

**SINGAPORE FOOD STORY (SFS) R&D PROGRAMME 2.0
FOOD SAFETY MAIN GRANT
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

KEY DATES

1. When will the Food Safety grant be launched?

The Food Safety Main Grant will be launched on 8 January 2025, 1000hrs, Singapore time (UTC +8:00). The grant will be open between 8 January 2025 and 6 March 2025, 1200hrs Singapore time (UTC +8:00).

2. When can applicants expect research proposals to be awarded?

Proposals are expected to be awarded within 9 months from the close of the grant call.

HOW TO APPLY

3. How can I participate in the Food Safety Main grant?

All applications have to be submitted online via the Integrated Grants Management System (IGMS) and endorsed by the host institution's Director of Research or equivalent in order to be eligible. Separate submissions outside of IGMS will not be considered.

4. What are the differences between the Food Safety Main Grant Call and other SFS Grant Calls?

The Food Safety Main Grant Call focuses on mid Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) research efforts that improve regulatory efforts to detect and predict the evolving threat of new chemical food hazards through the development of tools and platforms that could fit into the next generation risk assessment of emerging food toxicants.

The Seed Grant Call target low TRL research projects, respectively, across other domains under the SFS R&D Programme, in addition to Food Safety (i.e., Aquaculture, Sustainable Urban Agriculture, Future Foods).

5. I am new to IGMS. How can I register/create an account?

To access IGMS, entities are required to set up a CorpPass.

Only one CorpPass is required for each entity. To start setting up CorpPass, each entity is required to appoint up to Two CorpPass Administrators. The CorpPass Administrator can create other CorpPass accounts, including managing users' access to digital services (e.g. IGMS).

Accounts created by the CorpPass Administrator need to be activated in order to start transacting on behalf of the entity, by setting up CorpPass IDs and passwords.

More information on setting up CorpPass can be found via the following link: <https://www.corppass.gov.sg/corppass/common/userguides>

ELIGIBILITY

6. Who is eligible to participate?

Principal Investigators (PI) from all Singapore-based institutions of higher learning (IHLs), public sector agencies and not-for profit research laboratories as well as companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions, are eligible to apply.

7. Can the lead PI be non-local?

Yes, but the Lead PI who leads the research must be based in Singapore¹. Collaboration with foreign organisations and experts in the capacity of Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI), or as Collaborator is allowed.

8. Can the research be conducted overseas?

The lead PI must be based in Singapore. All funding awarded must be used to carry out the research and innovation activities in Singapore unless approved in the grant.

9. Are local/international collaborations allowed?

The Institutions may engage in research collaborations with local or overseas collaborators/enterprises. Such collaborations are strongly encouraged to translate the research to build the agri-food industry's capability and capacity to produce 30% of Singapore's nutritional needs locally and sustainably. Contracting out the whole or substantial part of the research work is not permitted.

Local enterprises are defined as companies registered in Singapore with at least 30% local shareholding.

FUNDING

10. Is there a cap to the amount of research funding awarded for each research proposal?

Research Proposals will be evaluated based on their merits rather than the amount of funding requested. The projects are eligible for a maximum funding quantum of S\$3 million.

¹ Lead PIs must have a minimum of 9 months employment with a Singapore-based organisation (Singapore-based institutions of higher learning (IHLs), public sector agencies, not-for profit research laboratories as well as companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions), and fulfilling at least 6 months of residency in Singapore over a period of 1 calendar year.

11. Are collaborators permitted to receive funding?

Collaborators are not permitted to receive, directly or indirectly, any part of the funding, whether in cash or in the form of assets acquired using the funding or otherwise. All assets acquired using the funding must be located in Singapore and maintained within the control of the Institutions.

12. What is the funding support level?

Singapore-based IHLs, public sector agencies will qualify for up to 100 percent of the approved qualifying direct costs of a project.

Funding for private sector entities for research projects would be conditional on collaboration with a public research performer.

Tiered funding support levels would apply (up to 30% for all non-Singaporean entities; 50% for Singaporean Large Local Enterprises; 70% for Singaporean Small and Medium sized Enterprises, start-ups, and not-for-profits).

Support for indirect costs of research may be provided, only for Singapore-based IHLs and not-for-profit entities. Funding support up to 30 percent of the total qualifying approved direct costs (i.e., total direct costs less exceptional items) will be allowed. This is subject to approval from SFA.

13. Will proposals that do not cover research under the targeted areas be funded?

No.

14. Will proposals need to adhere to the Terms and Conditions for Competitive Grants?

Yes.

15. What are the items that will / will not be funded under the SFS R&D Programme?

Please refer to Appendix 1 of the Grant Call Information Sheet for non-fundable direct costs of research.

16. Are indirect / overhead costs supported?

Yes, but only for Singapore-based IHLs and not-for-profit entities. This will be capped at up to 30% of the total qualifying direct costs and subject to SFA's approval. Examples of indirect cost include rental, utilities, facilities management, telephone charges, internet charges, etc.

17. What is the mechanism for fund disbursement?

Fund disbursement will be via reimbursement, on a quarterly basis.

OTHERS

18. Who to enquire for further information?

All enquiries can be directed to: SFA_RND@sfa.gov.sg