumption) population
- The target population should be women of reproductive age, and a naïve population not currently consuming or with limited consumption of the target fermented food to better understanding the biological effects of the food itself. Different subpopulations (urban vs. rural, various cultural groups, different sub-geographies within a country, etc.) with lower consumption of the target fermented food could be specifically targeted. If populations traditionally consuming fermented foods are considered, it would be important to undertake a baseline to understand the additive effect after consumption of "target foods".
- Longitudinal intervention studies are recommended, with small cohort sizes (20-30 participants) and sustained exposure to the fermented food (e.g., at least daily >5 days) but ultimately the study design should be motivated by the end goal of characterizing the effects of the food on maternal nutrition through host (blood and fecal) and gut microbiome biomarkers.
- A template dietary questionnaire will be provided and can be customized to local foods and traditions
- Existing infrastructure that may improve ability to execute on the proposed study can and should be highlighted
- Biological sample biobanking and characterization before and after food intervention
- Fermented foods themselves (metagenomic analysis of fungal [ITS] and bacterial [16S] constituents), potentially across distinct batches and preparation methods
- Serial fecal samples from participants (metagenomic analysis; lipocalin-2, myeloperoxidase, and calprotectin of particular interest)
- Serial serum/blood samples from participants (Iron studies, B-vitamin analysis; lipocalin-2, IL-6 and CRP are of particular interest given the association of inflammation biomarkers with maternal nutrition and birth outcomes)¹³
- Other characterization approaches of food (including effects of fermentation on the nutritional profile) or biological samples using conventional or existing techniques
- Proposals should specifically address existing laboratory infrastructure and capacity for integrating next generation sequencing into existing laboratory workflows (e.g. nucleic acid extraction, PCR, etc.)

[CLICK TO READ MORE AND APPLY FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY](#)

INITIATIVE: Grand Challenges

DATE OPEN: Oct 19, 2020, 6:00 am PDT

DEADLINE: Jan 06, 2021, 11:30 am PST

[SUPPORTING MATERIALS](#)

[Fermented Foods - Rules and Guidelines](#)

[Fermented Foods RFP - English](#)

[Fermented Foods - Application Instructions](#)

[Fermented Foods - Proposal Template](#)

[Grand Challenges Budget Template](#)

[Emerging Technologies Flyer](#)

[FAQs for Grand Challenges](#)

[Fermented Foods - Round Table Discussion Presentation](#)

[Fermented Foods - Supporting Preprint](#)

[Fermented Foods - Round Table Discussion at the 2020 Grand Challenges Annual Meeting](#)

for funding targeted at food security and nutrition. A survey later conducted in July-August 2020 further highlighted the key priorities from leading stakeholders around the continent.

Applicants should apply through the AAS Online Grants Management System.

Learn more about this request for proposals for innovations on food security and nutrition.

Notes to editors

Grand Challenges Africa (GC Africa)

GC Africa seeks to promote Africa-led scientific innovations to help countries better achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by awarding seed and full grants to the continent's most impressive solutions. GC Africa is implemented through the AESA Platform. GC Africa is supported by various partners including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Sida, BMBF, MMV and H3D.

The Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA)

The Alliance for Accelerating Excellence in Science in Africa (AESA) was created in 2015 through a partnership of the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), founding and funding global partners, and through a resolution of the summit of African Union Heads of Governments. AESA mission is to shift the centre of gravity for African science to Africa through agenda setting and scientific prioritization, mobilizing R&D funding, and managing continent-wide Science, Technology & Innovation (STI) programmes.

The African Academy of Sciences

The African Academy of Sciences (AAS) is a non-aligned, non-political, not-for-profit pan African organisation whose vision is to see transformed lives on the African continent through science. Our tripartite mandate is recognising excellence, providing advisory and think tank functions, and implementing key STI programmes addressing Africa's developmental challenges. The Academy's five strategic focus areas include: Environment and climate change; health and wellbeing; natural sciences; policy and governance; and social sciences and humanities.

Join us on Facebook.com/AASciences and Twitter @AASciences and learn more by visiting www.aasciences.africa

African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD)

The African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD) is the development agency of the African Union, coordinating and executing priority regional and continental development projects to promote regional integration towards the accelerated realisation of Agenda 2063 – Africa's vision and action plan www.nepad.org.

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) is Sweden's government agency for development cooperation. It works on behalf of the Swedish parliament and government with the goal to enable people living in poverty and oppression to improve their lives. Sida works in partnership with implementing actors. Each country is responsible for its own development, and our local partners always have the best solutions for local problems. Sida's research cooperation is guided by a strategy from the Swedish government with the aim to strengthen research capacity in low/lower-middle income countries, as well as research of high quality and innovations that are of relevance to poverty reduction and sustainable development. www.sida.se/research

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PRESS RELEASE: October 27, 2020

U.S. Consulate Announces Application for 2020 Academy for Women Entrepreneurs

Lagos—The United States Consulate General in Lagos on Tuesday announced a call for applications for the 2020 Academy for Women Entrepreneurs (AWE), a U.S. Government initiative that supports women entrepreneurs around the world.

For the second annual AWE, we will select 120 female entrepreneurs from across southern Nigeria to receive virtual and in-person training and mentoring. To support the comprehensive rehabilitation and reintegration of returned migrants, we will select 20 female returnees to take part in the program.

During the intensive program scheduled to run from November 2020 to March 2021, successful applicants will receive lessons on business management, network with like-minded entrepreneurs and mentors, and learn the practical skills required to create and run successful and sustainable businesses.

United States Consulate Acting Public Affairs Officer Jennifer Foltz explained that the goal of the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs is to teach women around the world to become successful entrepreneurs.

According to her, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the global economy, the U.S. Consulate General aims to work with the AWE participants to develop their businesses.

“One of the U.S. government's goals is to promote entrepreneurship worldwide. Through the Academy for Women Entrepreneurs, we are doing just that by giving ambitious businesswomen the skills they need to take their ventures to the next level. For this year's program, we encourage motivated and self-driven female entrepreneurs to apply,” Acting Public Affairs Officer Foltz said.

Leading local business leaders will help facilitate the workshops. In addition, participants will receive access to DreamBuilder, a blended business-training course developed through a partnership between Arizona State University's Thunderbird School of Global Management and global copper mining company Freeport-McMoRan.

The U.S. Consulate General has partnered with Ascend Studios Foundation to administer this program. Chief Executive Officer of Ascend Studios Foundation, Ms. Inya Lawal, said “We are excited that the U.S. Consulate General in Lagos has partnered with us for the second time to implement this important program tailored for women's economic empowerment.

“With the challenges and opportunities the COVID-19 pandemic has presented, a lot more women are looking for new ways to pivot their businesses, and AWE is on the lookout for such women.” Female entrepreneurs interested in participating in the AWE program can apply at no cost by filling out the application form via shorturl.at/bqGT6. Application closes on November 8, 2020.

The AWE is a component of the White House Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative, designed to empower women worldwide to fulfill their economic potential, thereby creating conditions for increased stability, security, and prosperity for all. The first edition of the program was held in Lagos in September 2019.

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IDRC Research Ideas Competition

Pursuing the co-benefits for Health and Environments through food system change

Overview

Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is pleased to announce a new Research Ideas Competition to promote health, sustainability and equity in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). The IDRC, a Canadian Crown corporation, funds research in developing countries to create lasting change on a large scale and supports local organisations in the Global South to generate the evidence that is relevant in their context. The IDRC is working with the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Faculty of Arts and Sciences to manage this competition and ensure scientific integrity, ethical oversight and inclusivity. The goal of this competition is to inspire novel research ideas that aim to strengthen policy interventions, population health, environmental sustainability and/or health, gender and social equity in LMICs. These novel ideas are expected to deliver health and environmental co-benefits by addressing the interlinked nutrition and environmental challenges and knowledge gaps that impede shifts towards healthier and sustainable food systems. These ideas will promote a conceptual understanding of healthy and sustainable food systems and account for the practical realities of their implementation.

This competition aims to:

Identify novel, solutions-oriented research ideas that promote healthy and sustainable food systems in LMICs;

Support interdisciplinary exchange of ideas that draw upon different theories, methodological tools, frameworks, and approaches;
Harness lessons from research, civil society and policy spheres which bridge the fields of global health, food systems and environmental sustainability research.

Deadline for applications is December 11th 2020. For more information please contact idrc.researchideas@utoronto.ca

[Click for more](#)

- The applications for 2022 should have a CV and an exposé of the activities planned under the grant project (both in English) and include two academic references and up to May 15, 2021 be filed.

DEADLINE: May 31, 2021

To apply and more information [visit here](#)

TWAS-UNESCO Associateship Scheme 2021 for Researchers from Developing Countries

In collaboration with UNESCO and a number of centres of excellence in the South, TWAS has instituted a [Joint Associateship Scheme](#) to enable competent researchers from the South to visit these centres regularly. An associate is appointed for three years during which he/she can visit a Centre twice for research collaboration.

Application Deadline: 1st December 2020

Eligible Countries: Developing Countries

To Be Taken At (Country): Associateship countries

About the Award: In collaboration with UNESCO and a number of centres of excellence in the South, TWAS has instituted a Joint Associateship Scheme to enable competent researchers from the South to visit these centres regularly. An associate is appointed for three years during which he/she can visit a Centre twice for research collaboration. Almost 300 centres have been selected to participate in the Scheme. TWAS provides travel support for the associates and a contribution towards subsistence costs up to USD300.00 per month while living expenses are covered by the host centres.

Field of Study: Natural sciences

Type: PhD

Eligibility: Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent degree. The selection of associates is highly competitive; appointments are made on the basis of merit. Special consideration is given to scientists from isolated institutions in developing countries. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply.

Number of Awards: Not specified

Value of Award: The Associateship covers the associate's travel expenses and a monthly contribution of USD300 towards incidental local expenses. The host centre covers accommodation and food, and provides the research facilities.

Duration of Program: Appointments have a fixed duration of **three** years. During this time, the associate is entitled to visit the host centre **twice**, for a period of 2 to 3 months each time. **How to Apply:** Applicants must complete the online application form by clicking on the 'Apply now' button at the bottom of this page. While filling in the online application, applicants also need to upload the following documentation: scanned copy of the applicant's passport, even if expired (page with applicant's name and surname); supporting Statement from Head of Home Institution; the applicant's *curriculum vitae* (*no more than 4 pages*); the applicant's full list of publications; PhD certificate; two letters of recommendation by two referees, one of whom should be from an expert from another country; a recent invitation letter – on the host institution's letterhead paper – from one of the Institutions listed in the files available [here](#). It should contain the proposed time of the visits (two to three months for each visit) and should refer to the proposed cooperation. It should be made evident that the applicant and the proposed host have been in contact regarding the scientific work to be done during the visit and that the conditions for conducting the work have been agreed in terms of the timing of the visit and the facilities available.

[APPLY NOW](#)

[Visit the Program Webpage for Details](#)

FELLOWSHIPS

Albert Einstein Scholarship for Young Scientists 2022 (EUR 10,000)

With the scholarship, the Einstein Forum and the Daimler and Benz Foundation want to offer outstanding young scientists from Germany and abroad the opportunity to carry out a research project that is outside of their previous work. The aim is to support those young universalists who – like Albert Einstein – are not only characterized by their exceptional achievements in a specific scientific field, but also by their interdisciplinary commitment.

The scholarship is linked to a stay in the summer house of Einstein's summer house in Caputh, which lasts between five and six months. The Einsteinhaus is a place of significance in terms of both science and architecture history, with links to the universities of Potsdam and Berlin.

WORTH

- The scholarship holder receives a grant of EUR 10,000 as well as the travel expenses incurred.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants should be under 35 years of age and have a qualified university degree in a humanities, social or natural science subject

OUR MOTTO

Advancing translational research output and uptake to meet societal needs

OUR VISION

To support researchers with information on funding opportunities, encourage collaboration and provide adequate training/services for the acquisition of knowledge and skills in grantsmanship that will enable carrying out of cutting-edge research

OUR MISSION

To be the flagship of innovative research administration and management in Sub-Saharan Africa, a catalyst for doing and up taking cutting edge research in the society

WHAT WE DO?

Pre-grant application services

- Funding opportunities: disseminate research funding opportunities
- Confirm eligibility of researchers according to sponsor guidelines
- Liaise with funding agencies on behalf of the university
- Interpret sponsor guidelines & regulations
- Register & assist with agency submission websites

Proposal Writing

- Review Request for Applications (RFAs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs)
- Proposal development
- Ensure compliance with submission guidelines
- Institutional support documentation for grants application
- Edit and format grants applications for readability
- Review and sign research proposals on behalf of the University or as a delegate of the University

Budgeting

- Budget templates
- Cost sharing
- Routing and approval

Training

- Provide training opportunities relating to grantsmanship for early career researchers.

Award Services Communication

- Identify and communicate proactively and effectively award parameters and sponsor terms and conditions to researchers and other administrative staff.
- Network with researchers to share and obtain information for effective scientific communication.

Project management

- Provide assistance to researchers and staff on post-award administrative processes
- Liaise with sponsors to ensure compliance with guidelines and to resolve conflicts and concerns (where applicable)
- Initiate and manage partnership agreements, sub-awards and sub-contracts with external collaborators

Fiscal Stewardship

- Provide support to researchers to facilitate the management of research funds and ensure financial management and control on behalf of external Sponsors.
- Ensure the preparation and submission of financial reports to sponsors according to set deadlines
- Coordinate and respond to audits and monitoring visits requested by sponsors in collaboration with other units such as bursary, procurement services and the researcher.

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