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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE FUND (NASF)
(Indian Council of Agricultural Research)
Room No. 707, KAB -I, Pusa, New Delhi - 110012

F. No. NASF/ABA-6018/2016-17/235

Dated: 27.02.2017
28

To,

The Vice-chancellor,
Visva-Bharati, Central University,
P.O. Santiniketan-731235,
District-Birbhum, West Bengal

Subject: Sanction letter for the Research project entitled, "Elucidating the mechanism and assessing amelioration potential of *Ocimum* and *Lucas* in stress-induced impaired homeostasis on growth and reproduction in Zebrafish" under the National Agricultural Science Fund (NASF)

Sir,

The Empowered Committee (EC) of the NASF, considered the proposal on "Elucidating the mechanism and assessing amelioration potential of *Ocimum* and *Lucas* in stress-induced impaired homeostasis on growth and reproduction in Zebrafish" in its 27th meeting held on 20th January, 2017 and approved for implementation under the NASF. The total cost of this project is ₹ 179.31050 Lakh (Rupees one crores seventy nine lakhs thirty one thousand and fifty only) for a period of 3 years (March 2017 to February 2020). The financial sanction of the competent authority for the project is now being accorded for the period from 1st March 2017 to 31st March 2018. The sanction for the period from 1st April 2018 till the end of the project i.e. 29th February 2020 will be conveyed later. **No expenditure should be incurred beyond 31st March 2018 from the sanctioned amount (including the savings as on 1st April 2018) till the competent authority accords the sanction for 1st April 2018 to 29th February 2020.** The Principal Investigator (PI) and the Co-operating Centre Principal Investigators (CCPIs) are the following.

1. Name of the Lead Centre

Visva-Bharati (A Central University), Santiniketan-731 235, West Bengal

2. Names of Cooperating Centre

Tezpur University (A Central University), Sonitpur-784 028, Assam

3. Name & Designation of the Principal Investigator

Dr. Sudipta Maitra, Associate Professor, Visva Bharati (A Central University), Santiniketan - 731 235, West Bengal

4. Name & Designation of the Cooperating Centre Principal Investigators

Dr. Satya Sundar Bhattacharya, Assistant Professor Dept. of Environmental Science
Tezpur University (A Central University) Sonitpur-784 028 Assam

The details of the project are given in the project document in **Annexure I**. The head-wise and year-wise budget (both consolidated and for each partner) are given in the **Annexures II to VII**.

The Sanction will be subject to the following conditions:

1. The Principal Investigator (PI) and the Lead Centre will have the overall responsibility of carrying out the work shown in the project as given in **Annexure I**. Each Cooperating Centre Principal Investigator (CCPI) and the Cooperating Centre will have the responsibility for work assigned to the Centre under the project by the competent authority of NASF and the centre will fully cooperate with the Lead Centre and the NASF authorities.

2. All the Centres and the scientists will follow the rules and regulations of the ICAR set for the operation of the projects sanctioned under NASF.

3. Financial and Procurement

i. Funds will be released by the Secretariat of the NASF directly to the institutions of the PI (Lead Centre) and to the institutions of the CCPIs (Cooperating Centre).

ii. The Lead Centre and each of the Cooperating Centre will submit to the ADG (NASF) head-wise Utilization Certificate (UC) in the prescribed format duly verified by the concerned Finance Officer(s) twice every financial year: the first will be the UC for the immediate preceding financial year ending 31st March and will be submitted by the 15th of April and the second a six-monthly UC for the period from 1st April to 30th September of the year by the 15th of October. Each Cooperating Centre will submit a copy each of the aforesaid UCs to the PI.

iii. For facilitating smooth and speedy implementation of the activities envisaged under the sanctioned project, the PI and the CCPI from each Cooperating Centre will exercise powers for executing the project to the extent of sanctioned funds of his/her respective component of the project as given in **Annexure VIII**.

iv. The Heads of the Lead Centre and the Cooperating Centre(s) will ensure that the project runs in an efficient manner, provide laboratory space, salary, logistic facilities and services required for the same and monitor its progress on a regular basis.

v. **The expenditure will be made only on the approved items.** The amount sanctioned under each head/subhead is the maximum budgetary limit for that item but the actual expenditure will not exceed the amount actually released by the ADG under the head for the period concerned. In case of public organizations the expenditure under any head shall be made by the Lead or Cooperating centre in accordance with their own institutional prescribed rules/ norms. However, in cases of conducting workshops, meetings, and cost of Advisory Committee meetings norms and rules enclosed as **Annexure IX** should be followed. **Any re-appropriation from one head to another is not permissible.** All institutions including those belonging to the ICAR will maintain a separate ledger for the project. In case of private and non-governmental organizations the expenditure will be made in accordance with ICAR/NASF rules. In case any guidance is required in this matter, the Lead or Co-operating centre should take the guidance of the Finance and Accounts Officer of the nearest ICAR institutes with information to the ADG, NASF.

vi. There will be **no revalidation of unspent funds released for recurring expenditure** from one financial year to the next financial year. For funds released for non-recurring expenditure such revalidation will be allowed in exceptional cases. Funds revalidated once will not be revalidated for the second time.

vii. Accrual accounting system has to be followed for the funds of the project without any exception. The reporting of annual accounts will also be in accordance with the accrual accounting system.

viii. At the end of each financial year, a Utilization Certificate will be submitted by the designated Finance Officer/F&AO/Comptroller of the Lead and each Cooperating Centre by 15th April indicating the head wise expenditure incurred in the previous year and resultant unspent balances/savings. Only on the receipt of UC, any funds will be released for the next financial year after adjusting for the savings from the previous financial year. Each of the Lead and the Cooperating Centre will submit an Audited Utilization Certificate (AUC) for the previous financial year by the 30th September of each year in the prescribed proformas. The Central Government/State Government Institutes will get the certificate from the CAG/State AG. The Universities (General and Agricultural) and the non-ICAR institutes will have the option to get the certificate from their statutory auditors or from a Chartered Accountant empanelled by ICAR (Please see the website <http://www.icar.org.in/nfbsfara/index.html> for the list of empaneled chartered accountants and their remunerations). The private and NGO institutions will get the certificate from a Chartered Account empanelled as given in the above website. The cost of hiring the Chartered Accountants will be met out of the institutional charges. In case it is not sufficient operational cost budget may be used with the permission of ADG, NASF.

ix. Only after the receipt of the AUC and the half yearly UC any funds for the second half of a financial year will be released.

x. The salaries of the RAs and SRFs will be according to ICAR norms prevalent during the period of appointment (copy of the current norms in vogue is enclosed as **Annexure X**). Adequate transparent and competitive procedure should be adopted for the selection of the contractual staff.

xi. The ICAR will have no liability, whatsoever, for the SRFs and RAs or any other staff employed under the Project on contractual basis during and after expiry of the project term.

xii. Institutional charges will be available to the Institution concerned for meeting expenditure on overheads, institutional services, monitoring, reporting, and audit which are required by the Lead or Cooperating Centres to support the project. Expenditure under this item should be properly accounted for.

xiii. Funds for every year will be released after the submission of UC and on the basis of demands for funds, scientific/technical reports, submission of data and recommendations of the PI and the ADG regarding the satisfactory achievement of research targets set for the period. The UC should be submitted head wise duly verified by competent finance officer of the institution concerned indicating head wise closing/unspent balances.

xiv. Submission of research publication, data management and cost of publication need to be as per ICAR guidelines.

4. Monitoring:

(i) This sanction letter, and the research project (as given in **Annexure I**) approved by the EC will be treated as a Work Programme Agreement between the ICAR and the Lead and the Cooperating Centres.

- (ii) ADG, NASF will form an Advisory Committee consisting of two external members (one as Chairman and the other as a member) who are very eminent scientists in the field of the project. The ADG or his representative, the Head of the Lead Centre or his nominee, the CCPI(s), Head of Finance and the Head of Administration of the Lead Centre will be the members. The PI of the project will be the Member Secretary. The recommendations of the Advisory Committee may be reviewed by the NASF. The NASF decision will be final on all recommendations/suggestions of the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committees would be constituted by the ADG/Director. ACs may recommend additional fund of Rs. 1.5 lakhs to NASF within the approved budget for consideration during midterm evaluation/monitoring.

ACs will be evaluating, monitoring and review the project once in a year. Besides, it may visit laboratory/field/sites in consultation with NASF office.

Chairman(s) of ACs may participate during the annual review meetings of the projects, based on requirements.

The names of the External Members of the Advisory Committee and the powers delegated to the Committee are given in **Annexure XI**.

As the Member Secretary, the PI will conduct one meeting of the Advisory Committee in one year to formulate the plan of work, review and monitor, the progress of work and, suggestions for the improvement in the project.

- (iii) The PI will submit to the ADG an Annual Report for the previous year (ending 31st March) by 15 April of every year in a prescribed Proforma(s).
- (iv) The PI and the CCPIs may be called to present their progress before the EC or in a Workshop organized by the NASF whenever required.
- (v) A final report of the project will be submitted to the ADG within 30 days of the closure of the project with all technical and financial details. This deadline will be strictly followed.
- (vi) The ADG or his representative will visit the project institutions as and when required.

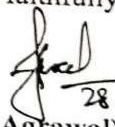
5. Intellectual Property Rights:

- (i) The rights on any intellectual property shall be vested in the ICAR, who shall be the absolute and full owner.
- (ii) The sharing of income from Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) from the project would be in accordance with the proportion/percentage given below:
- (a) Share of ICAR: 60%
- (b) Share of Project Participating Institutions: 40%. Out of this 40%, the share of major/inventing partner(s) will be 50% and the rest 50% shall be shared equally among other partner(s) if any.
- (iii) The intellectual properties may be licensed against a fee (premium) which may be in a lump sum or with royalty for a fixed/defined period of time.
- (iv) The intellectual properties to be licensed on exclusive basis or non-exclusive basis will be decided by the ICAR depending upon the welfare/gains considerations or public consideration or public welfare embedded in the intellectual properties.

- (v) Whereas a minimum price for the intellectual properties is to be evaluated, it may not be rigidly adhered to; and the offers made by different parties shall be given due consideration in consultation with the Empowered Committee on the basis of recommendations of ICAR. The spirit behind this should be to commercialize the intellectual properties in the best interest of the investment.
- (vi) If one or more of the partners (i.e., the Lead or Cooperating Centre) of the Project is (are) interested to commercialize the intellectual properties, it may be given preference over other parties at mutually agreed terms and conditions between the interested partner and the ICAR.
- (vii) The ICAR will hold the right to use the intellectual property for non-commercial purposes in public interest.
- (viii) The services of the inventor(s) rendered subsequent to the transfer of intellectual property may entail earning of charges/fees etc., distribution of which will be as per the clause stated in para 4(ii) above.
- (ix) It will not be incumbent upon the ICAR to protect every Intellectual Property (IP) generated from the Project. On refusal by the ICAR to own the IP, the inventor(s) shall be free to protect it at their own cost provided ICAR has no objection to it in public interest.
6. The PI and the CCPI will not be removed/ transferred from the project without the prior consent of the Empowered Committee of the NASF.
7. The decision of the Empowered Committee of the NASF will be final in all matters of the project.

Receipt of this letter may please be acknowledged. The PI is requested to make copies of the sanction letter along with all the Annexures and distribute the same to the CCPI(s) and the heads of the Lead and Cooperating Centres.

Yours faithfully,


28.2.17
(P.K. Agrawal)
ADG (NASF)

Copy for information and necessary action to:

- (i) PI/CCPIs of the project.
- (ii) Heads of Cooperating Centres
- (iii) F&AO, NASF Secretariat
- (iv) Office copy