ICT-AGRI ERA-NET

Call 2015

Guidelines for Irish Applicants

All applications will be treated in confidence and no information contained therein will be communicated to any third party without the written permission of the applicant except insofar as is specifically required for the evaluation of the proposal.

1. IRISH PARTICIPATION IN ICT-AGRI FUNDING CALL 2015

DAFM in association with Teagasc invite applicants from Teagasc and Higher Education Institutes (HEI's), including Universities and Institutes of Technology in Ireland to submit joint research proposals under ICT-AGRI Call 2015, either as partners or coordinators.

The total indicative funding provided by DAFM and Teagasc in respect of this Call shall not exceed €700,000.

2. PROPOSAL REQUIRMENTS

Proposals must meet the following criteria:

1. Multi-disciplinary
2. Address Call Theme Area 2
3. Closely align with Sustainable Healthy Agri-Food Research Plan (SHARP) Strategic Research Agenda (http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/research/)
4. Align with National policy documents (i.e. the Government's Action Plan for Jobs, Food Harvest 2020)

Proposals may need to be evaluated for relevance against the 14 priority areas identified in the report of the National Research Prioritisation Exercise[1] before submission to external review.

DAFM and Teagasc will require a national application form to be completed for any successful Irish based partners emerging from the process.

3. ELIGIBILITY

All suitable public RPOs in Ireland that can demonstrate the necessary research capabilities including Teagasc, Universities and Institutes of Technology are eligible to participate and submit proposals. Public RPOs based in Northern Ireland are not eligible. Industry involvement is also encouraged and welcome on a self-financing basis.

Irish applicants can apply for projects under Theme 2. Proposed projects should have a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 1 – 4 at the start of the project and a TRL of 5 – 6 at the end of the project.

[1] http://www.djei.ie/publications/science/2012/research_prioritisation.pdf;
http://www.djei.ie/science/technology/rpmaps.htm

4. FUNDING RULES

The grant rate may be up to 100% funding for eligible costs. Eligible costs are the costs necessarily incurred in carrying out the research project as described in the project proposal. They must fulfil the following conditions:

- Be wholly necessary for the project.
- Be incurred during the timeframe of the project.
- Be recorded in separate financial accounts that will be maintained throughout the duration of the project and reported on as required.

Irish funding is only available for Theme 2 projects. Applications must include at least two Irish RPOs. The total funding between all Irish RPOs shall not be greater than €350,000 per project. This must include €88,000 for a four-year Walsh Fellowship-funded PhD (€16,000/year stipend plus a maximum of €6,000/year fees).

The ICT-AGRI Call 2015 invites proposals for three-year projects. Thus, the scientific work should be completed within the first three years in collaboration with the European partners. The overall project will have to present a final report to ICT-AGRI after three years. The fourth year is primarily for completion of the PhD and writing up of the thesis. For this fourth year, a minimal Irish budget should be included to cover the cost of the Walsh Fellow fees and stipend and some minimal travel and consumables.

Eligible costs will be allowed in the categories of:

(a) Staff Costs

Costs will be allowed for additional staff specifically hired to carry out work on the project including Walsh Fellow postgraduate students, postdoctoral researchers/contract researchers, research assistants and research technicians. It excludes permanent staff employed by the institutions concerned. Staffing costs must take account of any budgetary provisions that apply (e.g. all new staff including researchers recruited on contract to fill posts on projects must be costed at the first point of the pay scale).

(b) Equipment

Major items of equipment are not eligible for funding; however, a computer may be included in the budget if it can be shown to be necessary to the desk studies and otherwise unavailable. It should be clear exactly what the equipment is, thus the use of brand names is discouraged. The location of the equipment should be clearly indicated. VAT should be applicable in accordance with the institutions accounting procedures.

The costs of durable equipment to be charged to the project shall be calculated according to the following formula:

$$\left(\frac{A}{B}\right)xCxD$$

A = the period in months during which the durable equipment is used for the project after invoicing

B = the depreciation period for the durable equipment: 36 months for computer equipment and 60 months for all other items of equipment

C = the actual cost of the durable equipment

D = the percentage of usage of the durable equipment for the project

(c) Travel & Subsistence

Travel and related subsistence costs for personnel may be claimed. These costs must be specifically related to a project. Rates paid cannot exceed those for the Public Sector and airfares should be economy class.

(d) Consumables

Items of consumables acquired for and used on the project may be allowed. All consumables should be necessary and directly related to the carrying out the work of the project. A consumable is defined as an item which is used up / expires / is exhausted over the duration of the project. It does not include items such as laboratory coats, general safety equipment, detergents, etc. – these should be met through the overheads. Subscriptions to scientific journals or membership of institutes are not eligible for funding.

(e) Overheads

Up to 30% of the direct costs of scientific-type research not including equipment and subcontracting costs (25% for desk-based socio-economic/policy type analysis) will be funded.

(f) Other agreed costs e.g. Sub-Contracting

DAFM and Teagasc may agree to fund costs, which are relevant to approved projects and are not covered by the categories cited above.

With regard to external assistance, subject to obtaining good value for money, every possible effort must be made, in the first instance, to build an Irish institutional project consortium capable of completing all tasks proposed in the project. However, where this is not feasible, a consultant / industry partner may be brought on board by way of providing external assistance to an institutional project partner. Where such external assistance is proposed, full justification should be provided. The external assistance is eligible for 100% of costs for services rendered. However, as a subcontractor it has no claim to any of the results or Intellectual Property generated by the project. The estimated cost, including a breakdown of costs for individual items is required, however a possible supplier should not be named at this stage as the relevant procurement rules will have to be adhered to should the application be successful.

5. INFORMATION & PUBLICITY

Prospective applicants should note that:
(a) As this is a public good measure, the research team is required to disseminate results / outputs of the project. However, dissemination activities should take account of the need to generate and/or protect any IP arising from the research. Where knowledge generated has IP value, then it should be protected in accordance with the code of practice employed in the RPO(s).

(b) In disseminating research achievements, public RPOs should acknowledge that funding was provided and administered by DAFM and Teagasc.

(c) DAFM and Teagasc may publicise details of applications and awards made under this measure.

(d) Information supplied to DAFM and Teagasc may be disclosed in response to a request under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and in accordance with the conditions of that Act.

6. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Institutions must adhere to the new national IP policy "Putting public research to work for Ireland" document

(http://www.enterprise.gov.ie/Publications/Intellectual_Property_Protocol_Putting_Public_Research_to_Work_for_Ireland_PDF_2_12MB_.pdf), launched in June 2012.

Successful applicants are required to take necessary steps to:

(a) Preserve and protect such intellectual property rights including, where appropriate, applying for patent registration; and

(b) Actively exploit any discoveries, inventions or processes resulting from the research, by means of commercial licensing arrangements and otherwise

Whenever possible, IP shall be managed for the benefit of enterprise development in Ireland.

Where relevant, researchers are required to discuss research outputs and potential IP with their TTO.