

Bangladesh call for grant applications Institutional Collaboration Projects OKP-BGD-10043

Joint proposal

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| Country | Bangladesh |
| Priority theme(s) | Food and Nutrition Security |
| Aim of the project | Strengthening of agricultural vocational skills with a focus on rural development and Agriculture-Mechanisation stimulating youth employment |
| Call number | OKP-BGD-10043 |
| Maximum available funding for this call, excluding co-funding | EUR 1,000,000,- |
| Maximum funding per collaboration project, excluding co-funding | EUR 1,000,000,- |
| Minimum required co-funding | Encouraged |

Time schedule

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|--|------------------------------------|
| Call for grant applications | May 17, 2019 |
| Nuffic will answer questions about the call until | June 14, 2019, 11.00 am CEST. |
| Closing date for submission of grant applications | July 8, 2019, 11.00 am CEST |
| Assessment of grant application | August 5, 2019 |
| Communication of results to the applicants | August 19, 2019 |

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1. Introduction: The Orange Knowledge Programme

Nuffic's Orange Knowledge Programme is a 5 year global development programme, aimed to strengthening professionals and organisations through education and training. It contributes to the goals of the Netherlands' [development cooperation policy](#), in which education plays a significant role.

The programme offers funding in 53 countries for individual scholarships, tailor-made trainings and institutional partnerships between Dutch and foreign education institutions in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and higher education. It focuses on the priority themes of the Dutch government (Water, Food and nutrition security, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, and Security and Rule of Law) and aims throughout the programme for inclusion, employability and environmental sustainability.

Nuffic is programme manager, in close collaboration with the programme's funder, the Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Running from mid-2017 to mid-2022, it will offer at least 51,000 thousand people the chance to change their future through education.

With its institutional collaboration projects the Orange Knowledge Programme aims to support knowledge institutions in need of sustainable strengthening of higher and vocational education capacity within local priority themes relevant to development cooperation. Support for vocational education and connection to the labour market are important principles. Institutional projects consist of various activities that contribute to institutional development of organisations in developing countries on three levels: individual, organisational and institutional.

More information about the Orange Knowledge Programme such as the basic principles and the policy framework can be found of the Nuffic website: www.nuffic.nl/en/global-development/orange-knowledge-programme.

The Orange Knowledge Grant Obligations and Conditions can be found among the downloads under the link to this call.

The Orange Knowledge Programme focuses on sustainable strengthening of higher and vocational education capacity within local priority themes relevant to Dutch development cooperation which are outlined in the Country Plans of Implementation (CPI). Click [here](#) for the CPI's per country.

The Theory of Change (ToC) of the Orange Knowledge Programme describes the interlinkages between capacity building and sustainable inclusive development to which each approved initiative under the Orange Knowledge Programme contributes to. The ToC can be found [here](#).

This document describes the procedure for submitting an Orange Knowledge Programme grant application for institutional collaboration project – joint proposals.

In this document you find important details for this call. Where applicable, links are included to provide more information on grant obligations and conditions, guiding principles, procedures, and formats.

2. Information specific for this call

2.1 Long-term impact

The Theory of Change (ToC) of the Orange Knowledge Programme presents the expected medium and long-term impact and outcomes of the programme. Each impact and outcome is quantified by a number of indicators which are described in the Orange Knowledge Programme Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and relates to the M&E Framework of Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

All projects must contribute in achieving these impact and outcomes. The grant application and, if the application is selected, subsequent reporting must give insight into how the project will contribute/contributes in achieving impact and outcomes.

The CPI gives all details about the impact, outcomes and indicators of the ToC of the Orange Knowledge Programme and of the contribution to the thematic ToC(s) specific to the country in question in Annex 3.

The proposed project must contribute to the following objective(s):

- End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture (SDG 2);
- Ensuring availability and sustainable management of water for all (SDG 6).

The proposed project must contribute to the following long-term impact:

- Promote agricultural growth;
- Reduce malnutrition;
- Create ecologically sustainable food systems.

The following **medium-term impact** will contribute to this:

- (I) Education system (TVET/HE) is of good quality, relevant and accessible (SDG 4);
- (II) Partnerships between persons and organisations are inclusive and sustainable (SDG 17);
- (III) Organisations key to (sectoral) inclusive development of partner countries are strengthened by inflow of enhanced workforce.

This will be achieved by the following **outcome**:

- A. TVET/HE organisations (in the selected partner countries and in NL) perform better their core tasks, firmly embedded in their environment (in line with country / regional specific labour market needs & aiming at inclusiveness).

In the Orange Knowledge Programme format for a grant application the consortium partners will be asked to select relevant indicators to measure the achievement during and after project implementation at medium-term and long-term-level.

2.2 Context of the call

Reference is made to the Country Plan of Implementation for Bangladesh, which clarifies the expected long-term impact to which the institutional collaboration projects have to contribute. Based on a prioritization of capacity gaps in the CPI, the following intervention domain applies to this call:

- **Strengthening agricultural vocational skills with a focus on rural development and Agriculture-Mechanisation stimulating youth employment**

Over the past 40 years Bangladesh has made remarkable progress in achieving food security, however around 26 percent of the Bangladeshi population is still chronically food insecure due to poor access to enough nutritious food. The new perspective on agriculture, water and climate is adopting demand driven commercial farming to produce safe and nutritious food. In this regard, the Government of Bangladesh has developed an “agricultural mechanisation road map”. Their plan is to bring 25 percent of Bangladesh's total land area under improved tillage and reaping in the next five years.

The proposed project has to include the following elements and a clear strategy on how this will be achieved:

- Update and certify curricula to integrate agricultural mechanisation, technology-driven agribusiness and food supply system development models, and include certification of teachers;
- Upgrade the technical environment of TVET institutions and demonstration fields;
- Change business practices from traditional subsistence low-productive agriculture to a more demand driven commercial and mechanised agriculture, considering the complete agricultural value chain;
- Address the rural challenges of food insecurity and poverty by strengthening and disseminating technologies of agricultural mechanisation;
- Address the outmigration of rural labour to urban areas;
- Enhance capacity of rural development experts, practitioners, and change agents, and integrate Small and Medium Enterprises (SME's) in the transformation processes;
- Address the chronic and growing shortage of skilled agricultural labour in Bangladesh, by focussing on job creation in the whole agricultural value chain in both rural and urban areas;
- Train youth in entrepreneurship and agro-mechanisation by establishing Private-Public Partnerships and offering workplace experience learning and/or practical training places;
- Integrate gender transformative actions in all interventions. Gender is a cross-cutting theme for integrated Food and Nutrition Security and Water & Climate.
- Seek alignment with already existing FNS projects supported by Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and/or Nuffic.

2.3 Co-funding

Co-funding is one of the key principles underpinning the programme. It contributes to reciprocity and increases ownership of the collaboration. Co-funding may involve public, private and/or own funds.

Bangladesh is considered to be a Least Developed Country (LDC) according to OECD's DAC list. This means that an application for this call does not require a minimum of co-funding, but partners are encouraged to include co-funding. Integration of co-funding in the breakdown of budgets will be one of the assessment criteria in the selection of applications.

A contribution from public funds is defined as: a contribution in cash or in kind to which is directly or indirectly paid for from state resources. State resources comprise all funds from the public sector, including funds from local levels of government (decentralised, federal, regional or other) and, in certain circumstances, funds from private bodies.

Public funds from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands (including embassies) do not count as co-funding, but can be added to the project.

Private funds are considered to be all funds – in cash or in kind – that are not state resources.

2.4 Questions about the call?

Nuffic will answer questions about this call until the date stated in the time schedule on the front page. If you have a question about this call you can send an e-mail in English to GDtenders@nuffic.nl. Mention in your e-mail the call number.

Questions and Nuffic's answers will be published on the OKP website. The identity of the inquirers is kept private.

3. General information for applicants for institutional collaboration projects

Grants for OKP Institutional Collaboration Projects will be awarded to collaboration projects between knowledge institutions focusing on sustainable strengthening of higher and vocational education capacity within local priority themes relevant to development cooperation. A grant application (proposal) may be submitted by any one of the partners, potentially on behalf of a consortium. The grant applicant must be a Dutch institution for secondary vocational or higher vocational or academic education; or a national or local knowledge institution or organisation (knowledge institution, ministries, national commissions or non-governmental organisation) that contributes to capacity development in the area of higher and vocational education within the local priorities as set out in the country plan of implementation (CPI). The grant applicant must have sufficient organisational and financial

capacity to lead an institutional collaboration project. The grant applicant (lead partner of a consortium (country A or Dutch consortium)) can only submit or be involved in one application for this call ('one applicant, one application'-rule).¹

Please check the criteria in the legal policy framework on our website, and read the specific criteria in this call document.

The applying organisation will be the grant recipient, who will be responsible for the grant activities and for complying with the obligations and conditions connected to the grant.

3.1 Eligibility criteria

Grant applications and applicants have to meet the minimum criteria to be eligible for a grant.

1. The grant application must be submitted by a Dutch institution for secondary vocational or higher vocational or academic education, or a knowledge institution or organisation in a [Country A](#) (see countries on the map that are marked red), potentially on behalf of their consortia. The project must be a collaboration between a Dutch and a country A partner, potentially on behalf of their consortia. All country A partners have to be based in the country/countries specified in the call. Only the Dutch lead partner has to be based in the Netherlands.
2. The grant applicant is in a position to provide adequate financial management and, due to its experience and expertise in relation to activities similar to those for which the grant is being requested, can guarantee the targeted and effective performance of the activities to achieve the impact and outcomes as defined in the application; the applicant must submit data in the form of a COCA² to enable its capacities to be assessed.
3. The grant applicant can function and operate appropriately within the legislation passed by the government in the country or countries in question.
4. The project proposal has a minimum duration of one year and a maximum duration of four years, and must be implemented and established by no later than 31 December 2021.
5. The grant applied for does not exceed the maximum amount specified in the call for grant applications.
6. Any required co-funding is guaranteed.
7. The grant application meets any specific financial requirements set out in the call.
8. The grant application must be in the compulsory format and meet all criteria and requirements stated in this document.

¹ A consortium member (Country A or Dutch consortium) can participate in various proposals for the same call. The lead partner of the consortium that is not the applicant can also be involved in various applications for the same call.

² A COCA (Checklist for Organisational Capacity Assessment) is an evaluation of whether an organisation has sufficient financial and organisational capacity to carry out a project or training course. An approved COCA assessment is valid for a maximum of one year and may be requested/updated during the year. The documents required for the COCA assessment can also be submitted at the same time as the grant application.

9. The grant application is in line with the CPI of the country concerned.

After receiving an application Nuffic will check if the application is complete and meets the minimum criteria. If the application is not complete or does not meet all criteria Nuffic will inform the applicant. The applicant then has two working days to complete or correct his application under specific conditions. After the two working days it is not possible to make any more changes to the application. Applications that are still not complete or still do not meet the minimum criteria will be rejected.

3.2 Grant Obligations and Conditions

By submitting a grant application the applicant agrees with the Grant Obligations and Conditions (version 3.0). The applicant by submitting also agrees to endorse the objectives of the Orange Knowledge Programme.

3.3 Requirements

Applications have to be:

- submitted before the deadline, in the compulsory format. The format is one of the downloads under the link to this call;
- Complete, including all required documents at the time of submission, in the English language;
- Must not exceed 25 pages, excluding the compulsory annexes;
- The annexes must follow the numbering and titles as indicated in the grant application form (checklist);
- The font size must not be smaller than Century Gothic 10;
- Must be submitted in a searchable PDF (including all the annexes) and a budget in excel via e-mail by sending it to GDtenders@nuffic.nl. The email must at least carry the following information:
 - o Subject: grant application Orange Knowledge Programme: OKP-country abbreviation-call number;
 - o a description of the content: call number, country, attached documents;
 - o the full name and contact details of the applicant.

3.4 Eligibility check

After receipt of a grant application Nuffic will send the applicant a confirmation of receipt by email.

Nuffic will check if:

- the application meets the eligibility criteria.

Grant applications that do not meet the minimum will be rejected. The applicant will be informed of this decision by Nuffic via email.

3.5 Assessment and selection procedure

Step 1: Assessment of eligible applications

Nuffic assesses the quality of eligible applications.

The applications are assessed according to the following criteria:

- I. Quality of the partnership;
- II. Project relevance;
- III. Project approach and design;
- IV. Project management;
- V. Technical quality of the application.

A specific score sheet and set of criteria are used for the quality evaluation of the application. These criteria are the basis to determine which application best answers the capacity gap expressed in the CPI. An explanation of the assessment specifying the assessment questions and their weighting is available on the website.

A grant application is given a score for each of these criteria. The application must obtain a **minimum score for each of the five criteria (I to V.a). In case a minimum of co-funding is required, the application must also obtain a minimum score for co-funding (I to V.b).** Only applications that have obtained the required minimum score on items **I to V.a (I to V.b in case a minimum of co-funding is required)**, and therefore totalling a minimum aggregate score of 84 (93 in case a minimum of co-funding is required) out of a maximum of 160 points, are taken into consideration in the selection of a winning application. Applications that have not obtained the minimum score will be rejected.

Step 2

After the assessment all applications will be ranked. The grant application(s) with the highest score(s) will be selected, within the available budget.

After the selection Nuffic will inform the applicants with eligible applications by e-mail of the outcome of the selection.

4. Checklist

I. Requirements

| Before submitting your application, please check that each of the following components is complete and complies with the criteria: | | <i>Check by applicant</i> | |
|--|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | Yes | No |
| 1 | The application has been submitted before the deadline | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | The correct application form has been used. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | The application is written in the required language. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | The budget is in the prescribed format (in excel and a signed PDF by the legal representative of the grant applicant), does not exceed the maximum available amount for the specific call and meets the co-financing requirement (if applicable). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 | The e-mail has been drawn up according to the specifications in this document. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 | The application does not exceed 25 pages | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7 | The 'one applicant, one application'-rule has been respected | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>II. Required documents</p> <p>An application needs the following documents to be complete. Incomplete applications will be rejected.</p> <p><i>Nuffic prefers the proposals for the Institutional Collaboration Projects calls to be submitted in separate documents (Proposal, CVs, statements, letters) and the budget also separately in Excel.</i></p> | | | |
| | | | |
| | Filled-in application form using the mandatory application format | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 1 Statement grant applicant (mandatory format) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 2 Letter of intent for a consortium agreement signed by all partners (Country A lead partner including consortium members and Dutch lead partner including consortium members) including organisational diagram of the project | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 3 Project Logical framework including planning (mandatory format) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 4 Budget of the proposed project (mandatory format) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 5 Overview of relevant experience in capacity development of the Country A partner and the Dutch partner (mandatory format) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 6a CVs of the project management teams (both partners) and principal experts | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 6b Statements of availability and expertise (mandatory format) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 7 Capacity analysis of the Country A partner(s) (mandatory format: organisational assessment plus 5c scoring visualisation) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 8 Proof of co-funding, duly signed by co-funder | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Annex 9 Bank Statement of the grant applicant no more than 6 months old | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| Annex 10 Checklist Organisational Capacity Assessment (COCA) for Institutional Collaboration Projects of grant applicant (mandatory format) or if the applicant already has a valid COCA: the COCA registration number issued by Nuffic. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|