



MODALITIES OF PARTICIPATION AND FUNDING FOR INDIAN INVESTIGATOR(S)

PARTICIPATION

- Any legal entity/ organization established in India with expertise in relevant and distinct disciplines can participate in this round of opportunity.
- Though there is no limit on number of Indian participants, participation of more than one Indian entity is encouraged to ensure that the country can significantly contribute to the global challenges identified, and to add value to National missions and objectives.
- Each participating legal entity/organization should be represented by at least two investigators.
- The call is open to all career groups (i.e. early, intermediate and senior); however, it is expected that each investigator shall have adequate service tenure to accommodate key research, coordination, outreach, post completion handholding and maintenance (if any) responsibilities. Early career investigators are encouraged to participate.
- The number of project partners should be optimum and correspond to the objectives of the project ensuring compliance to all eligibility conditions. Each project should clearly demonstrate the partner's essentiality, complementarities, and added value in jointly addressing the topic.

ELIGIBILITY

The participating entities/organizations have to be a legal entity as per Indian law (Indian applicants). They must possess the operational and financial viability to carry out the research tasks that they propose

The following Indian entities are eligible for participation:

- Government of India supported or recognized (Public or Private) academia; research organizations and rural, urban or other local bodies;
- Government of India recognized not-for-profit NGO(s)/ VO(s)/ Trust(s)/ Research foundations, having research as one of the imperative mandates;

|| To be noted & ascertain ||

Academic/Research Partners:

- Public and/or private universities and research organizations must have a well-established research support system, for basic or applied research; and

- Submission of proof of establishment under Indian statute, valid SIRO certificate, and registration at Government of India's Public Finance Management System (PFMS) (<https://pfms.nic.in>) is mandatory.

Private R&D performing institutions and Not-for-profit NGO(s)/ VO(s)/ Trust(s)/ Research Foundations:

- The Indian private R&D performing institutions and Not-for-profit, NGO(s)/ VO(s)/ Trust(s)/ Research foundations should have experience of at least 3 years in Socio-economic or scientific research, teaching, training and extension activities; and must follow research as one of the mandates.
- Proof of registration at 'NGO DARPAN' of NITI Aayog (<http://ngodarpan.gov.in/>), Certificate of registration under Society Registration Act, Firm's Memorandum of Association, Registration at Government of India's Public Finance Management System (PFMS) (<https://pfms.nic.in>), Valid SIRO certificate and Audited account statements for the past three years shall be obligatory;

Ineligible organisations:

- Research centre(s)/Academic organisation(s) headquartered in India and owned outside India, or vice versa, are not eligible to receive funding from DBT under this programme.

FUNDING

- DBT will fund the Indian partners/entities in a successful project for up 18 months duration.
- Budget should be commensurate with the essentiality of participation, workload, and objectives of the project.

Funding by DBT

Budgeted costs of the project to legal entities, subject to complying with the mandatory eligibility criteria. DBT will support (Grant-in-aid) 100% of the approved budget costs to the following two categories of organizations:

- a. Government of India supported or recognized public or private academic institutions or research organization, and urban or other local bodies;
- b. Indian private R&D performing institutions and Not-for-profit, NGO(s)/ VO(s)/ Trust(s)/ Research Foundations, having research as one of the imperative mandates

Eligible costs for funding are: Capital expenditure (equipment's); manpower; consumables; travel (local and international travel); contingency; overheads; outsourcing and others. Academia can factor in additional sub-heads (in other category) such as training & awareness; equipment maintenance; workshops; publications; review meetings, etc. under expenditure based on the requirement of the project).

Non-Admissible Cost from DBT

- i. Prosecution/litigation costs;
- ii. Regulatory approval fees;
- iii. Salary of investigators;

- iv. Capital expenditure for the purchase of assets such as office furniture, motor vehicles, office equipment viz. desktops, laptops, tablets, cell phones, scanners, printers, photocopy machines, and renovation or extension of facilities such as buildings and laboratories;
- v. Capital & transportation expenditure toward technology(ies), demonstration plants and associated field equipment(s), hardware, software etc. for analysis and validation from consortium partner(s) from abroad;
- vi. Expenditure toward rental and utilities;
- vii. International travel to countries other than the one participating within a particular consortium, in a particular call topic of Horizon 2020;
- viii. Mere attendance at conferences/ symposiums/ congresses

CALCULATION OF BUDGET BY INDIAN PARTICIPANTS AS PER DBT REQUIREMENTS

Indian participant must ensure that it follows budget requirements and formats required by the DBT.

- 1) **Manpower cost:** as per the requirements of the project (emoluments will be as per prevailing Gov. of India norms);
- 2) **Mobility of investigator(s) & project staff(s):** for visit(s) and work related to the project to be undertaken by Indian investigator(s) & project staff(s) in the UK, the cost of travel and man-days of stay in UK (i.e. round-trip international travel by economy class, admissible visa, insurances, local transport, boarding and lodging) must be justifiably budgeted by Indian organization for each year

Institution hosting the collaborating investigator(s) & project staff(s) of other consortium participants, shall provide research facility and research resources to accomplish defined objectives and if required, this can be reflected in each participant budget adequately.

- 3) **Overhead/Indirect Cost:** overhead expenses payable to legal entity/organization for Indian partners, up to 10% of the total project cost for educational institutions and up to 8% for laboratories and institutions under central Government Departments/Agencies as per prevailing Gov. of India norms.

PREPARATION OF PROPOSAL

- The Indian and UK participants must formulate a joint proposal according to the requirements and templates provided by respective funders.
- It is essential that the project participants make a thorough analysis of the project strengths, essentiality of collaboration, weaknesses, opportunities and threats, prior to submitting proposal. It is equally important to address properly the project management and provide for a detailed time and cost plan as well as the exploitation, dissemination of results and post completion handholding, if any.
- While conforming to the different respective regulations, forms and submission procedures of the two agencies, the project descriptions must be identical in their substance.

REGULATORY AND ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS (IF APPLICABLE)

Notifications/ Orders issued towards expeditious consideration of various regulatory aspects in response to COVID-19 pandemic

- Rapid Response Regulatory Framework for COVID-19 to deal with applications for development of Vaccines, Diagnostics, Prophylactics and therapeutics
→ http://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/uploadfiles/om_covid19%20April%202020.pdf
- Interim Guidelines on Laboratory Biosafety to Handle COVID-19 Specimen for R&D Purpose
→ https://ibkp.dbtindia.gov.in/Content/FlashPDF/OM_Interim_Guidance_COVID.pdf
- Guidelines for sharing of Bio-specimen and Data for Research related to COVID-19
→ <https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-04/Guidelines-for-sharing-of-Biospecimen-and-data-forresearch-related-toCOVID-19..pdf>
- SOP Template for Ethics Review of Biomedical and Health Research During Covid-19 Pandemic, 2020
→ http://ethics.ncdirindia.org//asset/pdf/SOP_Template_EC_COVID19.pdf
- National Guidelines for Ethics Committees Reviewing Biomedical & Health Research During Covid19 Pandemic, 2020
→ http://ethics.ncdirindia.org//asset/pdf/EC_Guidance_COVID19.pdf

Human and Animal Subjects Research

DBT and the UK are committed to ensure that projects involving human or animal subjects are protected from research risks in compliance with the rules and policies in respectively the UK and India (ICMR/DBT policies).

All projects recommended for award that involve human or animal subjects will undergo due ethics review by the Indian Bioethics Committees prior to award request.

- Handbook on National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research Involving Human Participants, 2018
→ http://ethics.ncdirindia.org//asset/pdf/Handbook_on_ICMR_Ethical_Guidelines.pdf

PIs of the consortium from India should apply to their institutional review boards (IRBs)/ institutional ethics committees (IECs) at the time of submission of proposal to obtain necessary bioethics approvals from all involved institutions.

- Handbook: Good Laboratory Practice (GLP). Quality practices for regulated non-clinical research and development, 2nd ed. Geneva, World Health Organization, 2009 ||
→ <http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/documents/glp-handbook.pdf>
- Clinical Trials Registry of India (CTRI) – India
→ <http://ctri.nic.in/Clinicaltrials/login.php>

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

Proposal can be submitted at any time up to 3 December 2020 (to DBT) but have to be submitted to both UKRI and DBT sequentially in accordance with the proposal preparation requirements of each side (including the UKRI deadline), respectively.

Submission to DBT:

The Indian participant(s) must submit the complete proposal as single consolidated **PDF file** to email ID: icone@dbt.nic.in with a subject line as “**UK-India Covid-19 Partnership Initiative** || Title of the Project”. Kindly ensure that all the enclosures shall be searchable with bookmarks to each heading.

Please note that the proposal will be disqualified if not submitted to DBT to above indicated email ID by indicated date.

Any discrepancy found in the proposal submitted at Je-S, and to DBT will result in disqualification from consideration by DBT for funding.

After completion of peer review process, Indian participant(s) through Lead Principal Investigator-India of the recommended proposal(s) will be requested to submit the following to DBT for further considerations:

- A duly signed (*by the Lead Principal Investigator-India*) and transmitted (*by the Utmost Authority of the organization*) short covering letter introducing the application, along with complete proposal to the concerned DBT contact point.
- A comprehensive facts about administrative, statutory, ethical and financial considerations (including diligent justification for proposed budgetary requirements) in the form of checklist.