Livestock Vaccines Innovation Fund (LVIF)

Global Call for Research Proposals:
Innovations in Livestock Vaccines

Frequently asked questions

1. What is your definition of “innovation” in this Call for proposals?
   “Innovation” as used in this call implies all technologies that have been developed in the past decade or so and are capable platforms for driving accelerated R&D (antigen discovery to proof of concept) of next generation livestock vaccines and vaccine combinations. These include, but are not limited to: synthesis of minimal functional genome, various aspects of nanotechnology, combinations of next-generation sequencing, bioinformatics, systems biology and proteomics to develop rapid antigen identification and testing platforms, de novo synthetic antigen design and testing, e.g. construction protein or nucleic acid scaffolds and other state of the art approaches that combine synthetic biochemistry and biophysics. The “innovative” approach must demonstrate clear deviation from traditional or conservative vaccine development methods and a significant gain in time to proof of concept. A combination of empirical/traditional vaccine development strategies and innovative platforms can be used in the project as long as the innovative approach is prominent and the process clearly demonstrates an accelerated vaccine R&D pathway to proof of concept. It is important to emphasize that the technologies mentioned above are only meant to be illustrative and not a comprehensive list of the appropriate technologies or exclusive of others.

2. Can the proposal be based on a disease outside of the 23 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 23 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
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 organisations 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. Is this a one-off Call or will it continue thereafter?
This is a one-off Call. Successful projects with robust research outputs towards proof of concept products by year 2 may receive further funding in an independent competitive call for an additional 18 months. Other calls from the LVIF will be forthcoming and target other aspects along the vaccine development continuum.

13. 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.

14. 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.