

**Federal Ministry
for Food and Agriculture - BMEL**

Announcement No. 18/16/32

“Innovative approaches to process local food in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, which contribute to improved nutrition, as well as qualitative and quantitative reduction of losses”

Funding instrument for research programmes into world food security

<p>This is the English translation (in excerpts) of the authorised German version. Only the German version is official and legally binding.</p>
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Call for applications
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1 Background and objectives

Despite a slight improvement in recent years, almost 800 million people are still starving worldwide while around 2 billion humans are suffering from “hidden hunger”, i.e. a vitamin and mineral deficiency. At the same time, the world population continues to grow, thus increasing the demand for food. Changed consumption patterns in emerging economies coupled with an increased global demand for sustainable raw materials for the non-food area are leading to increased demand and competition for agricultural production areas. On top of this, global challenges such as climate change are putting considerable pressure on agriculture to adapt. To improve the global food situation in a sustainable manner, progress must be made in agricultural productivity and the further build-up of competences and structures among other things. International agriculture and food research plays a key role here and for this reason, the German government is giving more support to research of this kind through contributions from the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The objectives and alignment of each of the funding programmes and instruments are structured in such a way here that they complement one another in a practicable manner.

This announcement is within the framework of the funding instrument “International Research Cooperation for Global Food Security”. The objective is to support joint research projects between German research institutions and those of other countries

and regions which are severely affected by hunger and malnutrition. The programme aims to support the elaboration of applied, practice-oriented research and approaches, as well as to establish scientific networks to contribute towards local capacity development.

This announcement is based on the “Directive on the funding of international research cooperation for global food security” dated 16th February 2016¹.

2 Funding purpose

a) General

Topic of this call is: “Innovative approaches to process local food in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, which contribute to improved nutrition, as well as qualitative and quantitative reduction of losses”.

The BMEL funds research cooperation projects conducted by German agri-food research institutions and their counterparts in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, that aims to develop innovative approaches in food processing taking into account the relevant local conditions. The projects should focus on perishable food items of plant, animal and fungal origin, in particular with seasonal surpluses.

b) Focus

The focus is on local **fruits, vegetables and protein (of plant and animal origin)**. Consideration should be given to the potential for innovation using **neglected crops (neglected and under-utilised species; NUS)** or traditional products and combinations of the aforementioned categories.

c) Objectives

Research will be funded that contribute to the following objectives:

- retain nutritional value, shelf-life and food safety end products should be **healthy, nutritious food products**;
- reduce **seasonality of food insecurity** and food and nutrient losses;
- **More efficient and particularly time-saving preparation of healthy meals.**

These objectives are consistent with the “Key recommendations for improving nutrition through agriculture and food systems”², and are included in the two research topic clusters “Healthy life, healthy food and safe products” and “Global responsibility – one world, one health – ensuring global food security and responsible resource management”.

d) Approaches

¹ www.ble.de/pt-foodsecurity

² See FAO (2015): Recommendation 8 of the “Key recommendations for improving nutrition through agriculture and food systems”. www.fao.org/3/a-i4922e.pdf

This call includes research on technical and organisational, socio-cultural and/or socio-economic issues and combinations thereof.

Applications should pursue an holistic (system) approach to find joined-up solutions that can be implemented in the existing environment and should address following aspects:

- Solve complex economic, ecological and social challenges to improve local nutrition in a sustainable way using comprehensive system-oriented approaches;
- Research on local and culturally determined dietary habits as well as on the local acceptance of innovations regarding food processing and packaging;
- Analyse technologically relevant aspects such as the influence of various processing technologies on the content and bioavailability of micro- and macronutrients in food;
- Investigate or develop functioning organisational structures or producer associations;
- Study and improve the exchange of information and work processes in existing organisational structures along the value chain, e.g. use of new IT and communication technologies to enhance production, processing and marketing (capacity development and transfer of knowledge);
- Develop non-perishable and healthy food in the context of regional value chains in rural and (peri-) urban areas with good sales potential on local markets;
- Explore a more efficient use of by-products along the entire value chain, respectively analyse networking opportunities of value chains for further processing;
- Improve the processing and packaging of local products.

Cross-cutting issues arising from sustainable development goals (SDG) should also be taken into account.

3 Project structure and grant beneficiaries

Fundamentally, this call requires that research consortiums are funded which consist of **at least one German institution and at least one institution from Sub-Saharan Africa and/or Southeast Asia**. The African or Asian partners must be from research institutions in the target region or country in which the research is to be carried out. The funding instrument will pursue participatory, practice-oriented and interdisciplinary research, thus larger networks are possible. Interregional cooperation and knowledge-sharing should contribute to solutions in this field. Tasks within the project shall adequately reflect the research approach and shall be shared appropriately between the German and foreign partners. The involvement of suitable local players from non-research areas can also be supported to a limited extent to implement project components including the transfer of knowledge and capacity development.

Partners in Africa and Asia are financed only through the forwarding of grants. Within each project, the coordinator of the research consortium, which must be a German research institution, is responsible for forwarding the funds. The coordinator applies for the necessary funds and forwards them as the first beneficiary to the foreign partners. **German institutions applying for subsidies must be authorised and suitable for the forwarding of project funds.**

International agriculture research institutions belonging to the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) and the Association of International Research and Development Centers for Agriculture (AIRCA) are not themselves entitled for funding, but may participate with their own funding in the research consortiums.

This announcement is governed by the directive of the Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture for funding international research programmes into world food security dated 16th February 2016³.

4 Procedure

4.1 Funding prerequisites

The prerequisite for funding is the suitability of the proposals in terms of the abovementioned priorities, the objectives of this call and the directive on the funding of international research cooperation for global food security.

The requirements for funding stipulate that:

- The project makes a significant contribution towards food security and complies with the goals of this call
- The applicant presents a sufficiently accurate description of and justification for the project
- The transfer of knowledge of the results is ensured into practice;
- The applicant has the necessary qualifications to do the work
- The applicant offers the guarantee of professional and correct business management;
- The applicant should provide a professional and correct source and disposition statement;
- German applicant institutions must be eligible to forward project funds;
- Any material, information, data and software that are used and developed within the scope of the research project must be made freely accessible to the general public in suitable form in accordance with the national and international legislation in force.

³ www.ble.de/research-cooperation

With the submission of the application, the applicant consents to the documentation being forwarded to experts for evaluation. When submitting the outline project or application, applicants agree that their documents may be evaluated by experts.

4.2 Two step procedure of application

4.2.1 First step: short project proposal – max. 10 pages

In the first step, consortia must submit a short project proposal in English and a consortium agreement signed by all the project partners (see Application Guide). Projects eligible for funding will be selected based on the proposals.

Outline of the project proposal:

- Clear and concise summary of the project proposal;
- Checking if the research topic has already been covered;
- Interfaces to innovation processes, ongoing research projects, existing initiatives and networks;
- Relevance of the research-topic to nutrition and food security in the target region.
- Presentation of activities, anticipated results and the potential contribution to nutrition and food security and/or practical relevance;
- Presentation of the consortium;
- Budget summary by partners and years.

Format specifications: DIN A 4, Times New Roman, font size 11, line spacing 1.5.

Optional: Supplementary material attached as appendices to serve as an illustration of the information only.

4.2.2 Second phase: project full proposal

Once the draft applications have been evaluated, the applicants selected for a grant award will be invited to submit a full description of the project in English.

The application will be submitted in accordance with the information contained in the “Application Guide”.

4.3 Competent bodies

Bundesanstalt für Landwirtschaft und Ernährung (BLE)
Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE)
Deichmanns Aue 29, 53179 Bonn, Germany

Internationale Zusammenarbeit und Welternährung (Ref.323)
International Cooperation and Global Food Security (Division 323)

Internet:
<http://www.ble.de/pt-foodsecurity>

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4.4 Documents and deadlines

The application documents are available from:
<http://www.ble.de/pt-foodsecurity>.

Short proposals and the consortium agreement must be submitted to the competent authority (4.3) by **01.12.2016** 3.00pm CET. All the documents required for the application must be sent to the competent authority via email (machine-readable) and in a signed version by this deadline.

Short proposals received after the deadline will not be considered.