

**Joint BBSRC-DBT Call for Collaborative Proposals to support  
Farmed Animal Disease and Health (FADH) Research**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**A: BACKGROUND TO THE FADH INITIATIVE**

**1. What is the FADH Initiative?**

The Farmed Animal Disease and Health initiative is a joint call for collaborative research proposals supported by the BBSRC in the UK and Department of Biotechnology (DBT) in India. The purpose of the call is to build on the combined strengths of academic research groups within India and the UK, to work together on collaborative multi-disciplinary research that will underpin the development of novel control measures and technologies to prevent and reduce diseases of farmed animals including aquaculture.

**2. Have priority areas been highlighted for this call?**

Yes. A joint BBSRC-DBT workshop was held in New Delhi in February 2012 to identify specific areas of animal disease research where there would be particular merit, and benefit to both countries, in developing joint collaborative research projects relevant to underpinning control measures and novel technologies to combat infectious diseases. These three priority areas and two cross-cutting themes are detailed in the FADH: Call for proposals PDF document <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/fadh-call-for-proposals.pdf>

**3. My proposal does not fall either within the priority areas or cross-cutting themes, can I still apply?**

It is unlikely. Applicants considering developing research projects outside the key priority areas outlined above are strongly advised to contact BBSRC or DBT at an early stage of the project development.

Applicants should be aware that requests to fund theoretical projects that are not coupled to experimental work or projects based on networking and knowledge transfer only will not be supported.

Further information on priority areas for this call which were identified at the workshop can be found here: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/fadh-workshop-report.pdf>

Additionally, this call will not support research projects that focus:

- Solely on developing pharmaceuticals and anti-microbial as control measures
- Solely on disease surveillance systems
- Solely on model systems with no translation to target animals
- On diseases that are not of importance in ruminants, pigs, poultry or farmed fish
- On aspects of animal health that are not related to infectious disease.

#### 4. Are non-infectious diseases included in this call?

No, only diseases with an infectious component are included.

#### 5. What counts as a farmed animal?

For the purposes of this call farmed animals include: large and small ruminants, pigs, poultry and farmed fish.

### B. COMPLETING AN APPLICATION

#### 1. What is the deadline for submission of proposals?

UK submissions: All proposals must be received by 16:00 UK time on March 6th 2013.

Indian submissions: All proposals must be received by 24:00 IST on March 6th 2013.

#### 2. Is an outline application required?

Yes, UK and Indian applicants must jointly complete an intention to submit form which can be downloaded here <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Forms/fadh-i2s-proforma.doc>. This form should be returned to [FADH@bbsrc.ac.uk](mailto:FADH@bbsrc.ac.uk) by 16:00 UK time and [shailja@dbt.nic.in](mailto:shailja@dbt.nic.in) by 24:00 IST on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2013. The intention to submit form will be used to provide information about project numbers and response to the call and to perform preliminary eligibility checks of the applicants and institutions, and of the project's fit to the scope of the call.

#### 3. How do I apply?

Applicants should use the specific Case for Support Template <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Forms/fadh-case-support.doc>.

The scientific case for support must be submitted by UK-based applicants to BBSRC and Indian-based applicants to DBT. The completed Case for Support proformas submitted to BBSRC and DBT must be **identical** and must be submitted using the specific template developed for this call.

**UK applicants** must apply using Je-S. Within Je-S, under document type and scheme please select "standard"; within call / mode please select "**13 BBSRC/DBT JOINT FARMED ANIMAL DISEASES**". Applicants must also complete the standard BBSRC proforma along with the following additional attachments:

- The specific Case for Support Template (<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Forms/fadh-case-support.doc>);
- Pathways to Impact;
- Applicants' CVs;
- Letters of Support;
- Justification of Resources;
- DBT finance proforma (copy of Indian collaborator's submission to DBT, submitted as type 'Other Attachment').

Applicants should refer to the Je-S help text:

<https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk/Handbook/index.htm#pages/JeSHelpdesk.htm>. Please note: Failure to use the Case for Support template will result in the application being withdrawn. Failure of the project coordinators to ensure that all named co-Investigators are eligible to apply will also result in the whole application being withdrawn.

Proposals must be submitted electronically by the Je-S system by 16:00 on 6th March 2013

**India applicants** must apply to DBT using the Case for Support Template <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Forms/fadh-case-support.doc> and a standard DBT finance proforma <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Forms/fadh-dbt-proforma.doc>

Proposals must be submitted to DBT by 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

#### **4. How should I structure my application?**

Full details are provided within the FADH: Call for proposals document: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/fadh-call-for-proposals.pdf>

Proposals must be written using Arial font 11 or an equivalent and template margins must not be altered.

#### **5. Can I provide/Do I need a covering letter?**

A short covering letter introducing the application is acceptable but not mandatory.

#### **6. Can I include collaborators from non-eligible institutions?**

Collaborating partners from non-eligible UK or Indian institutions and partners from other countries may be included but they will not receive any funding from BBSRC or DBT. Such collaborators should be included as partners, and not co-investigators, in the proforma.

UK applicants please refer to BBSRC grant guides at: <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/grants-guide.aspx> for further details. Applicants with eligibility concerns are encouraged to contact the BBSRC and/or DBT office in advance of submitting their application.

#### **7. Can funding for equipment be requested?**

*BBSRC (UK) Applicants:* Changes in how equipment is requested on Research Council grants came into effect in May 2011 in response to the Wakeham Review. Applicants requesting items of equipment costing over £10k will be required to follow the guidelines as set out on the BBSRC website. <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/research-equipment-guidance.aspx>

*DBT (India) Applicants:* see advice within question 8.

#### **8. Should my proposal be costed on a fEC basis?**

*BBSRC (UK) Applicants:* Grants will be awarded on the basis of full economic cost as described on the BBSRC website. BBSRC will fund 80% of the value contained within the application. Applicants should see advice relating to equipment costs in Q7 above.

*DBT (India) Applicants:* DBT will fund eligible Indian academics at 100% of the full economic costs in terms of equipment, consumables, contingency, overheads and manpower salary costs employed under the project.

## **9. Can PhD students be funded as part of this call?**

*BBSRC (UK) Applicants:* Requests for PhD students are not eligible for support under this call.

*DBT (India) Applicants:* Requests for PhD students are eligible for support under this call as per standard DBT guidelines.

## **10. My work involves animal use abroad, what regulations do I follow?**

The applicants will need to consider whether all of the proposed research - whether it would be carried out in the UK or India - would comply with the principles of BBSRC's common guidance on "Responsibility in the use of animals in bioscience research"<sup>1</sup> and DBT's guidance. All applicants should be aware of the following aspect of the guidance relating to research or collaboration outside the UK:

"When collaborating with other laboratories, or where animal facilities are provided by third parties, researchers and the local ethics committee in the UK should satisfy themselves that welfare standards consistent with the principles of UK legislation (e.g. the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986), and set out in this guidance, are applied and maintained. Where there are significant deviations, prior approval from the funding body should be sought and agreed."

All applicants should be aware of DBT's guidance:

"Institutional and national biosafety guidelines for studies related to usage of infectious agents and/or handling of animals infected with such organisms must be followed. Regulations that control the use of non-human animals for scientific experimentation in India and UK should be considered while preparing the project proposals. Mode of treatment, restraint, alleviation of pain and suffering using appropriate anaesthesia or medication with detailed description of procedures etc. should be provided in the proposal. Handling and disposal of infectious organism or infected animals should also be followed according to local (city) and national norms. Investigators should provide a signed statement that 1) they will follow guidelines for use of animals for research available in UK and in India and that 2) before initiation of the proposed research work, appropriate approvals from Institutional and/or central animal ethics and biosafety committees will be obtained for experimental protocols to be adopted in their projects."

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/organisation/policies/position/policy/animals-in-bioscience-research.aspx>

## **11. Can I submit more than one project application?**

Indian applicants: You can only submit one application as a Principle Investigator. You may be a Co-Investigator, Partner or named researcher on more than one proposal, but we strongly suggest that you contact your funding agency for guidance on whether or not you will be eligible for funding as a Col/partner.

UK applicants: if submitting more than one application as PI please contact the BBSRC to discuss eligibility.

## **12. Which documents should I upload to JeS?**

You should upload the Case for support ( containing the overall project costs UK and India), the DBT finance proforma (India costs), Justification of Resources ( UK project costs), other standard documents: Applicants CVs( these can be the same as in the Case for support, unfortunately for technical reasons the Jes System requires CVs separately), Pathways to Impact, any letters of support.

## **C: PEER REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT**

### **1. How will my application be assessed?**

An integrated peer review process involving external referees will be conducted by the BBSRC and the DBT. Peer review will be conducted according to the standard BBSRC peer review <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/apply/application-committee-index.aspx>.

### **2. Who will serve on the Assessment Panel?**

The BBSRC and DBT will select both UK-based and Indian-based experts for the assessment panel; international representatives may also be selected.

### **3. When will the outcome be known?**

It is anticipated that proposals will be assessed by a panel in September 2013 and a final funding decision announced in December 2013.

### **4. When will grants commence?**

It is expected that all awarded grants will commence within six months of grant being awarded.

July 2012