

India-UK partnership to address farmed animal diseases and health

Webinar 25 May 2023

Questions and Answers

Does the call include aquaculture (fish and shrimp)?

This funding opportunity has been designed based on common priorities of the two funders with an aim to focus on terrestrial domesticated livestock and poultry, in order to advance understanding in this area. Aquaculture is not within scope of this funding opportunity.

Is it OK if we put a proposal on poultry diseases and health?

Poultry diseases and health is within scope, provided the proposal addresses one or both of the priority areas.

I noticed that there is no note on additional animal use overseas for use of chickens - I presume chicken disease are in scope?

Poultry diseases are within scope, provided the proposal addresses one or both of the priority areas. Applicants are not asked to fill in additional questions on the use of chickens overseas.

Does the application have to focus on the four target bacteria in the Indian pathogen priority list?

Applicants should consult the [Indian pathogen priority list](#) when formulating the proposal. The proposal does not have to focus on the four critical pathogens in the list.

Would research primarily aimed at developing improved vaccines be considered out of scope?

The focus of the call on host-pathogen interactions and veterinary AMR should be retained. When the development of vaccines is considered within either of the research areas then it would be within scope. If the primary purpose is vaccine development, then it would be out of scope.

Are early diagnostics to inform use or non-use of antibiotics within the remit of the call?

Development of diagnostics is included in the call when considered within either of the research areas.

Is there a human health component or should the proposals focus only on animal research?

A one health aspect is encouraged, but projects should be primarily focused on the veterinary side.

Would there be any preference for basic research versus applied research?

The aim of this programme is to advance the mechanistic understanding of susceptibility of farmed animals to infectious diseases and resistance to disease treatment. The intention is to fund basic research and translation proposals will not be supported. Proposals beyond technology readiness level 3 (TRL 3) will not be considered.

Is there any assistance in partnership building?

BBSRC and DBT will not assist in partnership building for this opportunity. Potential UK partners can be found on Gateway to Research: gtr.ukri.org

Can industrial partners make in-kind or cash contributions and what is the procedure for that?

Industrial collaborations are encouraged, where appropriate, and any contribution in-kind or cash that adds value to the overall research programme would be welcomed. Industry from the Indian side can be brought in through outsourcing but cannot be supported directly.

Can we include industry as suppliers of services/subcontractors in usual way?

BBSRC and DBT applicants can include industry as subcontractors in the UK and India respectively. BBSRC guidance about collaborations with other research organisations and industry partners can be found [here](#).

Is £1M the 100% or 80% FEC figure?

The full economic cost of the UK component can be up to £1 million, with a BBSRC contribution of 80%, and matched equivalent resources from DBT for the India component.

Can someone be involved in more than one application?

An individual can be involved in multiple applications. BBSRC applicants should note that the total time allocated cannot exceed 100%.

Are you able to confirm salary costs are covered for both research components?

For UK applicants the standard [BBSRC costing guidelines](#) apply. As per the Indian Government norm the Indian applicants should have a permanent position in any of the public/private Indian institutions/universities/NGOs/VOs. The manpower head indicated in the budget table is for appointed M.Sc/Ph.D students/RA. DBT will not be supporting salary costs for investigators.

How many applicants usually apply and how many applications are successful?

We are not able to estimate how many applications will be received because it varies from call to call. A previous collaborative programme between BBSRC and DBT on farmed animal disease and health received 36 applications and 12 projects were funded.

What is the timeline for the joint presentation at the end of the assessment?

The joint presentation will take place after the external peer review stage is complete and before final decisions are made.

Should the lead principal investigators be only from a veterinary institute?

There is no such limitation. The principal investigators should meet the eligibility criteria from BBSRC and DBT and be based in an eligible organisation.