

National Food Security Mission

Guidelines for funding Strategic Research Projects

National Food Security Mission launched in 2007-08 has been successful in achieving targets of food-grain production set for the 11th Five Year Plan by addressing major constraints to crop productivity through promotion of relevant technological interventions. The experience gained during the course of its implementation however, revealed that many interventions need location-specific refinements for ensuring their effectiveness. Besides, a good number of innovations made by farmers/ extension functionaries need scientific validation before their large scale promotion. In a few instances, there is lack of resource relevant technologies for addressing crop productivity related constraints. In view of these factors, a provision of Rs.200 crores has been made for supporting scientific research on subjects crucial for attaining goals of the Mission during the 12th Five Year Plan. This makes it necessary to develop guidelines depicting procedure for funding and monitoring of Projects under Mission Sponsored Strategic Research component in a systematic way.

1. Themes/ areas of research:

Financial support will be available for research in the following areas:

- ❖ Conservation of natural resources (land, water) and their efficient use.
- ❖ Integrated nutrient management.
- ❖ Integrated disease and pest management.
- ❖ Integrated weed management.
- ❖ Modification/refinements of farm machines/implements for different types of soil/cropping systems.
- ❖ Up scaling of improved crop varieties/hybrids in NFSM adopted states/agro-climatic zones under water/thermal stress conditions.
- ❖ Nutrient management in acidic/ alkaline/sodic soils .
- ❖ Crop-husbandry.
- ❖ Input use efficiency.
- ❖ Rain-water harvesting management in *kharif* pulses.
- ❖ Refinement of relay cropping systems.
- ❖ Agronomic practices for intercropping systems involving pulses.
- ❖ Quality seed storage studies in the humid and hot climatic conditions-coastal areas.
- ❖ Value addition in case of coarse cereals and pulses
- ❖ Precision farming-nutrient manager and crop manager
- ❖ Any other relevant areas related to crop production.

2. Nature of research qualifying for support:

- ❖ Research which aims at refinement and value addition to existing crop production/resource conservation/post-harvest technologies through farmers' participatory programme.

- ❖ Addressing research gaps crucial to accomplishment of objectives of the Mission in short/medium term so that the outcome is available in 3-4 years for adoption on large scale.
- ❖ Scientific validation of innovative technologies made and used by farmers.
- ❖ Anticipated outcome of the project should be practicable and economically viable.

3. Call for research project proposals:

- ❖ The National Mission Director will circulate research themes to State Agriculture Universities; National and International Research Institutes/Organizations located in India and invite a concept note (not more than 5 pages) on proposed areas of Research.
- ❖ The concept note should contain justification, relevance of proposed research to goals of NFSM for attaining food security, duration (not more than 4 years), area of operation, expected outcome, academic background of the Principal Investigator and number of projects handled.
- ❖ The decision for consideration/rejection of concept note of the research project will be taken at the level of National Mission Director/Agriculture Commissioner, DAC.
- ❖ After scrutinizing of concept note of the project proposals at DAC level, detailed project proposal will be invited in the prescribed format **(Annex-I)** from Head of the Institute/ Organization concerned.

4. Processing of project proposals:

- ❖ Each detailed project proposal received in prescribed format **(Annex-I)** will be referred to a panel of three Experts for reviewing.
- ❖ Experts will be requested to furnish their /comments and recommendations within one month in prescribed format **(Annex-II)**.
- ❖ NFSM Cell will compile the observations/comments/recommendations and put up to Secretary (A&C) /Agriculture Commissioner through National Mission Director for approval.
- ❖ The final decision would be communicated to the Principal Investigator of project.

5. Funding Mechanism:

- ❖ Project will be sanctioned upto terminal year of 12th Five Year Plan i.e. 2016-17.
- ❖ Funds will be released yearly basis as per approved allocation to Institutes/agencies.
- ❖ The funds will be released in two instalments in a financial year. However, in exceptional cases, the funds will be release in one instalment considering the activity plan of the project.
- ❖ The financial year of the project will be 1st April to 31st March.
- ❖ Funds will be released after receiving Audited Utilization Certificate (AUC) from previous year and unspent balance of previous year will be adjusted in the current year budget allocation.

- ❖ The funds allocation for projects particularly for upscaling of technologies or organisation of demonstrations on large scale will be at par with NFSM programme.
- ❖ Institutional charges will be admissible as per norms of Institute/ organisation maximum up to 10% of the total allocated funds for the project.
- ❖ The institutional charges will be restricted to State Agriculture Universities/ state universities/international research organisations etc. The Institutional Charges for ICAR institute will not be admissible as ICAR is the part of the Ministry of Agriculture. The State Governments will not be considered for Institutional Charges if NFSM is being implemented in the state. NGOs are also not eligible for institutional charges as these are engaged to only implement *the programme in the identified area*.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- ❖ Principal Investigator will be required to submit Half Yearly Progress Report containing activity-wise targets and achievements made in prescribed format **(Annex-III)** by 15th October.
- ❖ Monitoring team (comprising of one expert from ICAR, one from State Agriculture University, one from DAC and one from state department of agriculture) will be constituted by the DAC for monitoring of project.
- ❖ Annual Progress Report should be submitted through the Head of the Organization/Competent Authority by 15th May in prescribed format **(Annex-IV)**.
- ❖ Annual work will be reviewed at DAC by Mission Director/Agriculture Commissioner.
- ❖ A presentation of work done during project period will be made by the Principal Investigator at DAC in presence of Agriculture Commissioner, National Mission Director, NFSM Consultants and Experts invited from ICAR/ SAUs on specific date as communicated by DAC.
- ❖ Final report of the Project in prescribed format **(Annex-IV)** will be submitted within two months after termination of the project.

**National Food Security Mission
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
Application for Research Grant**

1. Project Title
2. Name and address of the institute/ organisation seeking grant
3. Project summary
4. Introduction:
Give background, relevance to goals of NFSM/production and productivity of food grain crops and justification.
5. Objectives:
Enlist objectives that are clear and attainable within duration of the project.
6. Review of Research:
Review international and national research relevant to the proposed work and objectives, published during the past 10 years. A brief mention of ongoing research projects and work accomplished by the institute/organisation submitting project proposal.
7. Expertise and infrastruculture available with Institute/Organisation for proposed project.
Include background in brief, qualification and research experience of the PI/Co-PI along with list of their publications. Give a gist of facilities available for carrying out proposed project at the institute/Organisation.
8. Duration of the project in years.
9. Work Plan:
 - (i) Methodology
 - (ii) Timeline of activities and activity milestones on half yearly basis.
10. Expected outcome and its likely impact on production and productivity of food grains, sustainability, climatic risk mitigation, resource conservation, input use efficiency, soil health etc.
11. Budgetary requirement in prescribed format.

**Signature & seal of
the Head of organization**

**Name and Signature of
Principal Investigator**

**National Food Security Mission
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
Reviewers Report**

1. Project title
2. Name of Organisation.
3. The proposed work will lead to:
 - (i) Confirmation of available findings/technologies.
 - (ii) Contribution to pool of scientific information/data.
 - (iii) Development of new interventions which, if disseminated will augment crop production/reduce cost of production/conserves resources/any other.
 - (iv) Scientific validation of technological innovations made by farmers/extension functionaries.
4. Is the methodology proposed meets established scientific standards?
5. Are the expertise /facilities available with the Institute adequate to carry out proposed research work?
6. Does the work plan directly address objectives defined for the project?
7. Expert views on expected outcome perceived by the Principal Investigator?
8. Any modification/suggestions for improvement in project proposal?
9. Budgetary requirement and duration of the proposed project justified as per objectives?

The project proposal is recommended/with modifications suggested/not recommended for approval.

Name and signature of Expert
Designation
Address with e-mail id and Phone no.

National Food Security Mission
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
Proforma for half yearly progress report

1. Project title
2. Name, designation and address of Principal Investigator (PI).
3. Contact Phone Nos. and e-mail id of PI.
4. Name and address of Institute/ Organization.
5. No. and date of Project sanction order.
6. Total amount approved.
7. Date of inception and duration of the Project.
8. Objectives of the project.
9. Activities and targets approved by DAC under each objective.
10. Activity-wise achievements made and deviations from the targets, if any, with justification.
11. Statement of expenditure against allocation under each sub-head.
12. Constraints, if any.

Name and Signature of Principal Investigator

**National Food Security Mission
Department of Agriculture and Cooperation
Proforma for Annual Progress report**

Section A: General Information

- ❖ Project title
- ❖ Name, Designation, Address, Phone Nos. and e-mail id of PI
- ❖ Name and Address of the Institute/ Organization.
- ❖ Name, designation, phone nos. and e-mail id of head of the Organization.
- ❖ No. and date of DAC sanction order.
- ❖ Date of inception and duration of the project.

Section B. Technical

- ❖ Objectives
- ❖ Activities approved under each objective.
- ❖ Activity-wise progress against targets fixed.
- ❖ Compiled and statistically analyzed data generated under each activity.
- ❖ Inferences drawn, if any, under each activity.
- ❖ Results of practical utility.

Section C: Budget allocation and expenditure:

Information on progressive budgetary allocation and expenditure along with a statement of release of funds made by DAC should be furnished in the format given below.

(a) Allocation and Expenditure (Rs. In Lakhs)

S. No.	Item	I Year		II Year		III Year		IV Year		Total	
		Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
1.	Contractual Services										
2.	Operations										
3.	Travel										
4.	Items/inputs										
5.	Equipment										
6.	Workshops/ Training										
7.	Miscellaneous										
8.	Report writing										
	Total										

(b) Amount of funds (Rs. In Lakhs) released with date

Year	Allocation	Release	Difference (+/-)	Date of release
I				
II				
III				
IV				
Total				