



## National Research Fund

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### COLLABORATIVE INTERVENTIONS TO CONTROL DESERT LOCUSTS INVASION IN KENYA

#### Call Guidelines

##### 1.0 Background

Desert Locusts (*Schistocerca gregaria*) upsurges are known to cause massive crop losses and costing hundreds of millions of dollars in control efforts. The current locust swarms being witnessed in East Africa is being projected to be a serious threat to food security and livelihoods in the region. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), has stated that with the onset of long rains season in East Africa regions, it is projected that this could allow a dramatic increase in locust swarms. The current situation in East Africa remains alarming as an increasing number of new swarms are reported to be forming in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. This is going to pose an unprecedented threat to food security and livelihoods as it coincides with the beginning of planting season. While a number of control interventions are ongoing involving ground and aerial control sprays, the onset of rains will allow the new swarms to mature and continue laying eggs into the next generation.

The warning by Desert Locust Control Organization for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) indicate that, the swarms in East Africa may be more than 400 times bigger by June if successive generations are left unchecked. This will pose food insecurity to estimated more than 20 million people in Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia. In Kenya, the locusts have caused significant damage in pastoral regions and fast spreading into food crops growing areas. The following Counties have already been infested by this pest: Mandera, Wajir, Samburu, Isiolo, Garissa, Baringo, Turkana, Laikipia, Meru, Kitui, Embu, Machakos, Murang'a, Makueni and Kajiado. In Kenya, this invasion has been reported as the worst in over 70 years.

In the region, the more urgent issue currently is focusing on locust control. The current control strategies are essentially curative, consisting of large-scale applications of broad-spectrum insecticides to infestations, which may not be sustainable and could be harmful to the environment.

## 2.0 Scope

This Call for Proposals focuses on provision of intervention measures to contain the looming threat to food security. Researchers from public and private sectors are invited to propose both short and long term ways and mechanisms of controlling this pest. Eligible proposals should focus on developing innovative scientific interventions to combat the locust invasion in Kenya. Some of the areas of focus may include but not limited to:-

- Innovative control methods
- Environmentally sustainable control methods
- Affordable locust control technologies
- Surveillance and early warning tools

## 3.0 Eligibility

The NRF is committed in promoting collaboration between government, researchers and industry. Applying research teams are encouraged to submit collaborative proposals in order to ensure rapid translational and uptake of the potential interventions. Therefore;

- i) Applying teams must have at least three (3) institutions and must include at least one public institution. The consortium should provide a rationale for the formation of the consortium and a description of their respective roles in the proposed research project;
- ii) The proposed research teams will be expected to include expertise required to deliver quality products
- iii) The Consortium must describe the governance and coordination arrangements they will use to produce quality work and support fair and equitable partnerships;
- iv) NRF strongly encourages involvement of collaborators from the private sector and International partners. Such collaborators are encouraged to contribute with additional resources for the projects;
- v) The consortium agreement must be signed by the collaborating institution specifying each institutions responsibility in the management of the grants and the human resources attached to the project. An agreement document covering issues of confidentiality, intellectual property rights and publication should be signed by all consortium members at the start of project work and updated at the end of the project;
- vi) The consortium must clearly identify project Principal Investigator (PI);

- vii) Applications must be submitted by Principal Investigator from universities or a research-based institution (public and private) in Kenya, which will be responsible for the grant or as detailed out in the Consortium Agreement;
- viii) The Principal Investigator will assume responsibility for ensuring that the project activities are appropriately coordinated and implemented, and will coordinate any necessary communication between the team and the NRF;
- ix) Application must be endorsed by the Chief Executive Officers of the applying institutions;
- x) The principal applicant must be able to assemble a qualified research team that can begin work as soon as the grant is awarded.

#### **4.0 Reporting**

- i. The funded consortium will report implementation progress on annual basis.
- ii. At the completion of the project, a final report using a template to be provided by the NRF will be used to submit the report. The report must be endorsed by the Head of Institution before submission by the Principal Investigator to NRF.
- iii. Consortium are expected to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals of international repute.
- iv. The publications and/or patents shall be submitted as part of the Final Report/ Completion Report.
- v. National Research Fund shall be acknowledged in all the publications arising from funded projects.
- vi. A full account of all expenses made for a research project shall be due within 30 days of the termination of the grant.
- vii. Unexpended funds remaining at the end of the grant must be returned to NRF.
- viii. Policy briefs are encouraged within or in the course of the implementation period.

## 5.0 Evaluation process and criteria

NRF will engage subject specialist to evaluate the proposals submitted against the following criteria

Evaluation Criteria	%
<p><b>Relevance and likelihood of impact</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal provides a clear description of how the proposed research project is aimed at dressing locust invasion challenge in Kenya.</li> <li>• The proposal aligns with one or more of themes identified in section 2 of this guidelines.</li> <li>• The proposal clearly describes the potential effectiveness research project.</li> <li>• The proposal focuses on viable translational research findings that are achievable in the period of the grant.</li> <li>• Aligned with expected impact.</li> <li>• Enhancing integration of new knowledge.</li> </ul>	45
<p><b>Research design and methodology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project has a clear purpose, research question(s), a conceptual or theoretical framework, appropriate methodology and design to address research question(s) attending to the specifics of political, economic, social, and cultural contexts of Kenya</li> <li>• The proposal articulates the ways in which local stakeholders will be involved in different stages of the project, ranging from planning to analysis, so they can act on findings and recommendations.</li> <li>• The proposal includes a plan that describes how the expected results will be achieved within the 1 to 3 years of funding period and the allocated budget.</li> <li>• The proposal includes clear strategies for mitigating risks related to achieving objectives.</li> <li>• The proposal identifies key ethical issues and ways of addressing them.</li> <li>• Effectiveness of the proposed measures to exploit and disseminate the project results (Including management of IPR), to communicate the project and manage research data where relevant.</li> <li>• Coherence and effectiveness of the work plan including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources.</li> <li>• Complementarity of the consortium partners</li> <li>• Appropriateness of the management structure and procedures (communication flows, assignment of responsibilities, quality controls, conflict resolution strategy etc) including risk management</li> </ul>	25

<p><b><i>Gender, equity, and inclusion considerations</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender, equity, and inclusion are considered at all stages of the project, including design, data collection, and analysis, interpretation, and knowledge mobilization processes.</li> <li>• The proposal clearly explains how the project will contribute to addressing issues of inequity, gender inequality, and exclusion within chosen thematic area(s) and context(s).</li> </ul>	5
<p><b><i>Team capacity</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The team demonstrates a strong track record that is suitable to the task proposed.</li> <li>• The team demonstrates coherence and effectiveness of the work plan including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources</li> <li>• The proposal includes organizations, individual team member and demonstrates how it will take to ensure fair and equitable research partnerships.</li> <li>• <i>The consortium has a qualified Principal Investigator</i></li> </ul>	15
<p><b><i>Monitoring, evaluation and learning</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal includes a results framework with outputs, outcomes, and intended impact.</li> <li>• The proposal includes a monitoring and evaluation strategy to help the team monitor progress, adapt, achieve results, and report.</li> <li>• The proposal explains the ways through which project stakeholders will participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the project activities.</li> </ul>	10
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b>100</b>

## 6.0 Budget and Grant duration

The funding is conditional on approval of both the technical and financial aspects of the proposal. Projects will be considered for grants of up to (Ksh 20 Million. In awarding, the value for money will be one of key criteria for grant approval.

The expected duration of the projects is a maximum of (1 to 3 years). Funding on an individual proposal will depend on the nature and duration of proposed activities and must be justified in term of resources needed to achieve the objectives of the project.

Applicants for this grant may request for funds on the following categories of expenditures:-

- i. Direct cost for undertaking research, which shall include but not limited to research equipment; consumables; essential infrastructure/upgrading systems development;
- ii. Research output trials and technology transfer costs;
- iii. Mobility costs (travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses) for project activities for professional and non-professional personnel not exceeding 20% of the total grant;
- iv. Research management costs must not exceeding 7.5%;
- v. Costs related to organizing seminars and workshops within the project;
- vi. Capacity building, Knowledge Sharing and Research Uptake and dissemination.

## **7.0 Application process**

Due to the urgency of locust invasion, there will be no submission of concept notes. Full Proposal application form and budget template is provided at [www.researchfund.go.ke](http://www.researchfund.go.ke). The deadline for submission of proposals for this call will close on

- i. 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2020 at 16.00 hrs for those projects implementable up to 1 year
- ii. 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2020 at 16.00 hrs for those projects implementable up to 3 years

Electronic applications should be submitted to [locusts2020@researchfund.go.ke](mailto:locusts2020@researchfund.go.ke) and [nrfsecretariat@gmail.com](mailto:nrfsecretariat@gmail.com). Hard copies of the applications to be submitted to the below address.

**Contact details:**

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**NAIROBI.**

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