Guidelines for research organisations applying for regional and international research collaboration support

Sida's research cooperation with regional and international research organisations is expected to contribute to strengthened research of high quality and of relevance to poverty reduction and sustainable development through a) the production of high quality research of relevance to low-income countries and regions; b) the promotion of research that, through innovation, can contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development primarily in low-income countries and regions and/or c) capacity-building for research, primarily in low-income countries and regions.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND APPLICATION FORMAT

Sida is dedicated to support efforts in poverty reduction and sustainable development through research cooperation. Sida strives to fund world class research excellence by engaging the regional and international research community. The global research support encompasses support to a large range of academic disciplines and increase the opportunities for researchers in low-income countries to engage actively in the global research community.

Only invited organisations are eligible to apply for regional and international research collaboration support. Organisations should hold one or more of the following functions:

- Multilateral organisations, which provide policy advice to member states and can expand the existing discourse in strategic areas of importance.
- The production of new research findings, relevant for low-income countries, and which is quality assured according to current academic principals.
- Promote access for researchers from low-income countries to international research networks so that they can be a part of the international research community and are able to influence the international research agenda.
- Promote the use of research in low-income countries and increase the demand for research.

Sida funding may be directed at either programme or core support. General guidelines for application for programme support are found on sida.se/English/partners/our-partners/research-cooperation/guidelines-for-partners/,

although the invitation from Sida will specify the specific format to be used. The proposed programme should include a log frame-matrix with an overview of objectives, the expected outcomes accompanied by indicators for follow-up and a description of the expected impact over time. For further information on results-based management, please see below.

For core support, separate instructions will be shared with the invited organization.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PROCESS

Sida evaluates the proposals according to a wide range of criteria that reflect the agency's overall objectives and policies for development cooperation as well as the strategy for research cooperation. The proposed budget is assessed based on an analysis of resources and an estimation of what is needed to achieve the expected outcomes of the program.

List of criteria:
- Feasibility
- Relevance
- Sustainability
- Human Rights approach
- Expected results
- Plans for dissemination and use of results
- Quality of content and background information
- Budget for the proposal and whether it represents value for money (cost-efficiency) in relation to the total budget of the organisation.
- Linkages with national universities in low-income countries and regional research institutions.

The above mentioned assessment process may lead to changes in the scope of the original proposal. In such cases the proposal will be modified through dialogue with the organisation's program coordinator who has submitted the application.

RESULTS BASED MANAGEMENT (RBM)

Within Sida's research cooperation all work is evaluated through a results-based system - starting with planning following through application, annual reporting, monitoring all the way to the final evaluation of the project. Thus, it is important that the applicants have a good understanding of the Results Based Management process.

Sida's research cooperation has with the help of RBM experts at the consultancy firm AIMS put together a handbook in Results Based Management which is meant to give a background as well as guide partners in the use of RBM. It can be found using this link: sida.se/English/partners/our-partners/research-cooperation/guidelines-for-partners/.

ETHICAL GUIDELINES AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

All Sida-funded research cooperation programme activities must be carried out in compliance with fundamental ethical principles. It is the responsibility of each applicant to ensure compliance with international conventions and declarations on ethical considerations and intellectual property rights. Below you can find Sida's general terms for agreement regarding these matters.

1) Ethical approval of medical or health research projects is required as follows:

For projects carried out in their entirety in Sweden, Swedish regulations shall apply. For projects carried out in other countries the following rules shall apply:

- Projects involving human subjects require ethical approval by a responsible authority in the country concerned. Where Swedish researchers or institutions participate, approval is also required from a Swedish ethical committee.
- Projects involving clinical trials of drugs, vaccines or other pharmaceutical preparations require, in addition, approval by a drug regulatory authority or other responsible authority in the country concerned. Where Swedish researchers/institutions participate or Swedish products are tested, approval shall also be obtained from the Medical Products Agency (Läkemedelsverket) in Sweden.
- Projects involving experiments with animals should, whenever possible, be approved by a responsible authority in the country concerned. Where Swedish researchers or institutions participate, approval is also required from a Swedish ethical committee for animal experiments.
- When changes or additions are made to the original project plan renewed ethical approval is required.
- The recipient scientist/institution is responsible for ensuring that ethical approval in accordance with the above-mentioned rules is obtained before the study is started. Sida retains the right to require that the recipient scientist/institution produce proof of ethical approval before the grant is disbursed.

2) Intellectual Property Rights

- As regards patents and know-how the participating Swedish and collaborating country institutions and researchers cooperating in the research project shall have access to all results and know-how obtained within the collaborative projects mentioned in the Agreement. Each party that has participated in the cooperation shall have the right to the patent in their own name and at their own expense.

Photo: Nils Ohlanders, Sida

Ms. Loise Kawira in the bee breeding laboratory of African Laboratory for Bee Health at icipe, Nairobi. Ms Kawira is showing how the queen bee is inseminated with sperm from bee-drones in order to produce bees with selected characteristics, such as the resistance to certain parasites.

- The participating institutions shall have the right to equal shares of the revenue derived from grant of user licences to third parties if the patent is registered by mutual Agreement. The grant of user licences and patent(s) shall be determined in each case by mutual Agreement between the participating institutions provided the participating institutions agree in delegating such a task to one party.

OPEN ACCESS

The basic philosophy of Open access is that publicly funded research produced by universities and research institutions should be freely available to other researchers. Open access publishing aims to provide the reader free online access to all publications without subscription fees. To publish in most open access journals however, still requires payment by the author.

Sida supports and encourages the use of open access but is aware of the fact that the whole process of peer review, editing and archiving is costly. It requires professional work, organisation, technology and infrastructure. Open access literature is not free to produce, even though it can be less expensive to produce than conventionally published literature. Business models for paying the bills depend on how Open access is delivered. According to estimations, an article publishing cost range between 1500 and 3000 USD. To encourage publication in open access journals, budgets for Sida support can include costs for open access publication. Sida joins other funders of research who strive to enhance open access to scientific results.

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

Applicants may request information of which of the personal data that is processed by Sida. The request should be in written form and addressed to the following receiver; Sida's Data Protection Officer, Valhallavägen 199, 105 25 Stockholm, Sweden.

Sida