Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi
Corpus Fund Guidelines

GUIDELINES FOR ICAR YOUNG SCIENTIST PROJECT (YSP)

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research strives to encourage young scientists through different modes and means. Considering the potential of capacity building of scientists through research and science, recently ICAR has been able to secure the support from Government of India under which a dedicated fund i.e. Corpus Fund has been earmarked for encouraging young scientists. The purpose of this allocated corpus fund is to help scientists financially for excelling their research projects. Such research proposals are to be invited by the Council in competitive mode and Council is putting its efforts to motivate young scientists to enable them with scientific aptitude and influence their ultimate impacts on Indian agriculture/agricultural science. In order to pursue this programme, the following guidelines will be followed for its smooth implementation:

1. **Name of the programme:** ICAR-Young Scientist Project (YSP)

2. **Sponsor of the Award:** Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi

3. **Aim of the programme:** To encourage the talented young scientists (below 40 years) working in different fields of agriculture by providing them with financial support for their research and science.

4. **Inviting proposals:** Time to time the Council will make announcement/notify to invite the proposals from the ICAR scientists.

5. **Eligibility Criteria for Considering the Proposal**
   i. The scientist should be less than 40 years of age (at the time of submission of final proposal)
   ii. Only ICAR Scientists can apply for this project (as Project Investigator), although they can establish the collaboration with CAUs/SAUs on some certain activities/components.
   iii. The proposed project should be under the mandate of ICAR-Research Institute(s) where scientist(s) is/are working.
   iv. All the young scientists with MSc plus 3 years research experience/PhD plus 2 years research experience and possessing regular positions in ICAR Institutes are eligible for grant under this scheme/project.
   v. The period of the project should be of maximum 3 years duration. Only in exceptional cases (to be decided by the SMD level Committee), the proposal for extension of project duration (beyond 3 years) will be reviewed.
   vi. The proposal should demonstrate for using novel and frontier areas to tackle the issue(s)/problem(s) and drawing conclusions/obtaining solutions.
   vii. Proposal should be submitted in the prescribed proforma along with 2 pages CV of PI and 1 page CV of CoPI and not in any other format.

viii. No proposal will be considered in absentia of scientist(s) who is proposing the proposal.

ix. Scientists working in remote areas may be encouraged for participating in this programme.

x. The multi-disciplinary approach (intra ICAR Institutes level) in the proposal will be appreciated.

xi. Scientists should be interested to put his/her hands on research/science and minimal financial support from the Council will be provided. For example, engaging large number of contractual human power (such as SRF/RA/YP) and equipment will be discouraged. However, for the field and lab support, contractual staff (semi-skilled labour) may be engaged on requirement basis.

xii. Costly equipment/implements will not be considered in the proposal and only need based minor equipment/implements should be proposed.

6. Way of submission of Proposal

The project proposals will be invited and screened at the level of Subject Matter Division (SMD). Thereafter, shortlisted project proposals will be screened by the committee at SMD level through online presentation.

7. Administration of the Projects/Scheme:

The complete proposal shall be screened at the level of concerned SMD. There shall be an Advisory Committee consisting of Deputy Director General from the concerned SMD (Chairman), 2-3 Subject Matter Specialists (external) and one ADG (from concerned SMD) as Member Secretary (decided by the concerned DDG); one ADG from related discipline as Member to process the proposals and finalize the same; special invitee. The shortlisted proposals will be invited and the same may be presented by the PIs in physical mode in presence of Secretary DARE & DG ICAR and all DDGs to ensure multi-disciplinarity and avoid duplication. Thereafter, the approved proposals will be sent to IFD for release of funds.

8. Monitoring and Review

- The approved projects will be monitored/reviewed twice by the concerned SMD. NASF will also facilitate SMDs in monitoring and review. NASF will notify the start and closure of the projects.
- The sanctioned projects, if found un-satisfactory for their mandated performance on the aim of project, will be liable to be terminated by the committee at any time.
- After approval of a new Project by Finance/SMD/DG, and its acceptance by the PI, the first release for the whole year will be made within 15 days from the date of issue of the authorization by the concerned SMDs. The grantee Institution will be expected to submit the Audit Utilization Certificate of the preceding year within one year.
- ADG (Member Secretary) will coordinate the project activities. On periodic basis SMD will submit the report.
- Performance of the project will be reviewed online after every six months and next budget will be release only after satisfactory performance of project.

9. **Nature of Programme and Budget Mechanism**

Maximum budget limit is Rs. 50 Lakhs for three years duration. The Budget will be allocated directly to the Institute after the approval of the project.

10. **Budget Utilization**

The approval/sanction of these projects and release of funds will not follow financial year, but from date of sanction/release of funds to the next year. After completing every year of earmarked activities of sanctioned project, the concerned PI of project would submit AUC along with progress report to concerned SMD with a copy to Technical Coordination Division in prescribed format.

11. **Objective of Project/Scheme**
    i.   Creating environment for innovative research among the young scientists in frontier areas
    ii.   Developing the base for targeting high end agricultural research by the young scientists.
    iii. Promoting impactful publications, processes, protocols, products, methods, models, etc.
    iv.   Finding solutions for the issues in agriculture of regional/national importance.
    v.   Creating a good environment among the young scientists on innovative research and science in a respective subject.
    vi.   Developing good evidence incrementally for the science and insights for policies.

12. **Concerns of Intellectual property rights**

The rights on any intellectual property shall be vested in the ICAR, who shall be the absolute and full owner. All issues of IPR, Commercialization, Data Management and Publication, if any arise from the project, will be dealt as per prevailing set guidelines of ICAR/DARE/GoI.

Format for Inviting Project Proposal from Young Scientist Project (YSP)

1. Title of the project:

2. Specific priority/problems to be addressed:

   Sub-priority area:

3. Participating Institutes:

   3.1 Name of the Lead/Sole Institution (in case of single-institution project proposal):

   3.2 Name(s) of the Cooperating Institution (s)

   (Please give the details of the lead/sole institution as **Annexure 1** in a given format: *please mention the page number of the first page of the details of each Institution against each name*)

4. Participating Scientists.

   4.1 Name and designation of the Principal Investigator (PI)

   4.2 Name(s) and designation(s) of the Co-Principal Investigator (s)

   (Please give a brief CV of the PI and each Co-PI and their area of specialization as **Annexure 2** in the prescribed format: *please mention the page number of the first page of the CV against each name*)

5. Objectives of the project (not more than three)

6. How the achievements of these objectives will add to scientific advancement and/or technological advancement in agricultural research and development under which the project is being proposed? (**Not more than 1 page**)

7. Please give in brief, the status of research related to the objectives of the proposed project. (**Not more than a page**. Please quote only the land-mark references. The details of the references that you quote may please be given as **Annexure**)

8. The knowledge and gaps identified on analysis of state of art on related research area in achieving the objectives (give in brief as bullet points).

9. Propose your working hypothesis for the project based on the analysis of gaps.

10. Give the major activities under each Objective (not more than three under each objective).

11. Give the major expected outputs from the project.

12. Provide list of deliverables year-wise against each activity, outputs and outcomes in the proforma table given as **Annexure 3**.

13 a. Total budget   **(Rs. in lakhs):**
    b. Summary budget tables:

14. Breakup of budget for each year (in the format given in **Annexure 4**)

15. The detail proposal of the project may be provided in **Annexure-5**

16. Please   indicate   if   any   IPR   issues   are   involved   in   using   a technology/methodology/product/knowledge /equipment used for research under the proposed project. Please certify that the ICAR will be free from any IPR related encumbrances if the proposed project is approved and funded under the Corpus Fund.

17. Name and Signatures with date of the PI and Co-PIs

    PI   Co-PI (1)   Co-PI (2)   Co-PI(3)   Co-PI (4)

Signature and seal with date of the Heads of institutions/Organizations involved in the Project

Details of Young Scientist's Institution

1. **Name**   :

2. **Name of Institution/organization**   :

3. **Date of Establishment**   :

4. **Full address with phone number/**   :
    fax number/e-mail id and website

7. **Full address, designation, phone**   :
    number/fax number/email id of the
    head of the institution

8. **Total Research Staff strength (Category**   :
    -wise) of the institution (as on
    Date of project submission)

9. **Major mandate of the Institution:**

    1.
    2.
    3.

10. **Please give four achievements of the institution/organization in the field or closely related field of the project proposal as bullet points with appropriate references.**

11. **Number of scientists and**   **:** Scientist   - _____
    technicians working in the field or   Technicians - _____
    closely related field of the
    sub-project

12. **How many externally funded**   :
    research projects are currently in
    operation in the institution

Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the PI & Co-PIs
(A separate sheet may be used by Co-PIs)

1. Name   :

2. Designation   :

3. Address   :

4. Tel / Fax No.   :

5. E-mail   :

6. Date of Birth   :

7. Name of Institute / Centre   :
    Postal Address of the Institution with
    Tel/ Fax No. and E-mail

8. Highest Qualification   :

9. List not more than 5 major achievements in the past five years

    -
    -
    -
    -

10. List not more than 5 best publications in the past five years

    1.

    2.

    3.

    4.

    5.

11. List not more than three best research projects in which the scientist has worked as PI and as partners

- Name of the Projects :

12. Name list of awards received during the career

13. Name list of fellowships received during the career

14 Name the institutions you collaborated nationally and internationally

List of Expected Deliverables from the Project

Objective	Activity	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
		Deliverable	Outcome	Deliverable	Outcome	Deliverable	Outcome

Year-wise Breakup of Budget

S.No.	**Head of project cost**	Year-1	Year-2	Year-3	Total
A.	NON RECURRING COST				
B.	RECURRENING COSTS				
	Sub-Total (A+B)				

Please Give The Detailed Technical Programme of Proposal

1. **Objectives**

2. **Work done/Research in the relevant areas**

3. **Methodology**

4. **Work plan**