IDRC | CRDI
International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada

Livestock Vaccines Innovation Fund (LVIF)

Global Call for Research Proposals: Innovations for Improving in Livestock Vaccines

Frequently asked questions

1. **What is your definition of "improvement" in this Call for proposals?**
   "Improvement" as used in this call implies all innovations that may be applied by research teams to develop a vaccine that is superior to a current one. Examples of improvement are better adjuvant, vaccine delivery systems or formulations that present significantly better product profiles (in terms of safety, efficacy, duration of immunity or ease of administration) when compared to profiles for current vaccines. The "improvement(s)" must be explicitly explained and detailed. The "improvement(s)" must also be relevant to smallholders in low and middle income countries and easily adopted by manufacturers.

2. **Can the proposal be based on a disease outside of the 19 listed diseases in the Call but with clear application of research output to one of them?**
   No, the proposal should be based on one or more of the 19 Livestock Vaccines Innovation Fund priority diseases.

3. **What is your definition of "lead applicant" and "co-applicant"?**
   - The lead applicant is responsible for the intellectual conception and implementation of the idea, the direction of the proposed activities. The lead applicant should submit the application to IDRC on behalf of the partnership (if applicable).
   - The co-applicant contributes to the responsibilities of the lead applicant.

4. **What is the maximum number of co-applicant for an application?**
   The applicant may add as many co-applicants as are needed for the project but IDRC will only have a Grant Agreement with a maximum of 2 co-applicants (in addition to the lead applicant i.e. three Grant Agreements in total). Lead and co-applicant may, however, subcontract to third parties. See question 6.

5. **What is your definition of "collaborating organization" in this Call for proposals**
   A collaborating organization is an institution that is not part of the core team managing the research project but contributes to activities of the project. Collaborating organization will not receive nor manage the project funds.

6. **What is your definition of "third-party organizations" in this Call for proposals?**
   A *third party organization* is an institution that will participate directly in the conduct of the research and other functions of the research project but will not receive funds directly from IDRC. The lead applicant and/or co-applicants are responsible for the disbursement of funds to *third party organizations* and ensuring the research is conducted according to the agreement. Third party organizations could be contracted to carry out a task that may not be available in-house for the lead and co-applicants (e.g. gene sequencing).

   The number of *third party organizations* involved in the research project should be limited, as should be the budget allocation (not more than 30%). In addition, the lead applicant and co-applicants must first ensure that the third-party organizations have adequate financial management capacity.

7. **What is the limit of indirect costs or overhead costs allowable?**
   Indirect costs are allowable up to a maximum of 13% of the overall budget for each member. Please refer to Guidelines for acceptable project expenditures for more information on indirect costs.

8. **Must indirect costs / overheads of third-party organizations respect the limit rule?**
   The maximum allowable percentage of the indirect costs is 13% of the overall budget for each member, including parts allocated for subcontracting. This means that if a member decides to pay a third party a higher overhead, the member can only do so provided that indirect costs calculated on the basis of the rest of the budget are lowered in order for the total to not exceed the 13% figure.

9. **Must the budget be broken down equally between all members of the partnership?**
   No. However, proposal budgets should ensure that all partners are adequately resourced to perform their expected roles and to participate in the overall coordination of partnership activities (including monitoring, reporting, communication, etc.). Third party organizations cannot receive more than 30% of the total budget.

10. **Is the organization housing the lead applicant permitted to include a management fee for the partnership and if so what are the rules in setting this up?**
    The lead organization cannot include a fee for the management of the partnership. However, the lead organization can include a Coordinator position in the Personnel line item of the budget to cover fees related to management and coordination of the research and related activities.

11. **Can the proposed research be connected to existing research agendas funded from other sources?**
    Yes, provided the proposal clearly shows the added value of the work funded by LVIF and it is possible to clearly separate and attribute costs. It will also be important to be able to demonstrate that the proposed LVIF work is also largely self-standing – i.e. there are no critical dependencies on the work being funded from other sources that could result in the LVIF work failing if there were problems with the other work.

12. **How long does it take to complete the online application form?**
    It takes approximately 1.5 hours to fill in the application form and upload the research proposal.

13. **Which browser is best to use to open the online application platform?**
    We recommend that you use one of the following browsers: Safari, Chrome, Firefox 35.0 or above or Internet explorer 11.

Additional questions

1. **Is feedback on the previous call being provided to applicants?**
   Detailed feedback was not provided to all applicants, however feedback is available upon request. To request feedback, send a message to LVIF@idrc.ca with your application reference number.

2. **Will LVIF share the proposals funded under the previous call to avoid repetitive applications addressing the same disease under this current call?**
   The focus of the current call is products that are near market. The previous call is distinct and projects for this call are evaluated distinctly/differently from the previous call. Details of previously funded projects will be publically available once legal considerations are met.

3. **Can I resubmit a proposal that I had submitted for call 1?**
   You may resubmit a proposal that you already submitted under call 1 if you are convinced that you have made sufficient changes that respond to call 2. Addressing comments from reviewers under Call 1 does not guarantee funding under this call.

4. **What is meant by "existing vaccine"?**
   An existing vaccine is a commercial product that has been registered and is under use by livestock farmers in a specific LVIF region. Vaccine candidates at various stages of proof of concept or vaccine trials are not considered as "existing vaccines."

5. **What is an acceptable (or expected) end point for a proposal for this Call 2?**
   The expected result is prototype vaccine at a stage where in can be transferred to manufacturers and possess a high probability of being registered as a vaccine. As described

in the call, the new prototype vaccine should present a significant improvement to the corresponding current commercial vaccine for the specific disease.

6. **Do projects have to be based on producing improvements on current vaccines? Are new potential targets fundable?**
   New potential targets are eligible for the competition if the research team is convinced that a near-market product with significant improvement over the corresponding current vaccine is achievable. The improvements we seek are to use current vaccines as the benchmark, however, we do not prescribe that the research team must use a current vaccine as a beginning point.

7. **You talk about improvement of vaccines by better adjuvants, delivery, safety, etc. What about better antigens?**
   Projects that develop better antigens that could achieve the specified improvements are eligible for this competition.

8. **Can the improvements be for non-commercialized vaccines, but transferrable to current vaccines?**
   New vaccine development approaches are eligible for the competition if the research team is convinced that the result will be a significant improvement over the corresponding current vaccine. The improvements we are looking for are based on the corresponding current vaccines. However, research teams are not required to use a current vaccine as a starting point.

9. **Regarding vaccine improvement, what will be the benchmark readouts (percent increase in improvement) required to determine whether the 'improvement' is acceptable?**
   It is expected that adequate attention will be given to both commercial vaccine label claims and actual published evidence on efficacy and attributes of commercial vaccines in order to establish appropriate baseline data for the purpose of quantifying the magnitude of improvement. Research teams will need to demonstrate in their experimental design how they will demonstrate that their prototype vaccine is a significant improvement to an existing commercial vaccine.

10. **Would affordability be considered an improvement as well? Is expected cost of the final product critical?**
    Proposals that will be eligible under this call will be those that result in products that have better efficacy, longer duration of immunity, duration of immunity, cross-protection or methods of administration. Research teams are encouraged to develop vaccines that are affordable to smallholders and this will be a cross-cutting consideration for all projects that will be supported by the LVIF.

11. **What happens when the candidate vaccine is still in laboratory tests but has gone up to target animal trials stage?**
    Vaccine candidates that have reached laboratory tests in the target animal species are eligible for the call as long as a comprehensive laboratory work or additional vaccine trials work are provided and are designed to result in a potential product.

12. **There are vaccines that have been developed and not commercialized, will the fund accept proposals that will focus on improving these vaccines specifically for commercialization to reach more smallholder farmers?**
    Projects that focus strictly on commercialization activities will not be eligible for this call. For example, a project whose only improvement is to re-package a vaccine from 100 doses to 5 doses/vial for easier commercialization to smallholders would not be eligible for this call.

13. **Is it mandatory to include animal trials on species that get infected by the disease we are targeting? Do these trials need to be performed in developing countries or in partnership with a partner in developing countries?**
    Yes, one of the mandatory requirements of the call is the proposed vaccine must be tested in target animals. Vaccines that will not be tested in target species will not be eligible for this call. The LVIF does not prescribe where and how the vaccine trials should be conducted. In addition, while partnership with developing country participants is not mandatory, applicants are strongly encouraged to include such collaboration in their application or describe a clear plan of how this will be implemented. This requirement will be considered during the review of proposals.

14. **Are you accepting new ideas or cutting-edge technologies for vaccine development such as new techniques developed in synthetic biology or was this type of project more targeted in your previous call?**
    The use of cutting edge technologies are encouraged and accepted in this call if the research team is convinced that such technologies will deliver the required improvement within the 30-month period of the project.

15. **Is a detailed plan for the marketing process with the industrial partner required? Transition from research laboratory to industry.**
    It is not necessary to have an in-depth plan, but an initial plan would be an asset to the proposal.

16. **What countries are targeted for this call?**
    This is a global call where research institutions are invited to submit proposals that will improve livestock vaccines in sub-Saharan Africa and south and Southeast Asia. The previous call was also a global call and did not target African countries only.

17. **Is it recommended or absolutely mandatory to have a partner in a developing country?**
    While partnership with developing country participants is not mandatory, applicants are strongly encouraged to include such collaboration in their application or describe a clear plan of how this will be implemented. This requirement will be considered during the review of proposals.

18. **Is it helpful to include support letters from developing country partners including a vaccine company in the developing country expressing their interest in future involvement? (If not involved at this stage.)**
    Support letters are not necessary at this stage but proposals are evaluated on effective partnerships with organizations in sub-Saharan Africa, South and South East Asia. See Page 7 of the call.

19. **Is it recommended that we have a Canadian partner for this call?**
    This is a global call; as such, applicants from all countries are welcome to apply without restrictions for partnership.