



BBSRC-NRF NEWTON-UTAFITI FUND CALL IN ENHANCING RUMINANT LIVESTOCK PRODUCTIVITY

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS

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SUMMARY

The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) in the UK and the National Research Fund (NRF) in Kenya are pleased to announce a joint call for collaborative research under the Newton-Utafiti Fund programme. This call will focus on tackling challenges relevant to ruminant livestock production in Kenya.

The deadline for applications is Tuesday 10th April 2018.

FUNDING

The call will support short term projects of up to 12 months in duration starting on 1 October 2018, awarded to a maximum of £100K (80% FEC) in the UK and up to £50K (KES 6,903,288.54) in Kenya. BBSRC and NRF are looking to support 3 to 4 projects to establish new, or build on existing collaborations and envisage a balanced partnership in terms of research effort.

The funds for successful projects must be spent between October 2018 and September 2019.

It is envisaged that further BBSRC-NRF joint calls under the Newton-Utafiti Fund will in future years be run following a similar timeline and funding model to this call, but focussing on a different scientific topic relevant to enhancing **food security** in Kenya.

SCIENTIFIC SCOPE

This programme is focussed on improving farmed animal health and production in ruminants and managed camelids of relevance to Kenya.

Proposals should investigate one or more of the following priority areas:

Animal physiology and nutrition

- Investigating the bioavailability of key nutrients in animal feed and feed conversion efficiency
- Understanding how nutrition improves resilience to disease and reduction of disease risk, including the effect of the microbiome
- Investigating challenges to livestock fertility, reproduction, including conditions which affect these
- Understanding how animals in arid and semi-arid environments are able to adapt to climatic challenges

Vector borne animal disease and epidemiology

- Understanding pest/ disease pathogenesis in ruminants and camelids, including vector-borne disease
- Understanding the genetic basis of host resistance in ruminants and camelids
- Understanding transmission mechanisms between host species including transmission dynamics and biological factors affecting transmission

Your application needs to build on existing partnerships, ideally enhancing past RCUK or NRF investments.

Applications should also clearly indicate how the research outcomes will contribute towards one (or more) of the current areas of focus of the Government of Kenya (food security, universal health care, or manufacturing and agro-processing).

While they cannot receive funding, we would like to encourage the involvement of international research institutes based in Kenya (i.e. The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)) and / or industry partners, (e.g. farming, breeding and the agricultural supply industry) where appropriate.

Research topics that are excluded from this call are as follows:

- Pigs, poultry and aquaculture species are excluded from the scope for this call.
- Wild animal species, including species hunted for food are also not in scope.
- Viral diseases
- Vaccine development including basic research involved in antigen identification, candidate antigen immunogenicity studies, vaccine formulation/manufacturing, vaccine delivery methods and field trials.

- Data collection, surveillance and sampling projects without significant research underpinning a biological hypothesis
- Breeding for non-climatic production traits, and yield increases
- Pathogen-focused studies without the appropriate host-pathogen research
- Sequencing-based projects not driven by significant research underpinning a biological hypothesis
- Forage and feed crop focused research, unless there are the appropriate animal studies to measure the effects of forage/feed on animal health and disease reduction
- Anti-microbial resistance both how it arises, and mechanisms of resistance and transmission of resistance genes within the host or on-farm, including the development of AMR in the gut and the development of novel anti-microbials
- Wild animals as disease reservoirs, of farmed animal diseases
- Zoonoses which only significantly affect the human host.
- Animal models of human health and nutrition

ELIGIBILITY

Collaborative applications are invited from UK and Kenya-based researchers eligible to receive funding as Principal Investigator from BBSRC and NRF respectively. For this Newton Fund call, BBSRC will support the project costs for successful UK applicants, whilst NRF will support the project costs for successful Kenya-based applicants.

UK applicants - All UK applicants must be eligible to receive research funding from BBSRC as Principal/Co-Investigator; see the BBSRC Grants Guide for further details: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/documents/grants-guide/>

Additional eligibility criteria apply to this call for UK applicants:

- UK Researchers cannot be PI on more than one grant, but there is no limit in terms of Co-Investigators
- The following BBSRC schemes do **not** apply to this call: New Investigator; Industrial Partnership Awards and Industrial LINK.
- BBSRC will not fund studentships as part of this call.

NRF applicants - Institutions of higher learning and Kenyan National Research organizations are eligible to apply. Researchers eligible for NRF funding must refer to the NRF Research Funding Guidelines and Criteria Manual at (www.researchfund.go.ke).

Additional eligibility criteria apply to this call for Kenyan applicants:

- Principal Investigators who are beneficiaries of the NRF-British Council Institutional Link projects funded under the second call of the Newton-Utafiti Fund programme are not eligible to lead an application to this call as PI, but are eligible to apply as a Co-Investigator.

Principal Investigators are responsible for ensuring that they, and any Co-Investigators included on the application, are eligible. **Applications involving any ineligible applicants (UK or Kenya) will result in the whole application being rejected without consultation.**

Examples of eligible activities and costs

Please note that BBSRC and NRF are able to consider different eligible costs within the pump-priming proposals:

UK applicants (to be funded by BBSRC – please refer to the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#) for specific guidelines on costs)

- Staff time and consumables
- Travel and subsistence costs to enable consortia to participate in workshops
- Exchange visits (short and longer term and in both countries)
- Access to facilities
- Estates and Indirects

The maximum grant value that UK researchers can apply for is £125,000 (£100K when awarded at 80% FEC). The purchase of capital (items over £10k) are not permitted by UK applicants through the Newton Fund.

Kenyan applicants (to be funded by NRF)

- Travel and subsistence costs to enable consortia to participate in one local international conference or project partner workshop
- One air ticket and subsistence allowance for up to 1 month exchange visits (to access new technologies that do not exist locally - this should be indicated clearly in the proposal)
- Direct research costs (consumables, services, low cost equipment that does not already exist within the institution).

Note: NRF does not support salary costs or overheads.

The maximum grant value that Kenyan researchers can apply for is £50,000 (KES 6,903,288.54).

It is not necessary to request an equal amount of money in the UK and Kenya, but joint proposals must demonstrate a balanced partnership in terms of research effort.

THE NEWTON FUND

This call forms part of BBSRC's Newton Fund activities and therefore requires projects to address Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) objectives alongside their scientific aims.

The Newton Fund was set up by UK Government in 2014 to build research and innovation partnerships with 18 partner countries to support their economic development and social welfare, and to develop their research and innovation capacity for long-term sustainable growth. The total budgeted UK investment for the Newton Fund is £735M from 2014 to 2021, and partner countries provide matched resources within the Fund.

The Fund forms part of the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) commitment which is monitored by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). ODA funded activity focuses on outcomes that promote the long-term sustainable growth of countries on the OECD Development Assistance Committee list. Newton Fund countries represent a sub-set of this list.

More information about the Newton Fund can be found [here](#).

RCUK guidance on ODA compliance can be found [here](#).

HOW TO APPLY

Application process

Kenyan-UK research teams must prepare a single, joint research proposal. Although all proposals will involve a UK PI and a Kenyan PI, it is the UK PI that must submit the proposal to BBSRC (using the JeS system) as BBSRC are leading the peer review process for this call. Please note, all documents submitted to BBSRC will be shared with NRF to facilitate peer review.

Applications may involve researchers from multiple eligible UK institutions, but should be submitted as a single Je-S application submitted by the organisation of the lead UK Principal Investigator. If successful, the lead organisation would be the recipient of the UK component of the award, and would be responsible for managing and distributing funds to other participating UK institutions in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award. Funding for the Kenyan component of the collaboration will be paid by NRF to the Kenyan partner institution(s).

Guidance on Submitting the BBSRC Je-S form

1. Log in to your Je-S account.
2. From the left hand menu, select **Documents**.
3. Under functions on the Main Menu, select **Create New Document**.
4. In the Add New Document screen:
 - a. Select Council **BBSRC**
 - b. Select document type **Standard Proposal**
 - c. Select scheme **Newton Fund**
 - d. Select Call / Type Mode **BBSRC-NRF Enhancing Ruminant Livestock Productivity**
 - e. Select **Create Document**

The Je-S form should be completed in the standard way using the guidance and help text available in the Je-S system. All aspects of the proposal submitted to BBSRC via Je-S should be jointly developed by, and submitted on behalf of, the entire international consortium. Please also note the following guidance which is specific to this call:

5. The start date of the grant should not be before the **1stOctober 2018**. The grant should finish no later than 30thSeptember 2019.
6. **Applicants**: only the UK applicants should be included in the applicants section of the Je-S form. Kenyan applicants should be included in the Applicants List as an attachment to the JeS form (see downloads section of call web page).

Resources

A single Je-S application (proforma) should be submitted per project using Full Economic Costing (fEC) for UK institutions only. Costs for the Kenyan component of the application should not be submitted in the Resources section of the Je-S application.

Costs requested from NRF by the Kenyan applicants should be detailed on the NRF budget template (the ‘Non UK Component’ attachment – see downloads section of call web page).

Both the UK and Kenyan costs and the justification for them must be described in the Justification of Resources document.

Documents Required

Applicants will need to ensure that they have uploaded all the mandatory documents required by the Je-S system before they submit their application through Je-S. It will not be possible to submit an application through Je-S without attaching these documents.

Applications to this call are required to jointly prepare and submit a number of additional documents as “attachments”, before submitting the Je-S application. Support for completing Je-S attachments is available in the [Je-S Handbook](#).

1. **Social Survey:** This section is non-mandatory. Please leave this section blank.
2. **Other DA Costs for Research Facilities/Existing Equipment:** Please ensure you specify clearly in the description field if you are requesting the use of any of the following BBSRC facilities:
 - ARCHER
 - National Wind Tunnel Facility
 - Research Data Facility (RDF)
 - The Genome Analysis Centre (renamed Earlham Institute)

If this is the case, a Technical Assessment Form of attachment type “Facility Form” must also be uploaded with your application.

The BBSRC Je-S application must include the documents specified in the table below:

No.	Document Type	Description
1	Cover Letter (up to two pages A4)	The covering letter should be a maximum of two pages of A4 and should identify any declarations of interest.
2	Applicant List (follow template, available in downloads section of call webpage)	Complete the Applicant List template, providing details of the entire project team (Principal and Co-investigators) in both the UK and Kenya. This should be uploaded as an attachment type “Other Attachment”.
3	Case for Support (up to four pages A4)	Applicants wishing to apply to this call must provide a single joint Case for Support. Applicants should complete this with the call assessment criteria in mind, and must provide information on the following:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The main scientific objectives • Summary of previous contacts or links with proposed partners • Action Plan of work to be carried out during the pump-priming project • Relevance of any past RCUK-funded research to this proposal/ partnership <p>The Case for Support must be written in English and prepared using:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ariel font or sans serif equivalent with a minimum of font size 11 (excluding text in diagrams and work plans); • a minimum of single-line spacing and standard character spacing; • margins must not be less than 2cm
4	Partnership and Project Management Statement (up to one page A4)	<p>Attach a statement explaining:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The nature of the collaboration, including whether it is a new or existing collaboration, the complementarity of the partners and how this proposal builds on previous joint work, where applicable. b) How the partnership represents a true collaboration between the transnational research teams, and the added value of this collaboration. c) A description of how the proposed project will be managed across the international project team, including communication strategies, project leadership and decision-making <p>The Partnership and Project Management Statement should be uploaded as an attachment type “Other Attachment.”</p>
5	Justification of Resources (JoR) (up to two pages A4)	The Justification of Resources should provide a breakdown and full written justification of the costs covering the entire project, including both the UK and Kenya.
6	ODA Statement (up to one page A4)	Attach a statement explaining how your proposed research is compliant with ODA guidelines. This should be uploaded as an attachment type “Other Attachment”. Guidance on ODA compliance can be found here .
7	Pathways to Impact Statement (up to two pages A4)	Provide a Pathways to Impact statement, referring to the Je-S help for guidance. Please note that the impact of your research may be achieved after the lifetime of your grant, and you should include details of the potential mechanisms to achieve it.
8	Data Management Plan (up to one page A4)	Provide a Data Management Plan, referring to the Je-S help for guidance.
9	CVs for Applicants (up to two pages A4 per applicant)	Provide a single combined PDF document containing a CV for each applicant involved in the project, (UK and Kenyan

		applicants), referring to the Je-S help for guidance. Individual CVs must be no longer than two pages of A4.
10	Letter of Support (single combined document)	Provide a single combined PDF document, containing an official letter of support from the Head of Department/Institute Director for each Research Organisation involved in the project (both UK and Kenyan institutions). The letters should confirm the organisation's commitment to the proposed project and highlight any additional support that will be made available.
11	Facility Form (Complete form)	If relevant, use this section to provide a Technical Assessment Form if your project requests access to any of the BBSRC facilities listed above, referring to the Je-S help for guidance.
12	Workplan (up to one page A4)	Provide a diagrammatic workplan, referring to the Je-S help for guidance.
13	Non-UK Components (follow template, available in downloads section of call webpage)	NRF budget template – please use the template provided to submit details of the Kenyan project costs. This should be uploaded as an attachment type “Non-UK Components”.

Summary of 'Other attachments'	Applicant list Partnership and project management statement ODA Statement
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Assessment Criteria

ODA compliance will be determined on receipt of the application; non-compliance will result in the application being rejected. If you are unsure about whether your project is likely to be ODA compliant, please contact BBSRC (newton.kenya@bbsrc.ac.uk) in advance of submitting your application.

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

- Scientific excellence: novelty, importance, feasibility and timeliness of the proposed research;
- The relevance of past RCUK/NRF-funded research to this proposal/ partnership
- Relevant expertise and track record of research teams;
- Potential impact of the research on ruminant livestock production in Kenya and the focus areas of the Government of Kenya;
- Research collaboration: including strength and clarity of collaboration, and added value of the collaboration;
- Quality of the management structure proposed (including governance, arrangements for data management and sharing and management of intellectual property);
- Quality and suitability of the research environments and of the facilities available;
- Value for money.

The final funding decision will be made jointly between BBSRC and NRF. Please note that, in order to achieve a balanced portfolio, the Panel will be asked to consider the scientific spread of the applications across the research priorities outlined in the call scientific scope above.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

Collaboration agreement

As the research projects will be carried out by multiple research organisations and project partners in Kenya and the UK, the basis of collaboration between the organisations and project partners, including ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, and IP management, is expected to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement between the research organisations involved. It is the responsibility of the research organisations to put such an agreement in place before the research begins. The terms of collaboration must not conflict with the funding agencies' terms and conditions or national laws, nor compromise the ODA compliance of the proposed research by inappropriately restricting use of its outputs by potential beneficiaries.

Arrangements for collaboration and/or exploitation must not prevent the future progression of academic research and the dissemination of research results in accordance with academic custom and practice and the requirements of the funding bodies. A temporary delay in publication is acceptable in order to allow commercial and collaborative arrangements to be established.

Key aspects of the Collaboration Agreement, for example management of IP, should be detailed in the 'Partnership and Project Management Statement' document. If the project is subsequently funded, the full Collaboration Agreement must be available on request to BBSRC and NRF in due course.

Intellectual property

Ownership of intellectual property (IP) generated during the project and rights to exploitation, as well as any costs regarding management of IP, are expected to be agreed between the collaborating research organisations before the research begins. Details of this agreement should be included in the collaboration agreement (as above). Agreements must not conflict with the funding agencies' terms and conditions or national laws. Any agreements in place between a research organisation and their respective funding organisation must be adhered to, including the sharing of IP costs or benefits. Any IP sharing agreements in place between a research organisation and their national funding body would be expected to apply only to the IP share of that research organisation. For BBSRC, research organisations should adhere to BBSRC Knowledge Exchange and Commercialisation Policy¹.

Transfer of biological materials

Collection and exchange of materials may occur between collaborating institutions, as necessary, in compliance with relevant Kenyan and UK legislation. Applicants should familiarise themselves with regulations surrounding the transfer of materials between countries when writing their applications and should ensure that they obtain appropriate guidance on how to go about this before submitting the application, in order to reduce delays once the grant has started. In any case, a material transfer agreement should be put in place prior to any transfer.

¹<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/about/policies-standards/knowledge-exchange-commercialisation/>

Data management

Applicants to this call should give full consideration to the practical requirements for data sharing both within the research teams and to the wider community and describe in the appropriate sections of the application how this will be conducted. Applicants should ensure that they have requested appropriate resources for data management and data sharing.

Ethics

The Research Organisation is responsible for ensuring that ethical issues relating to the project are identified and brought to the attention of the relevant approval or regulatory body. Approval to undertake the research must be granted before any work requiring approval begins. Ethical issues should be interpreted broadly and may encompass, among other things, relevant codes of practice, the involvement of human participants, tissue or data in research, the use of animals, research that may result in damage to the environment and the use of sensitive economic, social or personal data.

For full guidance please refer to the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#) and NRF Research Funding Guidelines and Criteria Manual (www.researchfund.go.ke).

Use of animals

Experiments using animals funded by BBSRC must comply with the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986, amended 2012 and any further embodiments. Institutions and grant holders are responsible for ensuring that all appropriate personal and project licences required under the Act have been granted by the Home Office, and that appropriate Animal Welfare and Ethical Review Body approval has been given. All BBSRC awards are made on the absolute condition that no work that is controlled by the Act will begin until the necessary licences have been obtained. Welfare standards in any overseas animal facilities used must be consistent with those required under UK legislation.

Applicants must ensure that all of the proposed research, both in the UK and any partner country, will comply with the principles of BBSRC's guidance on "[Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research](#)" and with the Animal Use requirements in Section 4 of the [BBSRC Grants Guide](#). For details, visit the BBSRC [Animal Use in Research guidance page](#). In particular, UK Institutions should be aware of the following aspect of the guidance relating to research or collaboration outside the UK:

'When collaborating with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation (e.g. the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986), and set out in this guidance, are applied and maintained. Where there are significant deviations, prior approval from the funding body should be sought and agreed.'

TIMETABLE

Stage	Date
Pump-priming call opens	5 th February 2018
Pump-priming call closes	10th April 2018
Funding decisions announced	July 2018
Pump priming projects (6-12 months) begin	October 2018

CONTACTS AND HELP

For BBSRC enquiries: newton.kenya@bbsrc.ac.uk

For NRF enquiries: Dr Jemimah Onsare, CEO (jemimahg76@gmail.com)