



NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

**CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING UNDER THE
STRATEGIC RESEARCH FUND (SRF)**

Application Period: 21st July, 2021 to 27th August, 2021

BACKGROUND

The Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) through the Ministry of Higher Education, administers the Strategic Research Fund (SRF). The Fund is implemented by the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). The SRF was established to support basic and applied scientific Research and Development (R&D) in identified strategic national priority areas. The Fund is further aimed at enhancing research capacity in Zambia. The NSTC is calling for **Research Proposals** for funding under the **Strategic Research Fund 2021 - 2022** funding cycle.

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION

1. RESEARCH THEMATIC AREAS

Research Proposals must fall within the specified research fields under each thematic area given below. Proposals falling outside these thematic areas and research fields will **NOT** be considered.

A. Agriculture and Forestry

- i. Development of crop pests and animal diseases management technologies
- ii. Agriculture diversification to combat climate change
- iii. Climate change mitigation and adaptation

B. Energy and Environment

- i. Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- ii. Waste management
- iii. Energy storage and grid modernisation

C. Industry and Mining

- i. Use and development of 3-D and Artificial Intelligence technologies
- ii. material science
- iii. Sustainable small-scale mining technologies

D. Health

- i. Infectious and Non-communicable diseases
- ii. Nutritional diseases
- iii. Indigenous knowledge medicine and systems



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2. FUNDING CEILING AND EXPENSES

The overall indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is **Eight Hundred Thousand Kwacha only (ZMW800,000.00)**

Only 'eligible costs' can be covered under this grant. The categories of costs that are eligible and non-eligible are indicated below:

Eligible costs:

- i. Research materials and supplies
- ii. Research equipment and accessories
- iii. Local travel
- iv. Special services
- v. Dissemination of results and publications
- vi. Institutional Administrative cost at 5% of the total budget
- vii. Monitoring and Evaluation cost at 5% of the total budget

Non-Eligible costs:

- i. Salaries and Honoraria for the research team
- ii. Institutional financial management costs such as audit fees
- iii. Insurance costs not related to the project.

3. PROJECT DURATION

The planned maximum project duration shall not exceed **three (3) years**.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The Call is open to researchers in public and private R&D institutions registered with NSTC in the funding cycle. Individual researchers not affiliated to institutions will be required to be affiliated to an NSTC-registered institution. **Applications from institutions not registered with NSTC will not be considered.**

Note:

- Researchers that are Principal Investigators on ongoing SRF funded projects will not be eligible to apply for funding of another project. However, they can participate as part of the research team.
- The research proposals should be practical and focused towards knowledge generation and problem solving in the identified priority research fields.
- Proposals that demonstrate a strong multidisciplinary and collaborative approach among researchers and institutions in Zambia are encouraged.
- Early career researchers, females and differently abled persons are strongly encouraged to apply.



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5. HOW TO APPLY

A **Research Proposal** must be submitted by completing an **Application Form** obtainable from the NSTC website (www.nstc.org.zm) and can be requested from the e-mail address (nstc@nstc.org.zm).

Applicants **must** read **SRF Guidelines** for further application guidelines before applying. The SRF Guidelines are available on the NSTC website.

Applications must be submitted electronically to: nstc@nstc.org.zm

The closing date for submitting applications is **27th August, 2021**. **Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.**

6. EVALUATION, REVIEW AND SELECTION OF PROJECTS FOR FUNDING

Proposals will be evaluated and reviewed by independent experts. Selection of projects for funding will be on merit and priority, taking into consideration the following:

- Scientific merit and quality of the proposed research;
- Evidence of the capacity and capability of the research teams and significant contribution to and leadership in the proposed field
- Demonstration of collaboration, inter and multi-disciplinarity of the proposed research
- Originality, innovativeness of the proposed research and strong innovation/commercialization potential
- Potential for human capital development for research and innovation
- Consideration for gender and inclusivity dimensions

Note:

- i. **Applications that do not meet ALL the requirements stated in this Call and that do not adhere to ALL instructions in the Application Form will not be considered.**
- ii. **Proposals will be selected on merit and priority and the decision of the Fund Management Committee shall be final.**

For further information and inquiries, contact NSTC on Telephone: +260-211-255854, E-mail: nstc@nstc.org.zm or srf@nstc.org.zm