



Call for research proposal

Food security remains a major issue for many African people. Malnutrition remains a problem with high prevalence of wasting and stunting, micro-nutrient deficiencies but at the same time one observes an increase in unbalanced diets. Overweight and diet-related chronic diseases are rapidly increasing indicating that food shortage per se is not the sole problem.

Food diversity is present in many countries but availability is limited due to limited processing. Many food sources that potentially could improve dietary quality remain unexploited and largely go to waste. Food losses are important from primary production to handling and conservation. In order to improve the dietary quality there is a need to increase the consumption of fruits and vegetables. This can curtail micro-nutrient deficiencies and prevent overweight.

The present call aims at supporting research to optimize local food sources. This could be applying conservation techniques and developing new food items that can be used to improve the diet. The objective is to find ways to improve overall dietary quality.

The focus would have to be on low tech solutions that can be applied in a wide variety of settings. The study should include the documentation of applicability. This could be an acceptability study in the target population or the documentation of an intervention study where the product is used to improve the diet. Multi-disciplinarity in the proposal and the documentation of effects are therefore paramount.

Examples of studies could be: making better use of abundant seasonal fruits and vegetables in basic products that can be further used for making other foods. Development of a processed food to be used in school meals or for complementary feeding. Development of bread by finding novel ways to substitute wheat in varying degrees with other cereals or dried fruit and nuts.

Focus is on plant based foods.

Who can apply?

You are an African researcher.

You are younger than 40.

You belong to a not for profit organization.

Condition for selection

Letters of intent will be screened by the Scientific Committee of Nutrition Third world. A limited selection of candidates will be invited to submit a full proposal. Selection will be predominantly on the innovative aspect of the protocol rather than on scientific track record.

Duration and Funding.

The maximum duration of the project is two years with a maximum budget of 31.800 Euros.

How to apply?

Send a **two page** letter of intent structured as follows:

Title

Introduction: state the problem and describe the innovative aspect.

Methodology: methods to be used, research design, describe in essence what you will do.

Applicability: describe how you think the product can improve dietary quality of the target group

Sustainability: what will happen after the project finishes.

Impact: How do you think the product will be make changes.

Participants, position and affiliation.

Budget details.

Add a short CV of the principal investigator

Deadline: 25 January 2012

Send your application to: info@nutrition-ntw.org