



Research Grants Under the Open Competitive System

Context

REPOA's capacity building activities for researchers uses two main methods, namely learning by doing, in which researchers undertake research projects, and training via specialised courses.

Under the Open Competitive System (OCS) a public call for research proposals invites researchers to submit proposals on research themes derived from REPOA's research agenda. The Open Competitive System provides unbiased funding to junior and senior researchers.

An additional component of research capacity building relates to REPOA's Grassroots Programme. This works through CSOs and uses predominantly participatory research methodology. The emphasis is on involving communities in research that leads to action orientated measures. These proposals are subject to a less rigorous review process and are offered specific guidance suitable to their capabilities.

Poverty has multi-faceted dimension; using a multi-disciplinary approach to research will produce a well-rounded analytical perspective of a situation; where the inter-related and relevant aspects are duly examined and considered. Many researchers are specialised in one discipline and topic; therefore, in order to promote multi-disciplinary research, REPOA encourages teamwork on the research project.

Also, in order to build the research capacity, senior researchers are encouraged to team up with junior researchers.

A consultative process, involving stakeholders from central and local government, CSOs, researchers and research institutions and development partners, was used to design a research programme that was responsive to emerging issues concerning poverty and development.

Research Themes

REPOA's research programme continues to be concerned with **pro-poor growth** and **poverty reduction**. There are seven themes; **three of which: gender, governance and technology, are cross-cutting**. The themes are below, along with some suggested areas for research. Please note that researchers are not limited to these areas, but their research must be centred on one or more of the seven themes.

Growth and Poverty

Suggested sub themes:

Fiscal policy

Foreign direct investment

Human resources development

Foreign aid

Globalisation

Income distribution

Infrastructure

Public – private partnerships

Suggested areas for research:

- Trade/foreign investment liberalisation for developing national technological capacity
- The role of the informal sector/growth and the State;
- The effects of reforms on the poor and most vulnerable
- The implications and uses of modern information technology, as well as its accessibility and training
- The effects of structural adjustment/liberalisation on income distribution and poverty
- Issues relating to the skills, training and capacity building, and/or indigenous knowledge, informal/ formal education for human resource development
- Process, regulation and impacts of foreign direct investment in rural areas

Vulnerability and Social Protection

Suggested sub themes

Chronic poverty

Safety nets

Social impacts

Food security

Social exclusion

Social service provision

Suggested areas for research:

- Marginalised populations
- The ‘new poor’
- Investment patterns of rural citizens
- HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria –access to health services, orphans, stigma, the use of indigenous healers & traditional medicines
- Water, education, health, shelter & sanitation
- The emergence of beggars and street children
- Rural-urban migrants
- Changing attitudes on the role of the extended family, family size, mutual assistance
- Governance in education structures

Social / Political / Cultural Issues

Suggested sub themes:

Attitudes

Human Rights

Social impacts, adaptations

Power relations

Values, beliefs, social practices

Suggested areas for research:

- The local government poverty reform and development programmes
- Changing attitudes of and towards women; women as household heads
- The effects of witchcraft and other traditional practices on development
- Differences in motivation & enterprise between ethnic groups; *Uswabili/laissez faire* approach to life
- Influence of religion on poverty, ideologies and forms of control and cultural expression, power and income

- Theft, embezzlement & corruption
- The deterioration in national commitment, culture & self-reliance (dependence on the government)
- The effects of socialisation and education processes on gender stereotyping and attitudes
- Class: relationships between successful women and the poor; urban and rural women
- Interaction of class, gender and poverty
- The effects of HIV/AIDS on women's and elders' workloads, commercial sex, and relationships between men and women
- The effects of rural to urban migration on women
- Non-income poverty
- Unequal representation in education, the cash economy and government
- Uneven burden of macro-economic 'adjustment'/policy on women and children (due to restricted access to services, resources, and control over assets, traditional patriarchal division of labour, power & responsibility by gender)
- Laws and property rights
- How decentralisation impacts women and small traders
- Local government stability and accountability
- Monitoring and oversight of the judiciary

Environment and Agriculture

Suggested sub themes:

Extension services

Land tenure

Population dynamics

Food security

Marketing

Production, productivity

Rights to resources

Suggested areas for research:

- Land reform, effects / implications for the poor of Land Acts policies
- Statutory rights, especially those concerning women
- Grassroots / local knowledge and adaptations
- Problems / benefits of technology transfers and employment
- Resource-poor environments & impacts on residents of land alienation and tourism
- The science and technology climate in TZ
- Reasons for resistance to change and cultural attitudes to new technologies
- How other countries overcome resistance to innovation, application in developing countries
- Implications & forecasting of appropriate technologies and relevant techno-econ development policy, sustainability and modern bio-technologies.
- Indigenous intellectual property rights, indigenous technology, traditional and modern agro-ecology practices
- Lessons from the Asian technological revolution
- Livestock keepers, pastoralism, land alienation, mobility and land conflicts with peasants
- Policy-based lending

- Impacts of reforms on privatisation and links of increasing agricultural development to health and poverty
- The deterioration of environment
- Roles of institutions – ministries, local governments, and NGOs – in safeguarding the environment
- Biotechnological impacts on environment and agricultural output
- Impacts on the well-being of people who live near mining and tourism sites / land and resource alienation and displacement
- Uneven environmental resource access and impacts

How to Apply for a Research Grant

Any person(s) or organisation may apply for a research grant from REPOA and a proposal can be submitted at any time. Applications for research funds will only be considered if a comprehensive, well thought out proposal is submitted, based on this structure:

Title Page	The title of your proposal should be clear and concise (one sentence only).
Abstract (1-2 pages)	The abstract should summarise the key information from your proposal, including the research's significance and its potential contribution. It is usually the last part of the proposal to be written.
Introduction and Background (2-3 pages)	The introduction should set out the background information to the problem to be studied and the context within which it will be studied. It should also show the importance of the issue, and how this research will influence policy-making; or for CSO research, how it will influence the standard of living of the community. For CSO proposals, the specific geographical context as well as the target group of the research must be specified.
Problem Statement and Significance of the Research (1 page maximum)	This section should show the core of the intended research, i.e. what it is that one wants to study or investigate. It must be brief and clear. In CSO proposals, this section should also describe how the target group of the research has participated in the problem identification.
Research Objectives (1 page or less)	The objectives should state the key objectives of the research and what it is the researcher is trying to accomplish. Research objectives do not include using the results of the research to influence policy.

<p>Theoretical Background and Literature Review (6-8 pages)</p>	<p>In this section the researcher should demonstrate a good grasp of the most recent literature on the subject.</p> <p>The literature review should give a brief description of what is already known in terms of studies done in the area, policy statements and their implications, and an identification of gaps to be studied and filled, both on a theoretical as well as on an empirical level. It should indicate how existing work contributes to the research at hand, and vice versa, how the study at hand moves beyond this existing work. Alternatively, the study could also show how it builds on the experience of others.</p>
<p>Methodology and Hypotheses (3-5 pages)</p>	<p>The hypotheses are intended to identify the key variables that the research aims at, and the relationships the researcher expects to find, or not find, between them.</p> <p>The hypotheses should guide the researcher in determining the exact information he/she requires from the fieldwork. In this part, the researcher should also indicate the main research methods and techniques to be used. They have to be consistent with the objectives and they should be described adequately.</p> <p>In CSO proposals, a description of the planned fieldwork should be included as well.</p>
<p>Policy/Strategy Implications and Feedback (mainly for CSO proposals)</p>	<p>This part should provide information on the intended policy or strategic action implications of the research. It should show how the target group will be involved in and/or benefit from the action resulting from the research.</p> <p>Feedback to the communities and organisations collaborating in the research is also an important element. The proposal should indicate how the feedback to the community and the sharing of information with the stakeholders would be organised.</p>
<p>Researchers and Institutional Attachment</p>	<p>The proposal should include a form summarising the proposal and giving details of the senior researchers involved, including their institutional attachments and CVs and the division of responsibilities within the proposed research project.</p> <p>For CSO proposals, the name of the civil society organisation, address and contact details should be included. The proposal should briefly describe the background and the experience of the CSO and explain how the research fits in with the mandate of the CSO.</p>
<p>Timetable</p>	<p>The proposal should include a breakdown of activities and their approximate timing.</p>

	The timeframe should be realistic, because it will be binding.
Budget	<p>Under the Open Competitive System, the maximum budget granted is usually US\$ 20,000, though this amount is not fixed.</p> <p>Under the CSO Action Research Programme, two levels of funding will be considered. The first level will facilitate descriptive research that focuses on providing data and information, to educate the public on important events and facts. Research projects of this level can receive a grant of up to US\$ 7,500. The second level will facilitate empirically based policy analysis for poverty reduction. A grant of up to US\$ 20,000 can be obtained for these larger-scale research projects. CSOs that receive funding for a research project are encouraged to cover 15 percent of the costs involved themselves.</p> <p>The cost for the proposed research does not have to reach the budget limit. The grant can cover items such as labour, subsistence, transport, materials and supplies, photocopying and binding, literature, organising seminars or workshops, training of research assistants, pre-testing questionnaires, data coding and analysis, etc.</p> <p>REPOA's research grants do not include capital expenditure of any kind, such as vehicles and computers, nor do they allow for contingency expenses or running costs. REPOA will pay for the publication costs of the final research report.</p> <p>For CSOs, the budget should also foresee the costs involved in feedback since this is considered to be an important part of a research project.</p>
References	All references in the body of the proposal should appear in full at the end.

Criteria

The following criteria are taken into account when evaluating a proposal for a research grant:

- The proposal's relevance to REPOA's selected themes and sub-themes
- The competence and potential of the researchers
- The technical merit of the proposal
- The relevance of the proposal to practical and policy issues
- The potential for contribution to capacity building

For CSO proposals, additional criteria include:

- The research methodology should promote community interaction, the involvement of and feedback to the various stakeholders at different levels

- The research should include local knowledge and resources in order to produce innovative and realistic ideas and action-oriented solutions
- The organisation must have an adequate institutional, human capacity and infrastructure
- The institution's credibility

For further guidelines on preparing research proposals, we refer you to Special Paper No. 15: *"Poverty Research in Tanzania: Guidelines for Preparing Research Proposals"* by Dr Brian Cooksey and Dr Servacius Likwelile. This can be obtained from REPOA for Tshs 3,000.

Evaluation Process

Proposals will be first reviewed by REPOA's staff and, if the proposal meets the minimum requirements, it will then be sent to two anonymous and independent consultants. These consultants provide critical and detailed comments on the main components of the proposal. They also use a rating instrument which summarises their assessment. The instrument grades such aspects as: the title, introduction and background, statement of the problem, objectives, literature review, relevancy and testing ability of the hypotheses, methodology, sampling procedure, data analysis, presentation, bibliography and contribution to the capacity building of junior researchers. Whilst the process remains the same for CSO action orientated or fact-finding research, the evaluation is tailored to take into account the less technical aspect of the proposal.

The comments on the reviewed proposal are compiled and presented to the Technical Advisory Committee who makes recommendations on how to proceed to the Board of Directors for their ultimate decision.

For those proposals that do not meet the requirements, the researcher or the CSO will receive the comments of the reviewers for guidance. They will be encouraged to revise the proposal and resubmit. REPOA may also provide guidance on revising the proposal. A revised proposal may be submitted twice.

Those who qualify receive funding to proceed with the research. All draft research reports are reviewed during REPOA's Annual Research Workshop, where the presentations are subject to wide public comment and peer review, followed by technical consultations with experts. The researchers are required to submit a revised final draft of their research report for anonymous review before the work may be published by REPOA.

Proposals for research should be submitted to:

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