

# Empowering Rural Communities in Nepal through an Integrated Approach to Health and Income Growth (ERCN) Project

## Call for Research Grant

(First Date of Publication: May 15, 2023)

SAHAMATI announces Request for Proposals for Thesis Grant for any Under Graduate and Post Graduate students enrolled in Nepalese University across the country to support innovative research ideas on production, economic analysis, marketing and post- harvest management technology of Niger, Blackgram and Cardamom from eligible Nepali citizens. For details please visit: [www.sahamati.org/notice](http://www.sahamati.org/notice).

Contact

ERCN Project

SAHAMATI, Gaidakot 5, Nawalparasi



# Empowering Rural Communities in Nepal through an Integrated Approach to Health and Income Growth (ERCN) Project

## Request for Proposal: Thesis Research Grant

May 15, 2023

### 1. Introduction

SAHAMATI is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit making social development organization, established in 2001 by a group of development professionals. SAHAMATI aims to be a recognized as capable and committed national level organization for community plus humane development.

SAHAMATI is implementing KOICA ERCN project to achieve well-being and improved quality of life in rural community as result of strengthened capacity for community development through integrated approach to health and income growth. The project sites are Manekharka (Pachpokahri Thagpal RM ward # 4, Sindhupalchowk), Puttar (Ghiring RM ward # 1, Tanahu) and Salambu (Chaurideurali RM ward # 3, Kavrepalanchok).

### 2. Purpose

The purpose of KOICA ERCN Thesis Research Grant Request for Proposals is to support innovative research projects on enhancing profitability of agribusiness from eligible Nepali citizens.

3. **Target:** 3 (one on each project site)

4. **Grant Amount:** Maximum NPR 80,000 only per research grant.

### 5. Grant Scope

The research grant seeks bold proposal that will contribute to bridging the evidence gap for successful value chain development of selected agriculture commodities (Cardamom-Manekharka; Blackgram-Puttar and Niger-Salambu) at project sites. Proposed research project must be bold, innovative and transformable and must have the potential impact on well-being of Nepalese farmers. The grant aims to seek research proposal of above-mentioned commodities on following themes;

- Varietal performance
- Good Agriculture Practices
- Marketing opportunities and constraints
- Value addition and processing
- Post harvest management
- Value chain analysis
- Economic analysis

### 6. Duration

The running time for research project is normally 6 months. All successful applicants must complete their project within 6 months after signing grant agreement.

### 7. Eligibility Criteria

- Only applicants from Nepal are eligible to apply.
- Researchers should be enrolled in Nepalese University across the country
- A project can only have one Principal Investigator and other as co-investigators.

- Applications must include all required information and attachments. Only complete application will be considered for evaluation.
- Proposed ideas must be aligned with the research themes.
- Every product created by the research shall be subject to the open access principle.

## 8. Application Instructions

Application can be submitted electronically at the email [vacancy@sahamati.org](mailto:vacancy@sahamati.org). Electronic application should be submitted in word file format. Application should be submitted in English. Applicant should submit the following documents;

- Research Proposal (see Annex I for the template)
- CV of Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator
- Academic certificates and transcripts
- Proof of enrollment at university
- A copy of citizenship of Principal Investigator
- A copy of PAN card

## 9. Review Process

The technical section of the SAHAMATI will verify that the proposals meet the formal criteria such completeness, formal presentation and submission within the deadlines. Proposals that do not meet these criteria will not be processed further. Proposals will be evaluated by review panel. Upon completion of peer review, ranking and ratings list will be prepared and selection decisions will be made based on ratings.

## 10. Evaluation Criteria

Research proposals will be judged against following criteria;

- Is the proposed idea clearly articulated and justify its novelty?
- Is the potential impact of the proposed research important, both in terms of bridging the evidence gap and impact on agriculture sector.
- Is the project scientifically/technically/ethically sound and feasible within the timeline and proposed budget?
- Do the principal Investigator and team have the skills to carry out the proposed research?
- Does the proposed idea have the potential to fundamentally transform how challenge on profitability of farming is addressed?

## 11. Application Schedule

Complete application must be submitted by.

Key Deadlines	Events
24 May 2023	Application deadline
7 June 2023	Notification of Award
11 June 2023	Agreement signing
31 December 2023	Completion of Award with reporting

## 12. Grant Information

The grant would be provided in three installments.

- 40% after the approval of the proposal and research plan
- 30% after completion of field visit and submission of the draft report
- 30% after presentation and submission of the thesis

## 13. Correspondence

Any queries related to this RFP should be directed to [vacancy@sahamati.org](mailto:vacancy@sahamati.org).

## **Annex I: Template for Research Proposal**

The research proposal should be structured around following template to fulfill criteria for success submission. The Proposal should be submitted in English, and should be a maximum of 5 pages (excluding cover page and the bibliography).

### **Cover Page**

Project title, Name of Principal Investigator and team members, affiliated organization and Designation.

### **Knowledge in the field of proposed research and the novelty or research project**

Set out the scientific background and basis of your project. Explain the need to perform research on the topic you propose, related to the local situation and current national and international development debates and policies. Please highlight the research gap your research will bridge and the novelty of the topic, approach or method you propose.

### **Research objectives/Hypothesis**

Specify the research hypotheses and the concrete objectives that you aim to achieve during the lifetime of the project. Explain why the issue looked at is of national importance.

### **Methodology**

Describe the strategies your project will use to implement the propose research. The strategy should include clear description of research methods by which the research goals are to be attended such as research design, sampling, and data collection and analysis plan.

### **Potential Impact t of the Project**

Explain, through a short context analysis at local, national and international level, how the project (findings) will contribute for increasing agriculture production. Describe how the proposed research project is important in terms of bridging the evidence gap and impact on well- being of Nepalese farmers.

### **Project Schedule and Budget**

Outline major activities with the completion timeframe and estimated budget.

### **Bibliography**

The bibliography should follow the Vancouver referencing style. The bibliography must be part of the document, but does not count towards the 5-page restriction.

## **Annex II: Cover Page Design**

**Project Title:**

**Submitted by:**  
**Name of Principal Investigator:**  
**University**  
**Faculty**  
**Department**

**Name of Supervisor:**  
**Designation:**

**Date**