



## **AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project (Phase 2)**

**African Union – African innovation – JKUAT AND PAUSTI Network Project**

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**February 25, 2022**

### **INTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT**

#### **AFRICA-ai- JAPAN PROJECT INNOVATION RESEARCH GRANTS (2022/2023)**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project (Phase 2) is a joint initiative between JKUAT and PAUSTI supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). **The Mission of the Project is to strengthen capacity of students and staff within JKUAT and PAUSTI.**

The project would like to extend invitation for proposals which contribute to Kenya's national targets, "Vision 2030" and the Big Four Agenda as well as to some of the 17 goals spelt out in "Sustainable Development Goals" by United Nations. Research proposals can be submitted to one of the following 4 categories: (1) Long-term research projects, (2) Single year research projects, (3) Start-up research assistance and (4) Selected research topics. The requirements for each category are explained below;

**Category One;** Long-term research projects are scientific research projects which are interdisciplinary in nature, involving more than 4 different thematic areas and drawn from at least 3 colleges of JKUAT. Inclusion of young researchers (MSc or PhD students) as well as industrial and international research partners is mandatory. This category of projects will be headed by senior experienced researchers, preferably PhD holders and will run for a period of 2-3 years. Periodical self-monitoring assessments are required. The maximum research budget per year should not exceed **Four Million Kenya Shillings (Ksh. 4,000,000)**. A clear work plan for the entire project period is needed. The proposal should also have a detailed work plan for the first year, spanning from May 2022 to the end of February 2023. Continuation of the project will be determined every year based on the achievement of yearly targets.

**Category Two;** Single year research projects that are aimed at supporting research proposals approved by four of the Africa-ai-Japan innovation centers namely: iPIC, iCMoB, iCB and iCCATS. **Such proposals could directly be targeted towards supporting young researchers, including MSc or PhD students.** However, the main investigator should be a senior researcher or supervisor of MSc or PhD qualification. The young researcher (MSc or PhD student) should be indicated as a co-researcher. Periodical progress reports signed by the supervisor are required. The Principal Investigator is responsible for technical and financial reporting. The maximum research budget should not exceed **Six Hundred Thousands Kenya Shillings (Ksh.600,000.00)**. The proposal should have a work plan spanning from May 2022 to the end of February 2023.

**Category Three;** This is a once off start-up research assistance that is designed for young academic staff of JKUAT/PAUSTI, who were awarded PhD degree within the last 3 years (after April 2019). The aim of this category is to kick start post-doctoral research activities of the candidate. Such proposals should include new research ideas, justification, and the expected output of the project. Alignment to Kenya government's national development strategies and SDGs is critical. Such proposal should be recommended from one of four innovation centres of Africa-ai-Japan: iPIC, iCMoB, iCB or iCCATS. Periodical progress reports will be required from each researcher. The maximum research budget should not exceed **Six Hundred Thousands Kenya Shillings (Ksh.600,000.00)**. The proposal should have a work plan spanning from May 2022 to the end of February 2023. Applicants who were previously awarded this category are not eligible to apply.

**Category Four;** Specially selected research topics are impactful project proposals targeting solving current problems within the society/community or industry. This category targets accelerating economic development towards industrialization based on strong foundation of Science, Technology and Innovation. In this regard,

the project invites researchers to propose highly competitive and impactful research projects at JKUAT in the selected research topics of “**Food and Health**”, “**Energy and Environment**” and “**ICT application in either Food and Health or Energy and Environment**”. Proposing researchers should show strong evidence of professional achievement in the related field of specialization. The proposing team should have at least 2 experienced academic staff members and should demonstrate inclusion of postgraduate students (MSc or PhD). Interdepartmental collaborations are encouraged. Periodical research progress assessments are required. The maximum research budget should not exceed **Three Million Kenya Shillings** (KSh. 3,000,000). A clear work plan for the entire project period is needed. The proposal should also have a detailed work plan for the first year (May 2022 to February 2023). The project will be reviewed annually and may be renewable based on the achievements/scientific outputs in a specific year.

The research proposal should be prepared by filling the template provided by the AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project and **the submission deadline is at 5:00 pm on March 25, 2022.**

## 2. ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA:

The Innovation Research grant is intended for JKUAT/PAUSTI staff and students from the following disciplines:

- i. **Innovation and Prototyping Integrated Centre, iPIC**; Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mechatronic Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Biosystems Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, Geomatic Engineering or other related disciplines.
- ii. **Innovation Centre for Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, iCMoB**; Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Biology, Aquaculture, Chemistry, Pharmacy, or other life sciences.
- iii. **Innovation Centre for Bio-resources, iCB**; Horticulture, Food Science, Nutrition, Postharvest Technology, Animal Health and Production, Agricultural and Resource Economic or other related disciplines.
- iv. **Innovation Centre for Computer Application and Technological Solutions, iCCATS**; Computer Science, Information Technology and any other related disciplines.

### Note:

1. Candidates who hold a grant for postgraduate studies funded by JKUAT or any other organization should give a full disclosure of the current grant to justify the request for additional funding.
2. Priority will be given to proposals with JKUAT/PAUSTI staff as Chief Investigator.
3. Joint proposals with industry collaboration and global partners are encouraged as long as JKUAT/PAUSTI staff is the Chief Investigator.
4. The pathway to impact at community or industrial development is very important.
5. The contact details (email and telephone) of the Chief Investigator should be included.
6. Budget estimate should be clearly indicated and should follow the regulation set by the AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project.
7. The AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project reserves the right to terminate sponsoring research projects when irregularity, mismanagement or non-progress are observed.

In case of questions about the eligibility criteria, applicants should contact the AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project office at [jicapausti@jkuat.ac.ke](mailto:jicapausti@jkuat.ac.ke) prior to submission of the application.

## 3. APPLICATION PROCESS

All applicants must fill in the prescribed formats, which will be provided on the AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project office website (<https://jkuat.ac.ke/projects/africa-ai-japan/africa-ai-japan-project-innovation-research-fund-2022-2023/>). The proposal should be converted from Word to PDF and saved named as follows;

Category1: Category1\_PI Name\_PI College\_IR2022-23 (e.g. Category1\_Dr. Shohei Aoki\_COETEC\_IR2022-23)

Category2: Category2\_PI Name\_PI College **Co-Researcher Name** IR2022-23

(e.g. Category2\_Dr. Shohei Aoki\_COETEC\_Mr. Eric Njuguna\_IR2022-23)

Category3: Category3\_PI Name\_PI College\_IR2022-23 (e.g. Category3\_Dr. Shohei Aoki\_COETEC\_IR2022-23)

Category4: Category4\_PI Name\_PI College\_IR2022-23 (e.g. Category4\_Dr. Shohei Aoki\_COETEC\_IR2022-23)

Dully filled applications should be submitted on or before **March 25, 2022 at 1700hrs** via the following Google Form link.

Category 1 submission link: <https://forms.gle/9ZkYDinsLF5FcWB29>

Category 2 submission link: <https://forms.gle/57LjcT8hsrRuWXQA>

Category 3 submission link: <https://forms.gle/CizYzsv9pyywr1iJ6>

Category 4 submission link: <https://forms.gle/eZcXegY1rKSb4Vhy9>

**NB: Only shortlisted** candidates will be communicated to and they will be invited to a presentation on their areas of interest for final selection.

Late applications, hand written proposals as well as incomplete applications will not be considered.

For more information on *iPIC*, *iCMoB*, *iCB* and *iCCATS*, please visit:

AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project (Phase 2) Office, JKUAT  
P.O Box 62000-00200, Nairobi, Kenya  
Engineering Laboratory Building (ELB 213), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor RM 213  
Website: <http://jkuat.ac.ke/projects/africa-ai-japan/>

## **Basic Financial Regulation for Innovation Research Grants, 2022/2023**

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereafter JICA) funds for the Innovation Research activities is subject to audit and transparency. Therefore, it is important that clear budget estimates are provided which complies with JICA's rules and regulations.

### **1. Responsibility for receiving, supervising budget expenditure**

Kindly note, in the case where spending of funds is not in conformity with approved budget, the financial report being insufficient (e.g. lack of clear receipts, etc.), the financial supervisor for the research project shall bear all the responsibilities for any loss and unclear expenses.

### **2. Disbursement of research budget**

Budget will be disbursed from the Project Office to each researcher through the Principal Investigator by Cheque. Each PI will open a bank account under "the name of supervisor (JICA 2022/2023)" at Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), JKUAT Branch. Only funds from JICA are allowed to be transacted in the above bank account (no personal fund can be deposited to the bank account) and all the funds have to be managed strictly based on this regulation.

All the expenses for each researcher have to be within the approved budget. The balance has to be returned to the Project Office with the final financial report on/before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

### **3. Items NOT covered by the JICA Innovation Research Fund**

The grant **does not** support expenditure on the following items; **(1) Food and drink, (2) Airtime for Phone and Internet, (3) Purchasing any items from outside of Kenya, (4) Fuel cost, (5) Allowance and honoraria except labour cost, (6) Tuition fees, (7) consultancies fees, (8) Subscription fees, (9) Gadgets (PC, Printer, Smartphone and Tablet)** . In addition, **equipment normally found in JKUAT laboratories may not be supported** by this grant.

### **4. Expense Items allowed under the JICA Innovation Research Fund**

#### **(1) Consumables, reagents, chemicals, tools and other materials**

ONLY consumables, reagents, chemicals, tools and other materials used for this research project can be covered under this expense. The Project Office may directly procure the item if its unit cost is above Kshs. 50,000.

#### **(2) Field Trip (Per Diem, Accommodation and Transportation)**

This grant does not support international travelling costs at all. Therefore, the frequency of field trips should be minimized as much as possible and the supervisor of each team must travel together with co-researchers and/or students.

The researchers are required to submit the technical report within a week after completion of field trip to the Project every time. Technical report shall cover purpose of trip, duration, destination, and report about activities in the field and lesson learnt/recommendation/way forward, etc.

Unit cost for accommodation and Daily Service Allowance (DSA) shall be guided by JICA regulation on local travel. Concerning transportation, public transport (bus and matatu) shall be used at all times. However, if there is a need to use a taxi, you will need to indicate the reason for that option. The researchers are advised to keep the receipts all the time including transport cost.

#### **(3) Casual Labour**

Labor cost does NOT support activities such as data collection and analysis, but allowed ONLY for temporal basis such as cultivating field, feeding animals, watering plants and so on. And its hiring period shall be short (a few days or a week). Innovation Research Fund does NOT have a provision for stipend.

Thus, the total cost for hiring casual labour should be **below 15% of the total estimated budget**. The Project Office reserves the discretion to approve budget estimates of casual labour for each project.

When researchers hire anyone for casual labour to support their research activity, they need to specify the reason why they need such support or service, the TORs and the duration of hire. The amount of payment should be in line with the JKUAT rates for casuals.

#### **(4) Publication / Conference**

The actual cost for publication and conference shall be remitted to PI's bank account once the Project Office confirms an acceptance letter to PI or co-researcher for the publication. However, for payment outside of Kenya via SWIFT transfer may be conducted by the Project Office directly.

#### **(5) Stationery**

The purpose of this research grant is capacity development, thus there is limitation of budget usage for stationery. The total cost for stationery should be **below Kshs. 30,000**.

#### **(6) Laboratory Service outside of JKUAT and out of Kenya**

Researchers shall submit a plan at the beginning of research for laboratory service which is provided outside of JKUAT and Kenya. The plan should include the institution, type of test/analysis, why you need to outsource and so on for the official approval by the Project Office.

### **5. Submission and approval of Budget Breakdown and Gantt chart**

The successful awardees will be requested by the Financial Team of AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project to submit a Budget Breakdown and Gantt chart with clearly itemized budget lines. Please note that your request should be in line with our financial regulations. Total budget applied for must not exceed the Advertised limit. Any applications exceeding the limit will not be considered.

For more information, please visit

AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project Office, JKUAT  
P.O Box 62000-00200, Nairobi, Kenya  
Engineering Laboratory Building (ELB 213), 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor RM 213