

## Indigenous Knowledge Systems Technology Innovations

### **CONTRACTING AUTHORITIES:**

The Botswana Innovation Hub (BIH) and the New Partnership for Africa's Development's (NEPAD) Flagship Programme, the Southern Africa Network for Biosciences (SANBio) with the support of the Finnish-Southern African Partnership to strengthen the NEPAD SANBio Network (BioFISA II).

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITY:**

Submit an application for your innovative solution based on indigenous knowledge systems in the impact area of animal and human health and nutrition. Technology solutions could include, but are not limited, to nutraceuticals, preservatives, cosmetics and nutritious products made from indigenous resources. The solution proposed should at least be at proof of concept level leading to scale-up of manufacturing or prototypes at small scale production, leading to industrial scale production. Up to R1 million will be provided to the selected innovator to implement the project over a 12 months period.

### **TECHNOLOGY MATURITY:**

Solutions that have reached at least proof of concept stage and can be developed to a commercial product can be proposed.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

Innovative SMMEs and research groups from SANBio member states (Angola, Mozambique, Malawi, Mauritius, Seychelles, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Namibia, and Madagascar) can apply. For this call, at least two SANBio member states should collaborate in finding a solution and one of the countries in the consortium must be from Botswana. Applicants should ensure that the consortium has an industrial partner as part of the applicants. Project teams must include at least a business expert, the lead innovator and other experts needed to implement the project.

### **CALL STATEMENT:**

Africa and particularly the SADC region is in a unique position due to the high levels of biodiversity, the potential to impact the regional and global markets exists in terms of the value added products that can be made from these resources. In response to this and to boost the utilisation of indigenous products at regional, continental and global levels, SANBio BioFISA II Programme in collaboration with BIH in Botswana are providing funding up to the value of R2 million to support two projects (maximum R 1 million per project) targeting the impact areas of human and animal health and nutrition. This funding will support projects that provide a scalable solution from Indigenous Knowledge Systems in the SADC region. Projects that will be supported should have at least proof of concept and are scalable.

## KEY SPECIFICATIONS

The successful technologies must be:

1. Safe for human consumption;
2. Affordable;
3. Ready to use or require only short term development;
4. Scalable.

## SOLUTIONS NOT OF INTEREST

The following technologies are not of interest:

1. Ideas or concepts that have not been proven;
2. Solutions that require long term development;
3. Solutions made from ingredients that cannot be sourced locally (in the SADC region);
4. Solutions that are not made from indigenous resources;
5. Solutions that require large capital investments.

## PROJECT APPROACH

**Phase 1:** Expression of Interest submission – submit an Expression of Interest clearly outlining the solution, cost of developing the solution, including production costs, and any regulatory approvals needed before the product is commercialised. The Expression of Interest must also outline the market size and the target customer segment and should include the status of IP for the product developed.

**Phase 2:** Expression of Interest evaluation – an external panel of evaluators will assess the Expression of Interest and candidates will be shortlisted to develop full proposals.

**Phase 3:** Full proposal submission and evaluation – candidates will be trained in the lean start-up approach during the full proposal development phase over a five day period. Submitted full proposals will then undergo a final evaluation process.

**Phase 4:** Contracting – The main contract will be signed by the lead applicant with the SANBio BioFISA II Programme, and the Botswana applicant will sign a contract with BIH for funding of the activities conducted in Botswana.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA:

The following minimum administrative checks should be met, failure in which the application will be automatically disqualified:

1. A completed and signed application;
2. Applicants from at least two different SANBio Member States, one of which should be Botswana<sup>1</sup>;
3. A maximum request for R1 million for the grant amount with a supporting cash contribution of at least R142 857 (which is 10% of the project value). For grant amounts less than R1 million, a proportional 10% cash contribution should be provided.

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<sup>1</sup> Should you have any problems obtaining a partner, please contact [bihbiofisa@nepadsanbio.org](mailto:bihbiofisa@nepadsanbio.org) and visit <https://expertdb.nepadsanbio.org> to connect with other experts in the region that you can collaborate with

This call is open to anyone with a necessary solution and will be evaluated on the below criteria:

- The scientific and/or technical merit and the ability of the proposed solution to meet the proposed specifications;
- The feasibility of executing the project and commercialising the product;
- The stage of readiness of the proposed solution, i.e. the product development process must have reached at least proof of concept (**scalability**);
- The business case including the market size and the value proposition;
- Communication and explanation of any associated proprietary or 3<sup>rd</sup> party intellectual property aspects involved in the proposed solution (i.e. **the solution's originality**);
- The team proposed in relation to the technology developed;
- The presentation, motivation and data to support all scientific and/or technical claims (this should be provided as a separate attachment).
- **The solution's social impact.**