

**SINGAPORE FOOD STORY (SFS) R&D PROGRAMME
1ST GRANT CALL (THEME 1: SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOOD PRODUCTION)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

KEY DATES

1. When will the grant call be launched?

The first grant call for Sustainable Urban Food Production R&D theme will be launched on 18 December 2019. This grant call will close on 31 March 2020, 12pm.

2. When can applicants expect research proposals to be awarded?

(Latest as of 30 Sep 2020) Successful applicants will be notified of in-principle approval for the award of the grant by Dec 2020.

3. When will the other grant calls for Future Foods and Food Safety Science and Innovation theme be launched?

The grant calls for Theme 2: Future Foods and Theme 3: Food Safety Science and Innovation will be launched on 18 December 2019 and in the second half of 2020 respectively.

For more information on Theme 2 grant call, please refer to: <https://www.a-star.edu.sg/Research/Funding-Opportunities/Overview>

HOW TO APPLY

4. How can I participate in the Grant Call? How to submit?

All applications have to be submitted on-line via the Integrated Grants Management System (IGMS) and endorsed by the host institution's Director of Research or equivalent in order to be eligible. Separate submissions outside of IGMS will not be considered.

5. I am new to IGMS. How can I register/create an account?

To access IGMS, entities are required to set up a CorpPass.

Only one CorpPass is required for each entity. To start setting up CorpPass, each entity is required to appoint up to Two CorpPass Administrators. The CorpPass Administrator can create other CorpPass accounts, including managing users' access to digital services (e.g. IGMS).

Accounts created by the CorpPass Administrator need to be activated in order to start transacting on behalf of the entity, by setting up CorpPass IDs and passwords.

More information on setting up CorpPass can be found via the following link: <https://www.corppass.gov.sg/corppass/common/userguides>

ELIGIBILITY

6. Who is eligible to participate?

Principal Investigators (PI) from all Singapore-based institutions of higher learning (IHLs), public sector agencies and not-for profit research laboratories as well as companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions, are eligible to apply.

7. Can the lead PI be non-local?

Yes but the Lead PI who leads the research must be based in Singapore¹. Collaboration with foreign organisations and experts in the capacity of Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), or as Collaborator is allowed.

8. Can the research be conducted overseas?

The lead PI must be based in Singapore. All funding awarded must be used to carry out the research and innovation activities in Singapore unless approved in the grant.

9. Are local/international collaborations allowed?

The Institutions may engage in research collaborations with local or overseas collaborators/enterprises. Such collaborations are strongly encouraged to translate the research to achieve “30 by 30” goal. Contracting out the whole or substantial part of the research work is not permitted.

Local enterprises are defined as companies registered in Singapore with at least 30% local shareholding.

FUNDING

10. Are collaborators permitted to receive funding?

Collaborators are not permitted to receive, directly or indirectly, any part of the funding, whether in cash or in the form of assets acquired using the funding or otherwise. All assets acquired using the funding must be located in Singapore and maintained within the control of the Institutions.

11. What is the funding support level?

¹ Lead PIs must have a minimum of 9 months employment with a Singapore-based organisation (Singapore-based institutions of higher learning (IHLs), public sector agencies, not-for profit research laboratories as well as companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions), and fulfilling at least 6 months of residency in Singapore over a period of 1 calendar year.

Singapore-based IHLs, public sector agencies and not-for profit research laboratories/institutions will qualify for up to 100 percent of the approved qualifying direct costs of a project. Companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions will only qualify for up to 70 percent of the approved qualifying direct costs of a project.

Support for indirect costs of research may be provided, only for Singapore-based IHLs and not-for-profit entities. Funding support up to 20 percent of the total qualifying approved direct costs (i.e., total direct costs less exceptional items) will be allowed. This is subject to approval from SFA.

12. Will proposals that do not cover research under the 4 targeted areas be funded?

Yes, funding will be set aside to support proof-of-concept research in areas within the tropical aquaculture and urban agriculture space, which are not covered under the 4 targeted areas. Applicants are encouraged to take on new approaches that challenge the current state-of-the-art technologies within the tropical aquaculture and urban agriculture industries. Research Proposals should clearly articulate the long-term target of the proposed research effort as well as its potential contribution to the '30 by 30' goal. Funding support for such research shall be capped at a quantum of up to **S\$0.5 million for a period of up to 18 months.**

Proposals with a funding quantum and/or project length that exceed(s) the limits stated may be considered. Strong justifications will be required.

13. Will proposals need to adhere to the Terms and Conditions for Competitive Grants?

Yes. However, applicants are to note that the list is being subject to revision. Finalised details will be made available in January 2020.

14. What are the items that will / will not be funded under the SFS R&D Programme?

Please refer to Appendix I of the Grant Call Information Sheet.

15. Are indirect / overhead costs supported?

Yes but only for Singapore-based IHLs and not-for-profit entities. This will be capped at up to 20% of the total qualifying direct costs and subject to SFA's approval. Examples of indirect cost include rental, utilities, facilities management, telephone charges, internet charges, etc.

16. What is the mechanism for fund disbursement?

Fund disbursement will be via reimbursement, on a quarterly basis.

17. Who to enquire for further information?

All enquiries can be directed to: SFA_RND@sfa.gov.sg