

## IFS STRATEGY ANNEX 4

## The IFS Science Capacity-Enhancing Programme

## PROGRAMME OBJECTIVES

The IFS science capacity-enhancing programme supports promising early career scientists through a flexible but structured process centred around securing funding to conduct research in the researchers' home countries, complemented by the provision of capacity-enhancing activities, coordinated by the IFS Secretariat.

The overall objective of the IFS programme is to enhance the capacity of early career scientists in Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries (LLMICs) to conduct relevant research, influence research agendas at local, regional and global levels, and increase science literacy.

The specific objectives are:

1. generation and dissemination of scientific knowledge by early career LLMIC scientists, and
2. enhanced capacity of early career LLMIC scientists to influence, lead, network, fund-raise and put research into use.

## CAPACITY-ENHANCING ACTIVITIES

To enhance the science capacity of early career scientists in LLMICs, the IFS programme provides individual Basic Grants and Advanced Grants (one per successful applicant). Applications submitted online in response to annual calls are screened by the IFS Secretariat before being circulated for evaluation to its global network of 1400 scientific peers. Using the reviews, the thematically-organised Scientific Advisory Committees (SACs) make the final recommendations.

In addition to the research grants, from time-to-time IFS offers capacity-enhancing activities by organising training workshops and other supporting services to applicants and grantees. This support can include travel and publication grants, a purchasing service for scientific equipment and a range of different types of science capacity-enhancing workshops, e.g., conceptualization and preparation of research proposals, science writing, research design and data analysis, working with value chains, operation of specific scientific equipment, and training on collaborative research.

IFS's capacity-enhancing support draws on our own large network of trainers and scientific experts and we also work with national, regional and international organizations and institutions. The many alumni of former IFS grantees, many of whom are now in senior positions themselves (e.g., vice chancellors, ministers of science and heads of research institutions) are also a valuable resource in the organisation's hosting and delivery of capacity-enhancing support.