



Call for Research Proposals

ACIAR IDRC Research Program on One Health

- This Document is a Call for Research Proposals for funding support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and the Canadian International Development Research Centre.
- The purpose of this call is to promote new ideas and thinking around the application of One Health approaches within Agrifood systems in Southeast Asia to benefit human, animal and environmental health.

Deadline: 31 December 2021

PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATIONS [HERE](#)

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1. About ACIAR and IDRC

The [Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research](#) is Australia's specialist international agricultural research agency. We broker, facilitate, invest in and manage strategic partnerships with public and private research institutions to improve the productivity and sustainability of agricultural systems and the resilience of food systems in partner countries. Our efforts contribute significantly to Australia's aid program and the achievement of its goals through projects designed to produce specific research outputs that translate to development outcomes.

The [International Development Research Centre](#) (IDRC), a Canadian Crown corporation and part of Canada's foreign affairs and development efforts, funds high quality research in developing countries to create lasting change on a large scale. We achieve this by providing developing-country researchers with financial resources, advice, and training to help them find solutions to local problems; by encouraging knowledge sharing with policymakers, researchers, and communities around the world; by fostering new talent by offering fellowships and awards; and striving to get new knowledge into the hands of those who can use it.

2. One Health: An Opportunity for more Inclusive Agrifood Systems

One Health promotes a collaborative, multi-sectoral and integrated approach to ensure the health of humans, animals and our environment. One Health acknowledges that you cannot achieve optimal health of the global human population if, for example our agrifood systems are broken, our environment is polluted, or veterinary systems and services are not adequately resourced to control zoonotic diseases and ensure the safety of our food that comes from them. The ACIAR IDRC Research Program on One Health (AIRPOH) is a new initiative jointly funded by ACIAR and IDRC to support strategic research for development that will have a transformative impact on human, animal and environmental health into the foreseeable future. AIRPOH is seeking innovative interventions that demonstrate and promote the multiple benefits of improved agrifood systems to humans, animals and the broader environment under One Health.

There is a growing recognition that more research into the operationalisation and governance aspects of One Health is required to move One Health from a 'nice idea' to the underlying force and driver of policy and programmatic decisions for sustainable food production, environmental management and livelihoods. One Health approaches in many countries start on an unequal footing; there is a material imbalance of funding and prioritisation, with much less given to animal and environmental health services compared to human health services in most parts of the world. This is particularly true for those public goods and services that are essential to human health, such as abattoir inspection, water management, food safety and the surveillance and control of zoonotic diseases. Towards addressing this imbalance and operationalising the One Health concept, ACIAR and IDRC will provide a valuable contribution to the evidence base for inclusive One Health approaches through the production and promotion of regional public goods at a greater scale.

3. Research Supported by this Call

The key objective of this call is to contribute to the continued operationalisation of One Health in southeast Asia through a portfolio of interconnected projects that address one or more of the following themes:

- i) The co-benefits of endemic zoonoses and foodborne disease control on national human and animal health systems, livestock trade, food and nutrition security (FNS) and household resilience.
- ii) The role of agricultural land use change on human and/or environmental health, and the opportunities for innovative perspectives and approaches in thinking around sustainable and safe food production from a One Health perspective.
- iii) Innovative integrated disease control models/tools that i) re-examine current disease control models for improvement and/or ii) identify novel approaches to address issues such as animal and human health service delivery and environmental management.
- iv) Evidence and policy for strengthening animal health systems to better support regional public goods such as food safety, pandemic preparedness and ecosystem health.

In addition to alignment with one or more of the above themes, projects must demonstrate:

- A clear pathway to development impact through the packaging and communication of evidence suitable for the intended next and end-users of the research
- How social and gender equity will be central to the research approach (See Annex A for further information)
- How capacity and leadership for One Health research for development exists in the project institutions, and how this will be promoted and supported in the focus countries

AIRPOH is nested within a larger body of One Health funding within both ACIAR and IDRC. For this reason, the following research areas will **not be covered** under this call:

- Research into diseases of pandemic potential, including novel pathogens.
- Epidemiological or other baseline research without a clear focus on applied One Health interventions.
- Research that does not clearly demonstrate the integration of One Health intersectoral and/or transdisciplinary approaches.

4. Budget and Program Duration

AIRPOH has a total budget envelope of approximately AUD \$4.3 million (CAD \$4.0 million), from which up to 5 projects will be funded. Preference will be given to applications requesting a budget of up to

a AUD 1 million (CAD 935,000). ACIAR and IDRC reserve the right to increase or decrease the requested amount as deemed appropriate. Contracting of successful projects is expected to occur by July 2022 and run until July 2025 (maximum 3 years). Projects will adhere to ACIAR's contractual processes and project reporting requirements (see below under 'Review Process').

5. Eligibility

The focus of the research – and the lead organisation – must be based in one of the following eligible countries: **Timor-Leste, Indonesia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Lao PDR and the Philippines.**

Projects are permitted to undertake research in partnership with colleagues and/or institutions from one or more additional countries from this list. ACIAR and IDRC may also give preference to applications from Universities or national research agencies over central government departments. Organisations in countries that are **not** focal countries for the research – including outside the Southeast Asia region - can still be involved in the project as Third Parties¹ and should be listed in the application.

However, applicants should note that the **lead organisation** cannot be a United Nations Organization or a CGIAR centre, given these agencies receive Australian and Canadian aid funding via other windows.

Additional considerations for teams submitting applications:

1. The lead organisation must have legal personality and be willing and able to enter into a contractual agreement, as the Commissioned Organisation, with ACIAR. Standard contract and Intellectual Property conditions can be found [here](#). The framework for the contractual engagements with the other applicants (as between ACIAR and the Commissioned Organisation and each other) will be determined between ACIAR and the Commissioned Organisation during the development of a full project proposal document under Stage 2 of the 'Selection and ACIAR Peer Review Process' set out in section 7.2 below.
2. Demonstrated diversity in the team members according to the [ACIAR gender guidelines](#) will be a major added advantage. We will use the 40:40:20 rule as a guide to assessing this. That means teams should aim for a minimum of 40% female team members and 40% male team members. We will count people who are making a significant time contribution to the project (>15% full-time equivalent).
3. The lead organisation must have submitted a completed application form (i.e. all required fields filled in and submitted on time). We will be unable to accept applications after the end date or by any other means than the online application form.

¹ Third-Party Organizations are sub-contracted by the Lead Applicant Organizations for specific services. These organizations may include United Nations organizations and CGIAR members. Eligible third-party organizations are i) not required to be located in an eligible country; ii) may include experts in the role of advisors or consultants to the project, but not as principal or co-principal investigators; and iii) may not receive more than 20 percent of the total budget of the proposed project.

4. The activities outlined in the application form must be focused on research for development. To be considered research there must be some evidence that the team can conduct a systematic investigation, with defined methods to establish facts and draw conclusions. There may be some development or capacity-building activities, and we encourage the use of participatory research approaches.

6. Selection Criteria

Criteria	Percentage of Score (%)
<p>Innovative and Robust Research</p> <p>The application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers new approaches and/or interventions that support the practical application of One Health • Demonstrates a robust research logic that clearly links research questions, methodologies, activities, outputs and outcomes • Has a feasible and clearly defined Pathway to Research Impact that focuses on moving One Health approaches forward in Southeast Asia 	50
<p>Feasible and Achievable Approach</p> <p>The application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a compelling rationale for the chosen research focus and the relevance to One Health is adequately explained • Focus intervention/applied research likely to be achieved in the 3-year timeframe • Scale and scope of the proposed project justifies the requested budget 	30
<p>Cross-Cutting Issues</p> <p>The application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clearly promotes intersectoral and transdisciplinary partnerships and processes promoted by One Health • Positions gender and social inclusion centrally to the research approach (see Annex A for more detail) • Demonstrates skills/experience/position/location of the team that are relevant to the proposed scope and activities • Has thought through environmental impacts – both positive and negative – 	20

7. Submission and Review Process

7.1. Timeline

ACIAR and IDRC invites eligible applicants to submit an electronic application through ACIAR's website to this Call for Research Proposals before the deadline: December 31st, 2021 at 11:59pm Australian Eastern Daylight-Saving Time (AEDT). Automated acknowledgements of receipt will be generated at

the time of submission to all applicants whose completed application was received before the closing date and time. Note only successful applicants will receive notification of shortlisting.

7.2. Selection and ACIAR Peer Review Process

Successful funding through AIRPOH will be via a two-stage selection process:

Stage 1. Submission of ideas will be via an online form linked on the ACIAR website. The site will remain open from the announcement of the call **until 31 December 2021**. An ACIAR-IDRC assessment team will assess the submitted applications against the eligibility criteria and rank them against the selection criteria. The assessment team may seek additional clarifying information from eligible teams to assist them in this process. The assessment team will shortlist up to five projects to the total value of ~CAD\$4 million.

Stage 2. Successful stage 1 ideas will be invited to submit a full project proposal document under ACIAR's standard research commissioning process. This will be assessed and refined through a series of meetings between ACIAR, IDRC and the project team. If deemed successful at stage 2 this document will be used as the basis for project contracting. Note that there is a significant amount of work to develop an ACIAR full proposal, so please bear this in mind when submitting your ideas. ACIAR and IDRC may also place deadlines on the submission of full proposals and/or remove applicants from the Stage 2 development process if timely progress cannot be demonstrated.

8. How to Apply

All applications must be submitted in English through an online application system by **December 31st, 2021 at 11:59pm AEDT**. Proposals received after the submission deadline WILL NOT be considered. Please visit www.aciar.gov.au to access the online application system and any related documentation.

9. Enquiries

Any enquiries related to the Call and application process should be sent by e-mail to ResearchLivestock@aciarc.gov.au. All enquiries should be received on or before **17:00 AEDT on December 10, 2021** in order to receive a response prior to the deadline date. Any enquiries which affect all applicants received on or before the above-mentioned deadline will be posted on the AIRPOH website with the donors' responses to those inquiries, without revealing the source of the inquiries.

10. Additional Considerations

- i) By way of submitting an application, the applicants consent to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers within IDRC, ACIAR and any external reviewers involved in the assessment and selection processes of proposals. If selected for funding, the applicants further consent to the disclosure of their name and the title of the proposed project

in any announcement of selected projects. Unsuccessful proposals will be destroyed within 180 days after the close of the application period.

- ii) After an institutional assessment of an applicant's organization is performed, ACIAR reserves the right to require the applicant's organization to partner with another institution as a condition of receiving the funding.

Annex A:

Ensuring gender equality and social inclusion are central to the research project

ACIAR and IDRC strive for equality in all aspects of our work. Inequalities exist across multiple and intersecting categories of identity, including, but not limited to, gender, sexuality, age, class, race, caste, ethnicity, citizenship status, religion, and ability.

Achieving equality varies by place and must be situated within the socio-cultural, political, and economic contexts in which ACIAR and IDRC work; similarly, inequalities are not static and can vary and change over time.

In order to develop a full and nuanced understanding of local health, environmental, and food systems, and entry points for promoting positive transformation through a One Health approach, it is critical for research projects to consider the roles of sex, gender, and other diverse identities and experiences, and their relationship to the history, structures, and functioning of these systems.

The questions below are intended to guide you in reflecting how your research is rooted in social and gender equality and how you can strengthen these dimensions in your proposal.

Does your proposal intend to understand and address gender inequalities and their underlying causes?

Do you have a stand-alone objective on addressing social and gender equality? How are other objectives framed in relation to addressing gender and inclusion?

Is there a logical theory of change of how your research objectives will promote or lead to gender equality? What impact will your research proposal have on social and gender equality?

In the context of your proposal, what are the power structures and power dynamics that exist between men and women, and other groups which underpin gender inequality? What are some possible avenues to address and change these conditions?

How does your research problem affect men, women, boys and girls? How is this affected by identities or experiences such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class, income levels, where individuals live (e.g., rural, urban settings)?

Do the members of your research team understand contextual gender issues? Do you have the right skills and experience in your consortium? Which of your team members will take the lead in designing, implementing, monitoring, and assessing your project's objectives to address gender inequality and inclusion?

Does your research team have a good balance between male and female scientists or other identities?

Have you clearly budgeted for gender activities and staffing? Have you allocated sufficient time and resources to strengthen the capacity of your team, partners, and other stakeholders on gender and inclusion issues?

Will your project identify clear outcomes and indicators with respect to social and gender equality? Are these integrated into project measurement tools? For example, do you plan to collect and analyze sex-disaggregated data? Have you planned to undertake a pre- and post-project gender analysis?

Please note the following assumptions that ACIAR and IDRC deem important to avoid:

Assuming women or a certain group do a task so that they will benefit is not adequate. Instead, it will be important for your project to identify the gender inequality and outline steps by which your research will help re-define the power dynamic.

Adding “especially women and marginalized groups” after each of your objectives is not adequate – you must be able to define how gender dynamics are present in your research objectives. Research rigour and quality is critical.

Addressing gender in the project is not just the responsibility of the gender experts only – rather, the entire team must understand gender dynamics at play in your research.

Addressing gender takes real resources. Saying gender cannot be integrated because you don’t have resources is not acceptable. Budget for gender resources at the outset.

The woman in the team does not always qualify as the gender expert. Get real gender expertise and partnerships that bring in the necessary skills.