

TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (COSTECH)



CALL FOR POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

1. Introduction and Motivation

High quality research has been a key contributor to economic development in nations in the developed world. Through research, nations in the developed world have enjoyed sustained economic prosperity. Various scientists through postdoctoral research programs for instance, have linked the industrial revolution in developed nations to extensive scientific research that led to significant discoveries. These nations have further developed generations of researchers while also drawing researchers from beyond borders to further strengthen their ability to drive innovation and economic development.

It is important to emphasize that, countries that have recognized the importance of postdoctoral research have benefited from research excellence. Despite the potential to leverage exponential training and fast track building of research excellence, Tanzanian postdoctoral fellows will be expected to work towards solving critical country's development problems to the extent of realizing sustainable development.

Postdoctoral fellows thus are essential in advancing the scholarly mission of host institutions; they are expected to build the pyramid of excellence as part of the integrated team. Therefore, the fellows' high quality research experience will be more relevant to career and professional development if the scholar seeks or is offered opportunities to acquire, maintain, or improve such skills. This is because, while improving personal experience in research, the postdoctoral fellows will also contribute to the national research and development capacity. It is therefore anticipated that the research carried out by postdoctoral fellows will contribute to new or improved tangible products, processes and services thus leading to national development and contributing to the Tanzania Development Vision (TDV) 2025.

It is from this understanding therefore that The Tanzania Commission for Science & Technology (COSTECH) with the support of Sida of Sweden wishes to announce and call for submission of Postdoctoral research project proposals to be considered for funding for two years starting September, 2018. The Commission is cognizant of the pivotal role of research in socio-economic development and human wellbeing hence supported research should therefore be geared towards addressing National development agenda leading to improve people's livelihoods. COSTECH therefore through Sida funding has committed to harnessing the benefits of research and innovation using people-centered, enabling environment, development agenda approach towards ensuring attainment of the Tanzania Development Vision 2025.

2. Eligibility

Full research proposals are invited from eligible and competent candidates who fulfill the following criteria;

- i. Scientists and researchers who are citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania holding a PhD degree from a recognized Higher Learning Institutions at the time of submitting the application (not more than 5 years after completion of PhD program).
- ii. The applicants should be affiliated to or full time employees of public or private R&D institutions including Universities, and higher learning institutions.
- iii. The postdoctoral research shall be hosted at a Tanzanian registered higher learning institution, recognized R&D institution or industry in Tanzania. Where the required area specific qualification and/or technology are not available in Tanzania, the research site could be outside the country but the postdoc fellow should be a Tanzanian researchers working within the respective expertise.
- iv. The age of a postdoctoral applicant should not exceed 40 years for men and 45 years for women at the time of award of the fellowship.
- v. Applicants must have a registered patent or at least one published research paper in a peer-reviewed journal and should be a first author. The paper must have been published in the journal listed in International Science Citation Index (ISCI) or Higher learning or R&D institutional peer reviewed journals.
- vi. Applicants with degree(s) that need professional licensing/registration before practice must hold a license in Tanzania at the time of application.
- vii. Candidates who previously secured postdoctoral research fellowships from government sources shall not be eligible.
- viii. Applicants must demonstrate a strong and realistic practical linkage between intended research idea to business and or the market or indicate how Tanzanian communities are likely to benefit out of the applied area.

All submissions must have an attached endorsement letters from mentors and the host institution expressing commitment to support the applying postdoctoral fellows.

3. Requirements

- (i) The Proposal should be written in English following the format provided in our online submission template which can be accessed at COSTECH Research Website (CR Web system) available at www.costech.or.tz
- (ii) All applications should have a clear focus on poverty alleviation development and initiatives as reflected in the Second Five Year Development Plan
- (iii) The Applicant(s) should be Tanzanian researchers from either Tanzania mainland or Zanzibar engaged in local public and private higher learning, R&D institutions and/or industry.
- (iv) The applicant should hold a doctorate degree as described in 2 (i) and should be able to demonstrate competence in the applied area of research with at least one publication as the principal author appearing in an indexed journal.

4. Mentoring

Postdoctoral research fellows need mentorship that provide for the skills, knowledge and experience to prepare a research fellow to excel in career path. It is therefore recommended that the applicant is obliged to identify a Mentor and after the award there should be a

contractual agreement between the mentor and the postdoctoral research fellow that shall be reviewed and adjusted annually following evaluation.

5. Submission Procedures

The applicant shall submit proposals to COSTECH no later than **Thursday, 14th June, 2018 at 23:59 hrs (EAT)**

- B. Only online submissions will be accepted through an application form using COSTECH Research Website (CR Web system) available at www.costech.or.tz.
- C. All sections should be dully filled otherwise it will not be considered for evaluation.
- D. Applicants are required to adhere to the formatting instructions on CR web system.
- E. The text in the form should be typed using Times New Roman font size 12 and 1.5-spaced, excluding appendices if any.
- F. Endorsed letter by the head of host institution, a letter from collaborating institution if any and Curriculum Vitae (CVs)(max 2 pages) of the applicant and mentor should be compiled and sent as separate documents (attachments)

6. Evaluation Criteria

Applications received before the deadline [**Thursday, 14th June, 2018 at 23:59 hrs (EAT)**] and considered (through internal screening processes) to be compliant with the requirements set out in this Call will be evaluated in accordance with the following criteria:

- (i) Scientific and technical merit of the applicant
- (ii) Novelty and originality
- (iii) Scientific quality of the Proposal
- (iv) Relevance to the call
- (v) Possibility of making impact to the Tanzanian Society
- (vi) Multidisciplinary and consideration of gender dimensions
- (vii) Academic excellence of the respective potential mentors
- (viii) Feasibility of the entire project
- (ix) Institutional capacity of the host institution

7. Budget

Project budgets should include projected expenses per budget category such as laboratory work/facilities, subsistence allowance/salary, accommodation, transport, consumables, publication, equipment and capacity building.

The maximum funding will not exceed **TZs 70,000,000 (seventy million Tanzanian shillings only)** for a duration of two years. Expenses for traveling and per-diem should not exceed 20% of the whole budget.

The research funds will be disbursed in installments following comprehensive reporting of research implementation progress. The budgets summary should be itemized and well justified for each year of implementation. The fellow through his/her head of the affiliated Institution will be responsible for both the technical and financial reporting of the projects during implementation.

A total of not more than **6 Post-doctoral research fellowships** will be awarded under this Call.