



Innovative Methods and Metrics for
Agriculture and Nutrition Actions

IMMANA Competitive Research Grants: Round 3

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The London Centre for
Integrative Research
on Agriculture & Health

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



Tufts
UNIVERSITY

Gerald J. and Dorothy R.
Friedman School of
Nutrition Science and Policy



SOAS
University of London

BILL & MELINDA
GATES *foundation*

AIM: Accelerate the development of a robust scientific evidence base needed to guide policy investments in agriculture for improved nutrition and health

IMMANA Objectives

Stimulate **validation and continued development** of innovative methodological approaches and novel metrics

Deepen and expand the pool of emerging leaders skilled in developing and applying cutting-edge methods and metrics

Convene the ANH Academy - to facilitate learning, sharing and new interdisciplinary research collaborations and policy uptake of emerging evidence

Synthesise and facilitate the uptake of existing data and scientific evidence

IMMANA Workstreams

IMMANA
Grants



- Innovation
- Validation
- Application in novel contexts

IMMANA
Fellowships



Training in
interdisciplinary research

Agriculture,
Nutrition and
Health Academy



- Academy Week
- Synthesis Centre for Ag-Nut Research (SCANR)
- Training and mentoring

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IMMANA Grants: Rounds 1 & 2

- Funded 15 innovative research grants of up to £250,000.
- Focus on development of new tools, methods and metrics.
- Funded projects can be found on the [IMMANA website](#)

IMMANA Grants: Round 3 & 4

- Innovative research initiatives to **develop** and/or **validate** and/or establish **cross-contextual equivalence** of methods and metrics for measuring agriculture or food system, nutrition and health interactions of importance in LMICs
- 16 research grants of up to £250,000 over two rounds.

The logo for IMMANA, featuring the word "immana" in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with a leaf-like shape above the 'i'. It is set against a blue circular background.

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IMMANA Grants Round 3: what we are looking for

- Proposals employing quantitative and/or qualitative methodologies
- Methods, metrics and tools that bring together ideas and resources from different relevant disciplines, especially those guided by IMMANA Evidence and Gap Map findings.
- Proposals for validation, or assessing cross-context equivalence of existing innovative methods, metrics and tools.
- Innovative proposals for applying existing methods, metrics and tools in novel or under researched contexts to generate new insights.

IMMANA Grants: Eligibility



- Demonstrated ability to conduct research of international standards of excellence in the topic proposed.
- Researchers and institutions from both developed and LMICs are eligible.
- Demonstrated strong partnerships and their added value
- More than one application allowed provided each application is scientifically distinct.

IMMANA Grants: Evaluation criteria

1. Innovation.
2. Scientific excellence and originality
3. Development relevance.
4. Translational value.
5. Collaborative approaches.

- Each criterion is equally important.
- A score between 1 (not competitive) and 5 (outstanding).
- High overall and well balanced between criteria = invitation to submit the full proposal.

Budget, duration and what can be costed

- £250,000/ grant.
- All budgets in pound sterling (£).
- The maximum duration is 24 months.
- The size & duration of each award may vary.
- All applications will be scrutinised for value for money.

- Salary costs
- Data collection
- Equipment
- Economy class travel costs
 - Attendance at the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health Academy annual conference - mandatory.
- Overhead/indirect costs: 15% of the total grant budget
- Inflation for salaries only & capped at a maximum of 3% per year.



IMMANA Grants: Review process

- Short listing of concept memos by the IMMANA team:
 - Oversight provided by the Chair of IMMANA Independent Panel of Experts (IPE).
- Shortlisted candidates invited to submit full proposals
- Full proposals received evaluated by by two peer- reviewers and the IMMANA team.
- IPE review meeting to recommend proposals for award
- Final approval by the IMMANA Steering Committee.

IMMANA IPE and Steering committee members

Name	Affiliation
Dr. Marie Ruel (Chair)	IFPRI
Prof. Andrew Westby (Co-chair)	Natural Resource Institute
Dr. Simón Barquera	Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública (INSP) Center for Nutrition and Health Research
Prof. Ruth DeFries	Columbia University
Dr. Suneetha Kadiyala	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (IMMANA PI)
Dr. Eugénie Maiga	Université Norbert Zongo, Burkina Faso
Dr. Sudha Narayanan	Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research
Dr. Agnes Quisumbing	IFPRI
Dr. Daniel Sarpong	School of Agriculture, University of Ghana
Prof. Helen Young	Friedman School of Nutrition Science
Prof. Manfred Zeller	University of Hohenheim

Name	Affiliation
Rachel Lambert	Senior Livelihoods Adviser, Department for International Development (DFID)
Oliver Knight	Deputy Programme Manager, Department for International Development (DFID)
Martin Broadley	Senior Research Fellow, Agriculture/Food Systems, Department for International Development (DFID)
Kristen MacNaughtan	Program Officer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
Shelly Sundberg	Program Officer, Nutrition, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
John McDermott	Director, CGIAR Research Program on Agriculture for Nutrition and Health (A4NH)
Sally Abbott	Acting Nutrition Division Chief, Bureau for Food Security at United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Nicola Lowe	Global Challenge Research Fund (GCRF) Food Systems Leader, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)



IMMANA Grants: lessons learnt from previous concept note submissions

- Very interesting research proposals, however some lacked the innovative element which is a focus of the IMMANA grants, and were considered out of scope for IMMANA grant funding (48% in Round 2).
- Lack of focus on the linkages between agriculture, food systems and nutrition. i.e. research topics did not emphasise the importance of multidisciplinary work (40% in Round 2)
- Lack of strong partnerships and in some cases, no partnerships included in the proposal (20% in Round 2).
- Weak research expertise/experience i.e. did not provide sufficient evidence of ability to conduct research at an international standard of excellence (17% in Round 2)

IMMANA Grants: additional key considerations

- Review the draft contract terms and conditions on the IMMANA website and ensure that your institution is able to meet these as they are non-negotiable.
- Potential currency fluctuations particularly if your institutions are not based in the UK.

IMMANA Grants Round 3 : Timelines



Milestones	Dates
Submission of concept memos	15 December 2019
Invitations to submit full proposals	30 January 2020
Submission of full proposals	15 April 2020
Notification of awards	1 October 2020
Grants start	1 December 2020

IMMANA Evidence and Gap

Map

- Thalia Sparling