



AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project (Phase 2)

African Union – African innovation – JKUAT AND PAUSTI Network Project

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INTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

AFRICA-ai- JAPAN PROJECT INNOVATION RESEARCH GRANTS (2021/2022)

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 build 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 and the Big Four Agenda, namely, Food and Nutrition Security, Affordable Housing, Manufacturing and Universal Health Coverage, 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 3 categories: (1) Long-term research projects, (2) Single year research projects, and (3) Start-up research assistance. 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 3-4 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 April 2021 to the end of March 2022. 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 can be directly associated with 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 maximum research budget should not exceed **Six Hundred Thousands Kenya Shillings (Ksh.600,000.00)**. The proposal should have a work plan spanning from April 2021 to the end of March 2022.

Category Three; Start-up research assistance is designed for young academic staff of JKUAT/PAUSTI, who were awarded PhD degree within the last 3 years (after April 2018). The aim of this category is to kick start their post-doctoral research activities. Such proposals should include new research ideas, justification, and the expected output of the project. Alignment to Kenya government's Big Four Agenda 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 April 2021 to the end of March 2022.

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 26, 2021**.

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, *i*PIC**; 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, *i*CMoB**; Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Microbiology, Biology, Aquaculture, Chemistry, Pharmacy, or other life sciences.
- iii. **Innovation Centre for Bio-resources, *i*CB**; 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, *i*CCATS**; 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 prior to submission of the application.

3. APPLICATION PROCESS

All applicants must fill in the prescribed formats, which will be provided from the AFRICA-*ai*-JAPAN Project office. Dully filled applications should be received on or before **March 26, 2021 at 1700hrs in soft copies** (Email: jicapausti@jkuat.ac.ke).

Download link for application format: [Category1](#), [Category2](#), [Category3](#)

Application format is also available on the website: <http://jkuat.ac.ke/projects/africa-ai-japan/africa-ai-japanproject-innovation-research-grants-2021-2022/>

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 *i*PIC, *i*CMoB, *i*CB and *i*CCATS, please visit our website:

<http://jkuat.ac.ke/projects/africa-ai-japan/>

Regulation for Innovation Research Grants, 2021/2022

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (hereafter JICA) fund 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

Please 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 Chief Investigator by Cheque. Each researcher/financial supervisor will open a bank account under "the name of supervisor (JICA 2021/2022)" 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 25th February 2022. Researchers are required to submit a financial report to the Project Office on quarterly Basis (June 2021, Sept 2021, Dec 2021, Feb 2022). ALL THE FINANCIAL REPORTS HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED ON TIME.

<Technical Report>

Please note that all the research teams will be required to report progress of the research activities twice;

- (1) Around the beginning of October 2021 and (2) around the middle of March 2022.

Submission and presentation of Technical Report is mandatory. If failure of the above will be observed, the Project Office will not disburse further funding.

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) **Any expenses for your thesis**, (7) **Tuition fees**, (8) **consultancies fees**, (9) **Subscription fees**. (NOTE that institutional overheads/charges, administration fee are not accepted under this grant. Emphasis on budget allocation should be placed on expendable supplies.

If you have any questions on any items for disbursement, please contact the Project Accountant or the Project Coordinator of AFRICA-ai-JAPAN Project (Phase 2) **BEFORE ORDERING ANY ITEM(S)**. Otherwise reparation will be required for any inappropriate spending.

4. Notable points for budget expenditure

(1) Equipment (Specify and describe each item)

Equipment normally found in JKUAT laboratories may not be supported by this grant. Additionally, printers are not allowed.

Any single equipment procurement must be below KSH350, 000. For several equipment procurement, total cost must be below KSH800, 000. Any single item \geq KSH30, 000 should be supported by three quotations. Any equipment procured shall remain property of JKUAT.

(2) Purchasing of consumables and other materials

Concerning the purchasing of any consumables and materials, JICA requires three quotation for the below cases.

- Where unit cost of an item is more than KSH30,000.00.
- Where total cost for purchasing several items/materials from one single company/supplier is more than KSH 70, 000.00.

For quotation process, three quotations shall be collected from three different companies, then select the best company in terms of the price and quality. If the quality of product(s) of the cheapest company does not satisfy the demand of the research team, then quality can take priority over price. If your team has such a situation, please let the Project Office know **before ordering/purchasing any items**.

(3) Travel and transport cost

Research activities are to be implemented within the campus of JKUAT to enhance knowledge and experience to PAUSTI/JKUAT (not to researcher as an individual). Local travel such as local traveling costs, accommodations, allowances, should not be more than 5% of the total budget. This grant does not support international travelling costs at all. Daily service allowance shall be guided by JICA regulation on local travel. Therefore, the frequency of field trips should be minimized as much as possible and the supervisor of each team must ascertain its necessity carefully and approve all field trips every time.

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.

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.

(4) Per Diem (Daily Allowance and Accommodation Allowance) for field trip

Before a field trip, a proposal must be submitted including objective(s) and output(s) which must be as stated in the original and approved research project proposal.

The per diem (daily allowance and accommodation fee) of a trip will follow the JICA rate.

(5) Labour cost

When researchers hire anyone on short term basis and/or 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 is in line with the JKUAT guideline.

(6) Budget Breakdown

List the items you requested funding for in the budget, describing their function, explaining their cost, and justifying their use in this research (**Attach clear explanatory notes of the budget**). The prevailing Market prices will be considered for all items, However, transfer of funds from one budget line to another is discouraged during implementation.

For more information, please visit

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