

CALL FOR COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS

MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIALISATION



ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified

RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE



Leadership, Innovation and Development

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF FULL RESEARCH PROPOSALS IN MANUFACTURING AND INDUSTRIALISATION

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

**Deadline for submission of the application is Wednesday, 22nd January 2025 at
23:59 (EAT).**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) and the Research Council of Zimbabwe (RCZ) are Government agencies responsible for coordinating and supporting Science Technology and Innovation (STI) in their respective countries. Both agencies are mandated to advise their governments in all matters related to STI. COSTECH and RCZ are members of the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI), a coalition of seventeen (17) countries across Sub-Saharan Africa. Through this initiative, COSTECH and RCZ are committed to launching a joint call for proposals, supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) partnership, to promote bilateral research cooperation between Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

The collaborative research project focuses on manufacturing and industrialization while fostering partnerships between the two countries. This initiative aims to provide an opportunity for both nations to learn from each other in research and grant management systems and to strengthen the integration of gender equality and inclusivity throughout the entire cycle of project, from planning and implementation to the dissemination of research results. Additionally seeks to enhance collaboration and partnership among the researchers from both countries.

2. SUPPORTED RESEARCH THEMES

The call aims to support collaborative research projects on manufacturing and industrialization with a focus on the research that enhance productivity, yield, and value addition. This includes strengthening manufacturing capabilities, such as packaging and establishing standards with one of the following thematic areas:

- i. **Forestry, Bee, Livestock, Fisheries and Tobacco:** The focus will be on increasing the value of forestry, beekeeping, livestock and fisheries products. Research may include developing value-added products, such as processed food items, textiles, or speciality chemicals, to generate higher incomes for farmers and expand market opportunities. For tobacco, the emphasis will be on exploring its medicinal properties and environmentally sustainable processing methods.

- ii. **Mineral Beneficiation Research:** The focus will be on optimizing the extraction and refinement of mineral resources. Research initiatives may explore sustainable and environmentally friendly mineral processing methods, as along with innovative approaches to add value of raw minerals, thereby fostering economic growth and creating jobs.

3. RATIONALE

The structure of the manufacturing and industrialization sector in Sub Sahara Africa is largely dominated by small-scale establishments that primarily rely on the resource-based products from agriculture and mining. Few establishments produce more technologically advanced products. The challenge is further intensified by low levels of technology adoption; insufficient storage and value-addition facilities; high costs of production; and limited access to investment financing. In response, Tanzania Third National Five-year Development Plan 2021/2022 - 2025/2026 call for building on previous achievement towards of the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025, which aims to make Tanzania a semi industrialized, middle – income country by 2025 through increased effort in manufacturing and industrialization.

Zimbabwe's National Vision, as expressed in the National Development Strategy, emphasizes fostering sustainable and inclusive economic growth to achieve an Upper-Middle Income Society by 2030. This will be pursued through sustainable industrialization and the promotion of innovation. The National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1) 2021-2025 serves as a cornerstone of Zimbabwe's national goals, targeting sector specific interventions in value addition for agro-processing, mineral beneficiation, restoring the productive capacity of the pharmaceuticals sectors and the assembling buses and trucks. Additionally, the National Industrial Development Policy, 2019 – 2023 promotes the development of sustainable, innovative and inclusive competitive industrial sector. under this policy, the manufacturing sector is expected to grow by least 2% per year, with value-added growth projected at 16% per year Research projects focused on manufacturing and industry including those that enhance productivity, yield and value addition of local products and natural resources such as forestry, beekeeping,

livestock, fisheries, tobacco are essential for achieving these objectives and addressing the challenges faced by the manufacturing and industry sectors.

4. SCOPE OF THE CALL

The call is designed to support bilateral projects focused on value addition and improving the productivity and yield of forestry, bee products, fisheries, livestock, tobacco and minerals resources. Researchers from Tanzania and Zimbabwe are expected to form partnerships and jointly apply. Each Principal Investigator (PI) and their project teams may submit only one proposal. For each application, if the PI is from Zimbabwe, the Co-PI should be from Tanzania and vice versa. Gender equality and inclusivity should be prioritized by ensuring opportunities for women, people with disabilities and minority groups' serves as Principal Investigators or to be equally represented within the research team.

5. OBJECTIVES

This call aims to support collaborative research projects between Tanzania and Zimbabwe in manufacturing and industry, with focus on enhancing productivity and adding value n to forestry, beekeeping, fisheries, livestock, tobacco and minerals resources. It also seeks to strengthen research capacity, consolidate gender integration and foster private sector linkage between the partner countries.

6. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This call is open to prominent Tanzanian and Zimbabwean researchers residing in their respective countries and working in recognized Research and Development (R&Ds), or Higher Learning Institutions (HLIs) with skills and commitment to conduct high-quality research. Applicants must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- i Hold a PhD of not less than 5 years in a recognised field;
- ii Have an outstanding research track-record supported by relevant research outputs that are recognized nationally and internationally;
- iii Experience in research relevant to the call's theme, with contribution that has informed national, regional and/ or institutional policies and practices; Extensive experience in mentoring researchers or supervising postdoctoral fellows, PhD and/or MSc students; and

- iv A good track record in internal and external research collaborations.

7. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- i. **Applications:** must be submitted through the Research Council of Zimbabwe's Online Grants Management System (OGMS) on <https://grants.rczgrants.org/>
- ii. **Language:** Must be written in English following the format provided on the system.
- iii. **Alignment:** Submitted applications must be in line with the call theme.
- iv. **Project lead:** The project should have a PI and Co-PI. If the PI is Zimbabwean, the Co-Pi should be Tanzanian and vice versa.
- v. **Research Team:**
 - a. Must be composed of both female and male researchers at approximate equal representation at all levels of project implementation.
 - b. People with disabilities and minority groups must be considered in the project team or project capacity-building component throughout the project's implementation.
 - c. Should be multi-disciplinary considering senior/junior researchers from different disciplines.
 - d. Must include evidence of collaboration with other relevant authorities, HLIs and or R&Ds from both Tanzania and Zimbabwe.
- vi. **Evidence of collaboration:** Each team member mentioned in the applications is required to submit a letter of collaboration to indicate the commitment to participate in the project.
- vii. **Endorsement letter from Host Institution:** PIs and Co-PIs shall submit support letters from their institutions of affiliation stating the institution's commitment to act as an executing institution by providing office, laboratory space, equipment, procurement and administration support for the research project. The letter should be signed by the Head of Institution or designated officer.

- viii. **Capacity Building:** Each application is required to support at least one Master and PhD graduate for a period not exceeding three years.
- ix. **Gender equality and Inclusivity:**
- a. At least 25% of the support has been set aside for women researchers, therefore female applicants are highly encouraged to apply as PIs and Co-PIs.
 - b. Capacity building for postgraduate students shall be given priority to women researchers and people with disability at a ratio of 75% of the total support.
 - c. Priority for funding will be given to projects that will be led by women in case of equal scores.
 - d. The submitted application must consider gender equality and inclusivity throughout project design, implementation, analysis, reporting and dissemination.
- x. **Curriculum Vitae:** The CVs of each member of the project team should be submitted together with the proposal as per the provided format. The role of each team member should be clearly stipulated.
- xi. **Travel:** As this is a collaborative research project, each project should set aside travel funds for peer-to-peer learning and execution of joint activities. This should not exceed 15% of the total budget.
- xii. **Research Outputs:** Applicants should ensure that the research projects produce tangible outputs.
- xiii. **Dissemination of Research results:** Applicants should outline plans for disseminating findings to specific end users, including policy/decision makers and communities where data and research materials will be collected. Dissemination should also include presentations at STI conferences and forums.
- xiv. **Ethical Consideration:** Applicants must ensure that research adheres to research ethics in their respective countries. Researchers will be required to

obtain ethical clearance from all relevant regulatory bodies in both countries (if applicable) before beginning project implementation.

- xv. **Call condition:** Only one application per PI/Co-PI can be submitted across the thematic areas. The PI/Co-PI cannot apply to more than one thematic area and cannot be part of more than one project team.
- xvi. **IPR issues:** Must articulate clearly Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) plans and how the plans will be handled (if any).

8. BUDGET AND DURATION OF THE PROJECT

The proposals should be implemented over a period not exceeding 36 months. Please note that each PI and Co-PI must carefully adhere to the budget ceiling set by the respective council to which they are applying. . For the Tanzania applicants, the maximum budget for research project is TZS120,000,000/=with support of Master research capped at TZS 10,000,000/= and PhD research at TZS is 20,000,000/= for the entire duration of the study. The PI/Co-PI may support additional postgraduate researchers as funding permits. For Zimbabwe applicants, the maximum budget per research project is USD\$45,000.00, with USD\$4,000.00 for Master Research and USD\$8,000.00 for PhD research. .

All requested budget items must be clearly justifiable. Please note that the budget will not cover research salaries or institutional overheads. Project funds will be disbursed in installments, contingent upon comprehensive progress reporting on research implementation. The PI/Co-PI through the head of their host affiliated institution, will be responsible for both the technical and financial reporting of the projects during implementation.

9. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The proposals will be evaluated based on their scientific merit and societal relevance according to the following criteria:

9.1 Originality

Research is innovative and builds substantially on the existing knowledge, contributing to a significant advancement in technology or techniques.

9.2 Relevance

- a. The extent to which the research contribution to a key development priority of Tanzania or Zimbabwe.
- b. The extent to which the research project employs trans-disciplinary approaches and appropriate methods.

9.3 Competence and collaboration

- a. The extent to which the PI, Co-PI and research team have the necessary skills, competence and capacity for carrying out the project and achieving its objectives.
- b. The extent to which the project is founded on strong and equitable partnership(s) between the researchers from Tanzania and Zimbabwe in co-designing and implementing the project (the role of each researcher should be explained).
- c. The extent to which the project considers a mix of senior and junior researchers for capacity building and knowledge diffusion as well as the inclusion of members from different disciplines

9.4 Gender equality and inclusivity

Gender equality and inclusivity should be comprehensively incorporated into research projects at all stages, including research design, implementation and outputs.

9.5 Capacity Building

The proposed project must outline plans for capacity building for both Master and PhD students as well as for individual with disability and minority groups.

9.6 Knowledge accessibility and sharing

The proposed project should explain how it will make the findings accessible to potential users including plans for disseminating the research results.

10. REQUIRED ATTACHMENTS

The application to be considered for assessment should attach the following:

- i. Budget
- ii. Detailed Project Work Plan
- iii. Curriculum Vitae of PI, Co-PI and the team
- iv. Endorsement letters from the head of the host Institution
- v. Collaboration letters
- vi. Procurement plan
- vii. Risk Management Plan

11. TIMELINE (PROVISIONAL)

SN	ACTIVITY	START DATES	END DATES
1.	Call opening and closing	1/11/2024	22/01/2025
2.	Webinar	19/11/2024	20/11/2024
3.	Screening of applications and allocation of reviewers	23/01/2025	22/02/2025
4.	Review of applications	24/02/24	23/03/2025
5.	Reviewers panel meeting	24/03/2025	29/03/2025
6.	Selection of fundable proposals	01/04/2025	30/04/2025
7.	Feedback to the applicants	01/05/2025	15/05/2025
8.	Pre-awarding assessment (due diligence)	01/05/2025	10/05/2025
9.	Inception Meeting	11/05/2025	23/05/2025
10.	Awarding and contracting	26/05/2025	06/06/2025
11.	1 st Funds disbursement	06/06/2025	30/06/2025
12.	Monitoring of progress	01/05/2026	20/05/2026
13.	2 nd Funds disbursement	25/05/2026	12/06/2026
14.	Monitoring of progress	03/05/2027	21/05/2027
15.	3 rd Funds disbursement	24/05/2027	04/06/2027
16.	Sharing of program results	01/08/2028	15/08/2028
17.	Project closure and submission of program final report	October, 2028	

12. CONTACTS

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