



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

PRODUCT IMPROVEMENT OF NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES – CHIBWANTU AND MUNKOYO

Call Opening Date: 21st July, 2021

Call Closing Date: 20th August, 2021

1. BACKGROUND

The National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), established by the Science and Technology Act No. 26 of 1997, is a statutory body through which Governments directs policy in the development and application of science and technology in the country. The Council is mandated to promote, regulate and coordinate research and innovation, mobilise resources for science, technology and innovation (STI) and advise Government on STI matters, among other functions.

The NSTC is one of the Science Granting Councils (SGCs) participating in the Science Granting Councils Initiative (SGCI) for Sub Saharan Africa. The SGCI seeks to strengthen the capacities of the participating SGCs in supporting research and evidence-based policies that will contribute to socio-economic development of the countries.

The Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) is a private sector led, membership driven organization established in 1985, registered under Cap 119 of the Societies Act of Zambia. The Association's mandate is to represent the manufacturing sector and lobby for measures that are supportive towards growth of the manufacturing sector to 20% of GDP by 2030.

With the increasing focus on research for impact to crystallise the STI development and commercialisation agenda, the NSTC recognises the importance of Public Private Partnerships (PPP) in Research & Innovation (R&I) and fostering strategic linkages between research and industry. To this end, the NSTC secured a Grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada, under the auspices of the SGCI, to fund the operationalization of Public Private Partnership (PPP) in Research & Innovation (R&I) in Zambia. The Grant is based on a co-funding arrangement between the IDRC on one hand and the NSTC on the other.



In fulfilment of one of NSTC's specific function of determining broad directions, stimulating co-ordination and initiating special projects in science and technology, the NSTC is applying part of the said funds to support a research project in **Food Technology, focused on the non-alcoholic beverage sector**.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

To support a research project in the food industry with focus on non-alcoholic beverage product improvement.

3. RATIONALE OF THE CALL

In Zambia, the food and beverage sector contributes 46% of the country's manufacturing industry (ZAM, 2020). This sector is comprised of a large number of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The SMEs usually face challenges to penetrate the market due to sub-standard quality of their products. The context of this project is to address product improvement of two local/indigenous beverages; munkoyo and chibwantu.

The Council is therefore calling for project proposals to improve the quality of the two local beverages to make them competitive on the market.

4. GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION

4.1. Scope of the Call

The research project must address the following:

- i. Develop new products or improve the quality of existing products.
- ii. Improve the consistence of the products
- iii. Improve the product shelf life
- iv. Optimise the production of the products
- v. Alternatives to the traditional fermentation agents



4.2. 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.

4.3. Project Duration

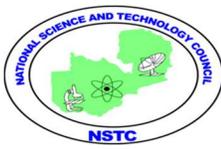
The planned maximum project duration shall not exceed **Sixteen (16) months**.

4.4. Eligibility

This Call is open to:

- i. Public and private science and technology Research and Development (R&D) Institutions/Centres and Institutions of Higher Learning that are registered with NSTC, working with indigenous beverage producers
- ii. Individual researchers (shall be required to be affiliated to an NSTC-registered institution). working with Indigenous beverage producers

Females and differently abled persons are strongly encouraged to apply.



4.5. How to Apply

Applicants must submit a **Research Proposal** by way of completing the prescribed **Application Form**, which is available on the National Science and Technology Council website; (www.nstc.org.zm). Applicants can also request for the Application Form from the following E-mail address: nstc@nstc.org.zm.

Applications must be submitted electronically to: srf@nstc.org.zm and copied to nstc@nstc.org.zm. Hard copy applications will **not** be accepted.

The Closing Date for submitting applications is **20th August, 2021**. **Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.**

5. REVIEW AND SELECTION OF RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSALS

- i. Proposals will be evaluated and reviewed by independent experts. Selection of projects will be on merit and priority, taking into consideration the following:
 - Scientific merit and quality of the proposed project;
 - Multidisciplinarity of the proposed project;
 - Originality and innovativeness of the proposed project;
 - Collaboration, and capacity of the research team
- ii. The decisions of the Approvals Committee shall be final.

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