



The *National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP)* continuously provides assistance to relevant fundamental/basic research and policy research to push for breakthrough projects with socio-economic benefits for the people. This is to ensure that new knowledge and information are generated to strengthen governance through the fusion of science and the arts, technology and innovation, hence, increase productivity and ensure efficient processes in the delivery of research results for public good.

The Council is pleased to inform NRCP members and researchers that the *Call for Proposals for CY 2025* funding and implementation under the *NRCP Grants-in-Aid (GIA) Program* is now open. Please submit proposals that are aligned with the priority areas/programs under the *National Integrated Basic Research Agenda (NIBRA)* of the *Harmonized National Research and Development Agenda (HNRDA) 2022-2028*.

Proposals that forge linkages between the government particularly local government units (LGUs), academe, industry sector, and civil society, and most importantly projects that will ensure translation and transfer of social technologies to the people and various publics will be prioritized for funding.

Background

The Philippines remains to be a developing nation with numerous economic, social, environmental and governance problems, NRCP believes that investments in basic research should yield knowledge needed by society to meet the challenges it faces, identify the solutions to common problems, and develop the opportunities that make the lives of people better. Basic research should yield knowledge that informs the support of individual and collective actions to improve human well-being and address pressing societal problems. Therefore, despite the true nature of basic researches as investigations into the mostly raw ideas, with and without potentials for immediate applications, the following NIBRA priorities considers the following general themes – water scarcity, food security, increased demand for clean energy, increasing diseases and hazards, high population displacement and urban decay, widespread poverty and social conflict, Filipino identity and Climate Change. Further, all projects and programs for Council support will be aligned to the Philippines Sustainable Development Goals such as zero hunger, good health and well-being, gender equality, quality education, clean water and sanitation, affordable & clean energy, sustainable cities & communities and peace, justice and strong institutions.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS (ADDITIONAL)

I. General Criteria:

1. Project/Program proposals must be aligned to issue-based programs under the National Integrated Research Agenda (NIBRA) under the DOST Harmonized R & D Agenda
2. Project/Program proposals must be gender-sensitive or with GAD components.
3. Project Leader must be an NRCP member
4. With application form and Curriculum Vitae of the project leader
5. Endorsement from institution (President or Vice President of R & D)
6. The program or project leader has no outstanding obligations (i.e., technical and/or financial) with NRCP or with any other attached DOST agencies.

II. Proposal submission, evaluation and approval:

1. Detailed program/project proposal should be in the DOST Format
2. Proposals shall be evaluated following the DOST-GIA process
3. The Program Leader must be a REGULAR member of NRCP. ASSOCIATE members can only apply and/or be granted for a research project proposal amounting to a maximum of PhP 2,000,000.00 Budget per project per year.
4. Preferably, program and component projects should be 2-3 years in duration.

Health Sufficiency

LIKAS Agenda (Likas Yaman sa Kalusugan)

Programs under LIKAS aim to support the objective of the national government in improving the quality of life of every Filipino through scientific-based data which will provide scientific-based understanding and solution to: a) possible zoonotic diseases (both emerging and re-emerging), b) possible alternative sources of health improvement initiatives for disease control and management through fundamental researches on natural products development from rare environments and endemic species, and c) evaluation of the existing health policies and programs towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in securing better health for Filipinos today and for years to come.

Notable accomplishments through this endeavor include the identification of more than 100 bioactive compounds isolated from marine sediments, bat guano, caves, and mangroves. It also produces new knowledge on biodiversity riches, medicinal potential of the said natural resources.

While most of the research programs and projects funded deal with the discovery of novel bioactive compounds for possible medicinal use, however, some of previously isolated samples are due for further studies on pharmacogenomics and toxicogenomics to fully determine the lead bioactive compound suitable or effective against a certain antimicrobial disease/ pathogenic agent. Likewise, with the Philippines rich biodiversity, there is still a need to search and discover from other rare environment and endemic species considering its known potential in producing possible medicinal drug.

Moreover, to prepare for possible another pandemic which might be brought about by zoonotic diseases, research initiatives along this area have been considered and included for undertaking.

For 2022-2028, priority research areas include:

1. Fundamental Studies on Potential Sources of Natural Products from rare environments and endemic species

With various emerging and re-emerging diseases that the Philippines is currently facing, this research program will be an initiative for generation of new knowledge and/or possible alternative sources of medicinal drugs for disease control and management through natural products development from rare environments and endemic species.

This will include biodiversity studies grounded on taxonomic classification and identification of microorganisms found in caves, mangroves, marine sediment, volcanoes, mud springs, mesophotic reefs and the like, in search of potential sources of bioactive compounds. Breakthroughs from taxonomic studies will pave the way for the development of next generation chemotherapeutic agents and antimicrobial drugs from the discoveries of molecules with wide ranging bioactivities including antibiotics, antifungal and anticancer properties isolated from various organisms.

Areas for research include:

- a. Bioprospecting (e.g. marine organisms for biomedical use)
- b. Bioinformatics
- c. Characterization and structure elucidation of isolates and bioactive compounds
- d. Pharmacogenomics and toxicogenomics
- e. Lead identification and pre-clinical studies

2. Basic Veterinary Studies

This initiative is for the identification and characterization of possible zoonotic diseases (etiology, transmission and control), which may include researches on the economically important animal diseases and those that pose risks to be transmitted to humans, in order to be able to create and provide effective disease control and management in pursuit of attaining better health for all.

Areas of research include:

- a. Identification and characterization of zoonotic diseases
- b. Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases and its management

PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2022 – 2025

1. Isolation and Characterization of potential sources of natural products from rare environments and endemic species
 - a. Volcanoes, caves, mudsprings, mined-out areas, mesophotic reefs, marine environments, mangroves and others
 - b. Endemic species from aquatic environments
2. Basic Veterinary studies
 - a. Zoonotic Diseases (etiology, transmission and control)
 - b. Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases and its management

PRIORITY AREAS FOR 2026 – 2028

1. Lead compound optimization and pre-clinical studies of bioactive compounds rare environments and endemic species
 - a. Volcanoes, caves, mudsprings, mined-out areas, mesophotic reefs, mangroves and others
 - b. Endemic species from aquatic environments
2. Basic Veterinary studies
 - a. Zoonotic Diseases (etiology, transmission and control)
 - b. Emerging and re-emerging zoonotic diseases and its management

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR HEALTH SUFFICIENCY (2022 – 2028)

2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
8.761 M	37 M	50.5 M	71 M	77.5 M	84 M	92 M

Source and submission of proposal, please visit this link:

<https://basicresearch.nrcp.dost.gov.ph/callforproposals>