

WORLD FISH AND BFRF GRANTS

‘Innovating aquaculture to evaluate selected gender-responsive options for aquaculture to improve nutrition amongst poor rural and urban consumers in Bangladesh’

Background

The WorldFish GIZ/BMZ¹-funded project ‘Aquaculture and the poor: improving fish production, consumption and nutrition linkages’ aims to secure supplies of, and access to, fish that meets the food and nutrition requirements of poor and vulnerable consumers, particularly women and children. The overall project purpose is to generate knowledge of gendered fish consumption patterns amongst poor consumers, and to identify and communicate to key stakeholders, technology, institutional and policy innovations that support sustainable development of fish value chains and meet the present and future requirements of poor and vulnerable consumers.

Key findings to date:

- Bangladesh fish supply has grown substantially in recent years, but consumption by poorest groups in rural and urban areas appears to have changed little.
- Aquaculture supply continues to increase, but research suggests that farm fish production has not led to significant increased consumption by the poorest groups at the scale needed.
- In many different aquaculture production technologies, the selection of fish species does not yet reflect the demand for inexpensive and nutrient-rich fish by poor consumers.
- This situation raises key questions around how technologies, institutional and policy innovations that are needed to support sustainable development of aquaculture production and value chains that meet their present and future food and nutritional requirements.

¹ GIZ translates into ‘German Corporation for International Cooperation’ who mainly acts on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

The Competition

The Bangladesh Fisheries Research Forum, with support from WorldFish through a GIZ/BMZ research project, is offering competitive research grants for Bangladesh research groups to conduct research on innovations for aquaculture (fish farming) that can improve access, consumption and nutrition of fish amongst poor rural and urban consumers, with the priority for vulnerable women and children. Research should be planned to deliver outputs within 2016, and should cover one or more of the following dimensions of the aquaculture-food system:

1. 'Nutritious ponds': improving productivity and nutrition outcomes from small-scale, homestead aquaculture
2. 'Nutritious value chains': getting nutritious fish to poor consumers in rural and urban settings
3. 'Nutritious products': post-harvest handling and processing, food marketing and labelling. Fish-based products for women, children and infants
4. 'Nutritious urban farming': bringing production close to the urban consumer through urban aquaculture for the urban poor
5. 'Nutritious business investment': Business and investment models for scaling nutrition sensitive aquaculture'

Up to five small research grants will be offered to Bangladesh-based researchers and research organizations. Each grant will be up to Taka 450,000.00. The grant facility will be managed by the Bangladesh Fisheries Research Forum with financial and management support from WorldFish.

Guideline:

Requirements: Applicants must demonstrate the ability to conduct research of high quality in the topic proposed, leading to research outputs that offer high potential to deliver improved nutrition to rural and/or urban poor consumers. We are open to receiving applications of qualitative and quantitative approaches along with mixed methods. Research implemented by and with the poor – “action research” – will be given a priority. Researchers and institutions from throughout Bangladesh are eligible.

Budget and duration: Each grant will be a maximum of Taka 450,000.00. Up to 5 grants are expected to be awarded through a competitive selection process. The maximum duration of grants is 8 months with an estimated starting date on 1 May 2016. All awarded grants must be completed with final reports delivered by 31 Dec 2016.

The Process of Application:

The call is open for applications from 1 April 2016. Concept notes can be submitted until 20 April 2016. Concepts should follow specifications in the template and need to include a short description of the research background, a problem statement, the research question, activities and expected outputs. Further, a list of key personnel with short CV should be provided. The memo template can be found under:

<http://bit.ly/1UM1dHX>

The proposed research is expected to generate innovative and robust scientific evidence to guide changes towards improved nutrition outcomes for poor consumers in Bangladesh. Memos of applications will be reviewed in one stage by WorldFish and the BFRF and successful applicants will be notified. The following criteria will be applied:

- innovation
- scientific excellence
- development relevance and upscaling potential as a business
- gender-balance in leadership of the teams as well as in team composition, in particular aiming to have 50% of funded teams be led by women scientists
- collaborative approaches
- feasibility

Grants will be awarded to the top five concepts. Each grant recipient agrees to prepare a final report that is to be submitted to BFRF by 31 Dec 2016.

Concept submission:

Please send concept note to: Prof. Dr. Md. Jahangir Alam (BFRF) (info_bfrf@yahoo.com and mjalam.bsmrau@gmail.com) & WorldFish Bangladesh (K.Kabir@cgiar.org)

Contact for further details:

BFRF, Bangladesh Fisheries Research Forum

Road#3, House#27 (Flat C-4), 4th Floor, Bismilla Tower, Shymoli, Mirpur, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Email: info_bfrf@yahoo.com; web: www.bfrf.org