



Call for expression of interest in
IFS Collaborative Research Grants

This call is restricted to research by early-career scientists
into **Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS)** in
Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda

Interested young researchers from these countries are invited to express their interest to participate in the development of collaborative research proposals by filling out the form here:

<http://www.ifs.se/forms/expression-of-interest.html>

Eligible early-career scientists who express interest will be invited to join an online collaborative environment that is being used for this project. You do not need to know any collaborators before expressing interest. The purposes of the online environment is for researchers to find and get to know suitable collaborators from other regions create research teams and prepare proposals for submission to IFS. Further instructions will follow to those who register interest to participate.

The only way to participate in this pilot programme is to express interest on this online form and be part of the online collaborative environment.

Eligibility criteria:

An Applicant

- will be a citizen of Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania or Uganda.
- will have a Masters or PhD degree (or equivalent).
- (for first time IFS grant applicants), men may not be older than 35; and women, not older than 40 years of age.
- (for researchers from eligible countries who are already IFS Grantees), you may apply for a collaborative research grant as renewal (2nd or 3rd) grant, irrespective of age
- will be doing/will do research on some aspect of Neglected and Underutilized Species.
- will be attached to a university, research institution or a research oriented and not-for-profit NGO in one of the five eligible countries and do your research in a developing country.

Collaborative Research Team rules:

- Teams may have 3, 4 or 5 collaborators, all of whom must fulfil the eligibility criteria for IFS Collaborative Research Grants.
- Within your Team, you will need to agree amongst the collaborators who will be the Team Coordinator.
- Each Team will have at least one collaborator from West Africa (Ghana or Nigeria) and at least one collaborator from East or southern Africa (Tanzania, Uganda or South Africa).
- An Applicant may be a collaborator in only one Team at the time of submission of the application for a grant.
- Each Team will need to have a name and each team member a specified role in the team.

- Notes:
1. Over the course of their career an IFS Grantee may receive a maximum of 3 IFS Grants. These may comprise of individual or collaborative IFS grants. Each collaborator in a Team receiving a Collaborative Research Grant is regarded as an IFS Grantee, and the Collaborative Grant counts as one IFS Grant for each collaborator. When applying for a 2nd or 3rd Grant, the required reporting on the previous Grant must be submitted to IFS no later than the current application.
An IFS Grantee may pursue only one research project with IFS support at any one time.
An Applicant may submit only one application to IFS at any one time.
 2. Selection will be based on merit. Where a choice is made between equal applications, in order to support capability enhancement for young scientists (in this case enhancing capability to manage research collaboration), preference will be given to Team applications with early-career Team Coordinators.
 3. Selection will be based on merit. Where a choice is made between equal applications, in order to support gender equality, preference will be given to mixed gender teams.

Expression of interest form: <http://www.ifs.se/forms/expression-of-interest.html>

Deadline: November 12, 2012, 24:00 hrs (GMT)

Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS)

Over time humankind has used more than 7,000 edible species. Today, 95% of the world's food needs come from around 30 species out of the total global agricultural biodiversity. 50% of the global requirement for proteins and calories are met by just three plants: maize, wheat and rice. NUS include hundreds of locally domesticated and wild species, which have unrealised potential to contribute to income generation, improved food security and nutrition. Meanwhile, the genetic diversity of NUS and associated local knowledge is rapidly being lost due to the intensification of agriculture and the commoditization of food markets towards a more narrow range of the most important food crops. Research has paid little attention to neglected and underutilised crop husbandry, commercialization, or the policy frameworks to promote their use.

Some suggested research approaches to NUS

Within the broad concept of 'Neglected and Underutilized Species' (NUS), research teams might address themes such as:

- Research on crops that are priority in West, East and Southern Africa
- Research on issues that are common to both regions- cross regional comparisons to validate local research, e.g. value chain
- Analysis of policies of relevance to NUS, such as role of traditional crops for food security
- Gender and NUS, such as the role of women in conservation and use of traditional food crops, food technology research and women
- Impact assessment research e.g. substantiate the role of NUS for nutritional security, and for resilience of production systems, based on evidence from country data
- Genetic conservation of NUS, especially the complementarities between ex-situ and in-situ conservation
- Loss of diversity in NUS, due to rural change and market forces, using participatory, community-based monitoring techniques
- Methodologies for developing 'Red List' for agricultural crops and varieties
- Research on strengthening capacities of scientists, value chain actors and community-based institutions in promoting NUS to improve people's livelihoods
- Characterizing the seed supply and exchange systems of NUS to improve availability and farmer's access to quality seeds
- Research on indigenous knowledge on NUS cultivation and use to increase their value

This list presents only some ideas; any innovative and original research ideas within the broad field of NUS research are acceptable.

IFS Collaborative Research Grants

IFS is offering Collaborative Research Grants to small teams (of 3-5 early-career scientists) in **Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania** and **Uganda** to undertake research on **Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS)**.

The total value of a Collaborative Research Grant will be between USD 45-75,000. This breaks down to 80% for research and 20% for team coordination and collaboration activities. The actual value of a grant and the distribution of the grant money among the team members will be determined by need, the size of the team and the team's budget.

More details can be found on the IFS website in the document:

<http://www.ifs.se/IFS/Documents/Publications/IFS%20Collaborative%20Research%20Grants.pdf>

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