

*Dear SIRN community,*

*In this issue, we are highlighting opportunities for funding that are coming up in the few next months. If you are aware of any other opportunity that is not in this list, do send us the information so we can add them on our [website](#). We tried to collate this information as accurate as possible, but we also ask colleagues to double check deadlines directly at funders' website.*

*Adélia de Paula (on behalf of [SIRN Leadership Team](#))*

### Research Councils grants:

- **BBSRC Sustainable Agriculture for Sub-Saharan Africa (SASSA) is now open**

The call aims to enhance food security by improving the productivity and health of crops important to African farmers. Its focus is on farming systems in which crops are grown primarily for human consumption, and their interactions with the environment. Projects may also include crops grown for animal feed or non-food uses in rotations or mixtures with food crops, and the contributions of farmed animals to food crop productivity.

Up to £10 million is available, subject to the quality of proposals received, with the aim of supporting a balanced portfolio of around 10 to 15 projects across the scope of the call. Applications must not exceed a maximum of £2 million (at 100% of their full economic cost). Funds can be requested for up to three years, but projects are expected to be completed by 30 June 2021.

The call is funded from the UK government's Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF). As well as being scientifically excellent, research supported under it must meet the criteria for classification of expenditure as Official Development Assistance (ODA). Detailed information about the call and how to apply is provided in the 'Guidance for applicants' (downloadable from BBSRC website)

**The deadline for application is 8 November 2017, 16:00 (GMT)** More information [here](#).

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- **BBSRC - Responsive mode application deadlines**

**Next deadline: 4 October 2017, 16:00** More information [here](#)

- **NERC - Standard grants**

**Next deadline: 16 January 2018, 16:00** which will be strictly applied. More information [here](#).

- **ESRC - Research Grants**

**You can submit proposals to this call at any time** - there are no fixed closing dates. More information [here](#).

- **NERC Regional Impact from Science of the Environment**

NERC invites research organisations with a strong and substantial portfolio of NERC-funded research to apply through RISE calls for a five-year programme of activity with a NERC contribution of £2.5 million-£4 million at 80% full economic cost. Regional Impact from Science of the Environment (RISE) is dedicated to bringing research organisations together with businesses, policy bodies and other actors contributing to economic development specific to their location to deliver significant regional impact from NERC environmental science.

**The deadline for outline proposals is 21 September 2017, 16:00** More information [here](#).

- **ESRC - Transformative Research call 2017-18**

Fourth round of call aims to provide a stimulus for genuinely transformative research ideas at the frontiers of the social sciences, enabling research which challenges current thinking to be supported and developed. They intend to support approximately 10-12 transformative awards (depending on the quality of the proposals received), each supporting up to £250,000 (at 100% full economic costs (FEC)) for projects up to 24 months in duration.

ESRC invites proposals from UK-based research organisations (ROs) eligible for Research Council funding and from any area of the social sciences. They welcome interdisciplinary proposals on the proviso that these must be at least 50% social science in disciplinary focus. This includes the focus of the research, the principal investigator, and other personnel involved.

**The deadline for proposals is 7th November 2017** More information [here](#).

- **MRC - Confidence in Global Nutrition and Health Research: Institutional "pump-priming" awards to develop new opportunities in Global Nutrition and Health Research**

The purpose of this call is to provide institutional "pump-priming" funds to lay the grounds for future large scale, multidisciplinary, cross-country global nutrition and health research bids addressing issues of primary relevance to Low Middle Income Countries (LMICs). It is expected that these funds will help develop new strategies in global nutrition and health research, within and across institutions and in partnership with LMICs.

Topics include 'Food production and supply chain and linkages to human health (production of nutritious healthy food; sustainable agriculture and farming in harmony with ecosystems; environmental effects through agriculture; food hygiene; effects of marketing, food policy and food tax on diet)'

**The deadline for proposals is 14 Sep 2017 16:00 GMT+1** More information [here](#).

- **RCUK - Interdisciplinary Research Hubs to Address Intractable Challenges Faced by Developing Countries (LARGE GRANT OPPORTUNITY)**

Research Councils UK invites proposals from eligible UK research organisations to establish and lead a number of challenge-led and impact-focused GCRF Interdisciplinary Research Hubs which meet the aims of Official Development Assistance. Between £8M - £20M (full economic cost) will be available for each Hub, provided over a 5 year period starting on 1st December 2018. Depending on the quality of the applications received they anticipate awarding 12-15 Hubs. Each Hub is required to demonstrate:

- Challenge and impact focus
- Interdisciplinary research excellence
- Global partnerships
- Organisation and leadership

Assessment will be through a two-stage process. The first stage will comprise of a short mandatory Intention to Submit survey and call for outline proposals. Following this, the most competitive outline proposals will be invited to develop full proposals.

**The Intention to Submit survey must be completed by 29th September 2017.** Outline proposals must be submitted via Je-S by 16:00 Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) on 9th November 2017. Late submissions will not be accepted.

More information [here](#).

### Grants requiring attendance to Sandpit workshops

- **Project scoping workshop for RCUK (BBSRC, NERC, ESRC) - CIAT (Colombia) Newton-Caldas Fund Sustainable Tropical Agricultural Systems Programme**

£ 2.9 million available – The call will be managed as a two-stage process with the first stage being awards for pump-priming proposals. Focus on resilience and sustainability of tropical agricultural systems, partnership building and interdisciplinary projects involving at least two of the biological, environmental, economic and social sciences. Proposals for the pump-priming phase of this call will be developed at a Project Scoping Workshop to be held at CIAT Headquarters in Cali, Colombia, on 30 October - 2 November 2017. Applications to the pump-priming stage will be developed and assessed at the Project Scoping Workshop. Attendance at this workshop is a requirement for leading an application. The second stage of funding (opening in 2018) will build on successful pump-primed projects.

**The deadline for workshop applications is 6 September 2017, 16:00 (today).** More information [here](#)

- **SARIC (BBSRC, NERC) Third Call to support sustainable agriculture**

£1.5m available (around £1M for research grants and £0.5M for translation) - Successful sandpit projects will be invited to be submitted as proposals for either a Research or Research Translation Grant

**The deadline for workshop application is 11 September 2017, 16:00.** More information [here](#)

- **BBSRC - Addressing the challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance in India**

Under the joint initiative £6.49 million will be available for UK elements of funded proposals, with matched commitment from the Indian side. The intention is to fund projects of up to three years in duration, commencing mid-2018.

This sandpit will be a residential interactive workshop over three and a half days in India in early November 2017 and will lead to collaborative research projects aimed at addressing the issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in humans and animals in India. The sandpit will facilitate the formation of teams and development of outline proposals that will subsequently be developed into full proposals.

**Expressions of Interest application deadline: 11 September 2017, 16:00** Antimicrobial Resistance Sandpit: week commencing 6 November 2017 Full proposal application deadline: December 2017 TBC More information [here](#).

## Fellowships:

- **NERC Satellite Applications Catapult KE Fellowship**

NERC, in partnership with the Satellite Applications Catapult, is inviting Knowledge Exchange (KE) Fellowship proposals that address environmental issues and challenges faced by urban leaders, government organisations, planners or businesses, in towns and cities and how the use of satellite technology (Earth observation, positioning navigation and timing & communications) can help. Applications are welcomed on a full or part time basis (between 50% and 80% full time equivalent). Ideally the fellowship will commence November 2017 with duration of two years. This KE Fellowship will be paid at 80% full economic cost and there is a budget of £60,000 for salary costs and up to £8,000 for travel and subsistence per annum. Any career stage and salary level may apply, with the expectations of achievement adjusted accordingly.

**The deadline for applications is 12 September 2017, 16:00** More information [here](#).

- **BBSRC - New Investigator Scheme (Funded through responsive mode)**

Assists early-career researchers – newly employed university lecturers, lecturer level equivalent fellows whose awards were secured in open competition, and researchers in Research Council Institutes at the unified Research Council Band E or its equivalent – to secure their first major element of research funding.

**The deadline for applications is 4 October 2017, 16:00** More information [here](#).

## Grants with Industry

- **Newton UK-China Agri-tech challenge 2017**

Innovate UK and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) are investing up to £8 million (£4 million each) in projects that use cutting-edge technologies to solve agricultural challenges in China. Projects should address challenges related to agricultural technologies in one or more of these 3 sectors: precision agriculture, agriculture digitization and decision management tools;

improving the efficiency of sustainable agricultural production and agricultural products processing.

The deadline for this competition has been extended. **You must now register before midday on 13 September 2017. You must apply before midday on 20 September 2017** More information [here](#).

- **BBSRC 'Stand-alone' LINK** (Funded through responsive mode)

LINK supports collaborative research projects between at least one company and one academic partner. At least 50% of the full project cost comes from industry. Applications should be for pre-competitive research that would not be undertaken in this form without LINK support. Funding is only available for organisations eligible for BBSRC support.

**The deadline for application is 4 October 2017, 16:00** More information [here](#).

### Other international opportunities:

- **BBSRC-Brazil (FAPESP) joint funding of research** (funded through responsive mode)

Research Councils UK (RCUK) and FAPESP, the State of São Paulo Research Foundation, have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to welcome, encourage and support applications that may cut across their national boundaries and involve international collaborative teams.

**The deadline for application is 4 October 2017, 16:00** More information [here](#).

- **London International Development Centre Interdisciplinary Seed Fund**

The LIDC Interdisciplinary Fund (formerly known as the LIDC Fellowships Scheme) aims to support new collaborative research projects in international development between academics from at least two different LIDC member Colleges (Birkbeck, Institute of Education, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, SOAS, City University, London, Queen Mary, University of London and Royal Veterinary College). Grants of up to £6,000 per project are available to support innovative ideas for international development research that are inter-sectoral (e.g. between education and health, agriculture and environment, etc.) and/ or interdisciplinary (e.g. between political science and anthropology, economics and epidemiology, etc.). The programme is intended as seed funding to help collaborators across Colleges to develop new research areas, and runs on an annual basis.

**The deadline for application is by midnight on 10 October 2017** More information [here](#).

- **Newton Fund Regional Latin America Biodiversity Programme - Researcher Links travel grants and workshops**

NERC and the British Council are pleased to announce a new Newton Funded Regional Latin America Programme to understand the role of biodiversity in underpinning ecosystem services and sustainable development. Countries included in this regional

programme are Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. There are four priority areas: understanding habitats and species; biodiversity for sustainable livelihoods and bio-economy; global climate change, biodiversity and ecosystems and maintaining and restoring natural capital. The Newton Fund Regional Latin American Biodiversity Programme will be delivered in two phases.

**Phase 1 (this call)** - Workshops and travel grants

- Phase 1 is led by the British Council, which has launched the following capacity building and mobility schemes.
- **Closing date for both schemes is 13 October 2017, 16:00**

**Phase 2 (launching 2018)** - Multilateral research programme  
More information [here](#).

- **BBSRC UK-India Newton-Bhabha Fund joint call on pulses and oilseeds**

Up to £3.5 million is available from BBSRC to support the UK components of this research and this is matched by Department of Biotechnology 's support for the Indian components. It is expected that projects funded through this initiative will bring together multiple UK and Indian research groups. Industrial partners can be involved in the research as project partners but are not eligible to receive funding from BBSRC. **The deadline for application is 24 October 2017, 16:00** More information [here](#).

- [The Belmont Forum](#) and [BiodivERsA](#) will soon launch a joint call on "Scenarios of biodiversity and ecosystem services"

Indicative global budget: 25 million euro. For this call, scientific teams will be invited to form transnational research consortia with teams from minimum 3 countries participating in the call. Indicative schedule of the call: **October 2017: official launch of the Call**; December 2017: Deadline to submit pre-registration; March 2018: Deadline to submit full proposals. More information [here](#).

### Other grants:

- **The Leverhulme Trust calendar for 2018 funding round is now available**

The Trust awards funding across academic disciplines, supporting talented individuals in the arts, humanities, sciences and social sciences to realise their personal vision in research and professional training. As well as substantial grants for research, they offer fellowships for researchers at every stage of their career, grants for international collaboration and travel, and support for the fine and performing arts. One of the largest all-subject providers of research funding in the UK, distributing approximately £80m a year. More information [here](#).

- **The Prince's Farm Resilience Programme** (aimed for farmers)

The programme aims to help family farm businesses improve their confidence, efficiency, and resilience. It brings together like minded farm enterprises in local

networks, to help them review their current activity, identify opportunities and improvements that can be made on-farm to build resilience, and to help sustain a diverse farming sector in the UK. More information [here](#).

## Future events from the Sustainable Intensification Research Platform – SIP

### Enhancing Our Agricultural Landscape: Sustainable Intensification in Practice

SIP invites you to discuss our findings from the Sustainable Intensification Research Platform. Funded by Defra and the Welsh Government, the Platform is promoting new methods in farmland and landscape scale management, which could, for society's welfare, provide both enhanced farm productivity and environmental benefits e.g. clean air, water.

There are five events at the following locations. Each will enable you:

- To learn more about various land management decision support tools.
- To meet and interact with the researchers involved on the research farms.
- To learn about the range of findings across the 7 national Platform study sites.

Friday 20th	North Wyke, Okehampton, Devon, EX20 2SB
Monday 23rd	Nafferton Farm, Stocksfield, Northumberland, NE43 7XD
Tuesday 24th	GWCT Visitor Centre, Loddington, LE7 9XE
Wednesday 25th	Morley Farm, Botolph, Wymondham, Norfolk, NR18 9DF
Friday 27th	Neuadd Reichel, Bangor University, Bangor, LL57 2TW

The workshops run from 10.00 -15.00 and are free to attend.

Online registration: <http://bit.ly/2u6Ewta> (This link will take you to an Eventbrite page)

### Sustainable Intensification at the Landscape Scale: An Introduction to the Landscape Typology Tool - webinar

#### Free webinar - Thursday 2nd November, 2017 1:00pm (GMT)

Managing farmland to increase farm output and competitiveness, whilst protecting the countryside and enhancing environment and social benefits defines the work of the Sustainable Intensification Research Platform. Funded by Defra and the Welsh Government, the Platform has produced a tool to assist in planning and decision making for Sustainable Intensification at the landscape-scale. In this webinar, which is launching the Tool nationally, the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology provide an introduction to the tool and its varied capabilities and applications.

The webinar will be presented by Professor Jack Cosby (CEH) and Chaired by Siobhan Sherry (Defra).

This event is co-hosted by the [Ecosystems Knowledge Network](#) with the Sustainable Intensification Research Network

Registration is required to join this event. If you have not registered, please do so now [here](#).

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## Would you like to join our network today?

We encourage you to join the network by completing the [online form](#). If you haven't register yet, please do as this will help us build an expertise database that will be used for future reference. Registration with SIRN is free and will only take few minutes.

To receive future news follow us on [@SIRN Tweets](#) or subscribe to our newsletter [here](#).



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