



## **N8 AgriFood: Accessing Global Challenges Research Fund/ ODA Funding - 12 October 2016**

**Brian Harris**  
**(Joint) Head of Strategy - Agriculture and Food Security**

**Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council**



# 2015 CSR ODA Funding opportunities delivered by Research Councils

## GCRF

- £1.5B ODA fund for UK science to address global challenges focused on the needs of developing countries
- Delivered by Research Councils, Academies, HEFCE and UK Space Agency
- Individual Council allocations BBSRC (£90M)
- RCUK collective fund £692M profiled over 5 years

## Newton Fund

- ODA fund to support science and innovation partnerships between the UK and 16 developing countries
- Delivered by Research Councils, Academies, Innovate UK, British Council and Met Office.
- Second tranche of funding coming online in 2017/18 (£75M pa to £150M pa by 2021)
- Opportunities for collaboration with China, India, Brazil, Mexico, South East Asia, South Africa

## How is the Newton Fund evolving?

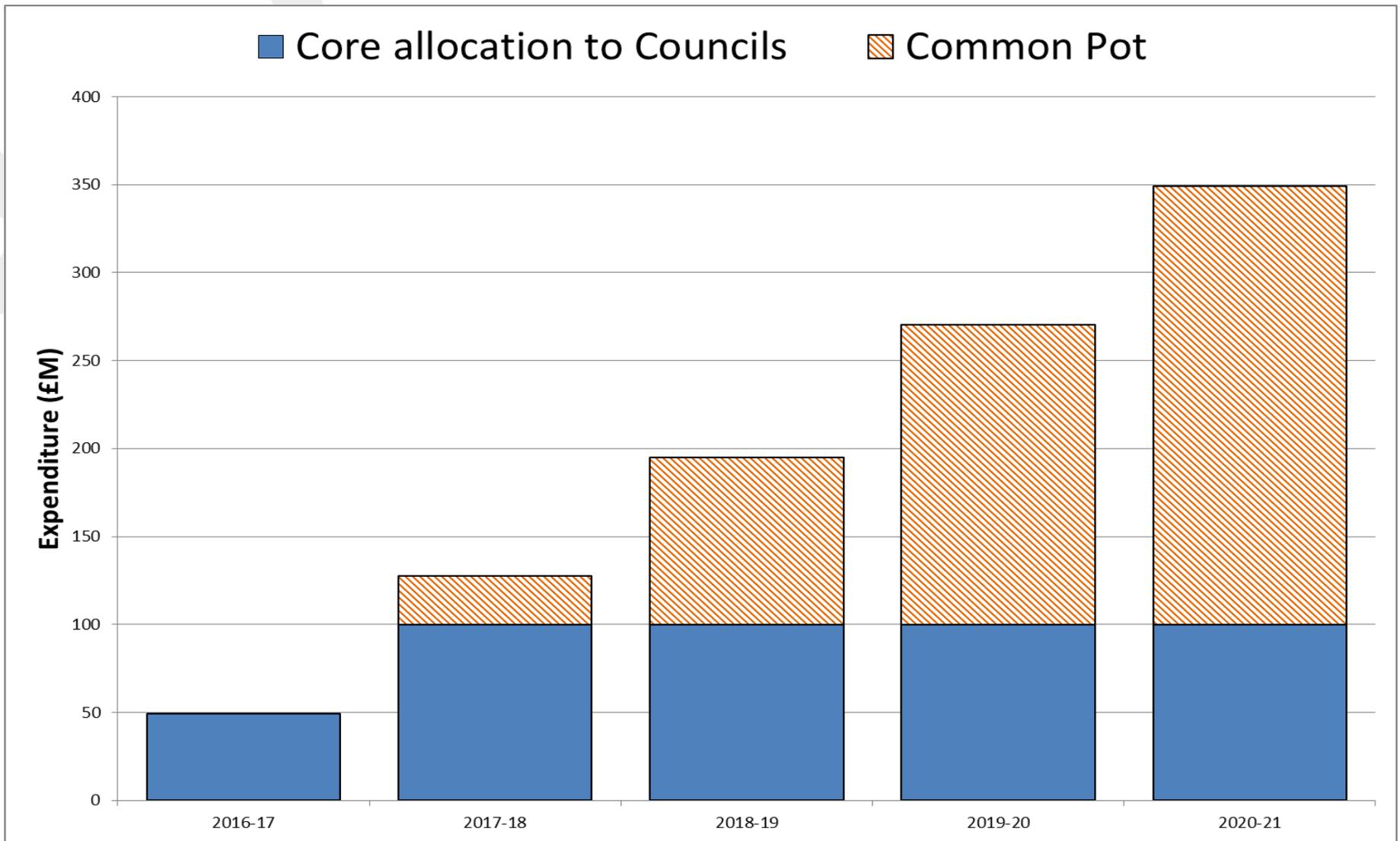
- **Launched in April 2014** for 5 years and £75M per year
- **2015 UK Spending review** agreed to **extend** and **expand** Newton Fund
- **Extension** – Newton Fund extended to 2021
- **Expansion** – Newton Fund £90M this year and up to £150M by 2021. £735M UK investment to 2021 with partner countries providing matched resources within the Fund
- **Bids from RCs** and others currently under consideration by BEIS
- **Kenya** new partner country from 2016



# Global Challenges Research Fund

- £1.5B fund to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries
- administered through RCUK and other delivery partners
- part of UK's 0.7% GNI ODA commitment (monitored by OECD)
- ODA-funded activity focuses on outcomes to promote long-term sustainable growth of countries on OECD DAC list
- comprises core allocations to individual RCs + centrally managed RCUK collective fund (“common pot”)
- overseen by Strategic Advisory Group which advises on its development and delivery

# GCRF allocation to RCUK



# GCRF Challenge Areas (1-5)

Informed by UK Aid Strategy, UN Sustainable Development Goals, SAG and engagement with stakeholder community (town meetings and call for evidence)

GCRF aims to support excellent research that directly contributes to the development and welfare of people in developing countries by:

Creating knowledge and driving innovation to help ensure everyone across the globe has access to:

1. Secure and resilient food systems supported by sustainable agriculture
2. Sustainable health and well being
3. Inclusive and equitable quality education
4. Clean air, water and sanitation
5. Renewable energy and materials

## **GCRF Challenge Areas (6-11)**

Encouraging research that for the longer-term builds:

6. Sustainable livelihoods supported by strong foundations for inclusive economic growth and innovation
7. Resilience and action on short-term environmental shocks and long-term environmental change
8. Sustainable cities and communities

Supporting research that enables us to:

9. Understand and effectively respond to forced displacement and multiple refugee crises
10. Reduce conflict and promote peace, justice and humanitarian action
11. Reduce poverty and inequality, including gender inequalities

## Developing BBSRC Plans: “Core allocation”

- **Year 1 spend (2016/17) - focus on building capacity and capability through “foundation awards”**
  - institutional / researcher capacity building (UK/in-country).
- **Years 2-5 spend (2017-2020) - increased focus on strategic programmes**

Examples might include:

- **Follow-on Fund** for International Development;
  - a new **researcher-led priority**: respond to international development challenges;
  - **strategically-themed calls** for proposals;
  - **capacity and capability**: e.g. fellowships, training, international partner leverage, genomic resources and supporting infrastructure.
- **“Collective fund” (2017-2020) - to be determined and managed centrally**

# Major GCRF calls for proposals

## Core allocations:

Foundation Awards for Global Agricultural and Food Systems Research - BBSRC and other RCs (closed)

Non-Communicable Disease Foundation awards - MRC and other RCs (closed)

Global Infections Foundation Awards - MRC and other RCs (closed)

Variety of other, smaller calls

## Collective fund:

Growing research capability to meet the challenges faced by developing countries (closes 25 Oct)

# Benefits delivering ODA funding

- **Financial:**
  - Gearing of Research Council investment
  - Additional funding for UK research community
- **Scientific:**
  - Enables excellent UK researchers to apply their expertise to new challenges
  - Enables UK researchers to work with necessary new partners
  - Enhances capacity in both developing countries and UK
- **Delivery of impact:**
  - Helps to tackle major global challenges
  - Extends impact of UK researchers' work into new arenas
  - Contributes to implementation of Government policy
- **Reputational:**
  - High-profile collaborative programmes led by Research Councils
  - Helps to position UK as scientific partner of choice
  - Research Councils seen to be addressing international development and Government policy

# New UK Aid Strategy

- In 2013, the UK formally committed to spending 0.7% GNI per annum on Official Development Assistance (ODA)
- In November 2015, new UK aid strategy published:

*‘.....the UK’s development spending will meet our moral obligation to the world’s poorest and also support our national interest.....’*



# What is Official Development Assistance (ODA)?

## *Background*

- ODA is the **key measure** of a countries **investment in aid**.
- Definition agreed in **1969** by the **OECD DAC** (Development Assistance Committee).
- DAC members agree definition – UK can influence but cannot set/change the definition.
- 1970 most DAC members agreed to long term objective of 0.7% ODA target.
- **2015** UK govt. placed into law target to achieve **0.7% GNI p.a. ODA spend**.
- Measured on a **calendar year** basis
- Detailed programme level data scrutinised and **published** by the OECD

# What is Official Development Assistance (ODA)?

Official Development Assistance is defined as:

those **flows** to **developing countries** and to **multilateral institutions** for flows to ODA recipients which are:

- i. provided by **official agencies**, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and
- ii. each transaction of which:
  - a. is administered with the **promotion of the economic development and welfare** of developing countries as its main objective; and
  - b. is **concessional in character** and conveys a grant element of at least 25per cent (calculated at a rate of discount of 10 per cent)

» The key decisive criteria in determining ODA eligibility is establishing “**economic development and welfare of developing countries**” as the primary objective

# Which are the ODA eligible developing countries?

- OECD publishes a list of eligible countries 'the DAC list'
- Updated every 3 years
- Based on World Bank – **GNI per capita**
- Includes countries such as China, India, Brazil, Kenya, Bangladesh
- In 2017 – Antigua & Barbuda, Chile, Uruguay, Argentina & Venezuela will graduate if remain high income countries.

DAC List of ODA Recipients  
Effective for reporting on 2014, 2015 and 2016 flows

Least Developed Countries	Other Low Income Countries (per capita GNI <= \$1 045 in 2013)	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$1 046-\$4 125 in 2013)	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories (per capita GNI \$4 126-\$12 745 in 2013)
Afghanistan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Armenia	Albania
Angola	Kenya	Bolivia	Algeria
Bangladesh	Tajikistan	Cabo Verde	Antigua and Barbuda <sup>2</sup>
Benin	Zimbabwe	Cameroon	Argentina
Bhutan		Congo	Azerbaijan
Burkina Faso		Côte d'Ivoire	Belarus
Burundi		Egypt	Belize
Cambodia		El Salvador	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Central African Republic		Georgia	Botswana
Chad		Ghana	Brazil
Comoros		Guatemala	Chile <sup>2</sup>
Democratic Republic of the Congo		Guyana	China (People's Republic of)
Djibouti		Honduras	Colombia
Equatorial Guinea <sup>1</sup>		India	Cook Islands
Eritrea		Indonesia	Costa Rica
Ethiopia		Kosovo	Cuba
Gambia		Kyrgyzstan	Dominica
Guinea		Micronesia	Dominican Republic
Guinea-Bissau		Moldova	Ecuador
Haiti		Mongolia	Fiji
Kiribati		Morocco	Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
Laos People's Democratic Republic		Nicaragua	Gabon
Lesotho		Nigeria	Grenada
Liberia		Pakistan	Iran
Madagascar		Papua New Guinea	Iraq
Malawi		Paraguay	Jamaica
Mali		Philippines	Jordan
Mauritania		Samoa	Kazakhstan
Mozambique		Sri Lanka	Lebanon
Myanmar		Swaziland	Libya
Nepal		Syrian Arab Republic	Malaysia
Niger		Tokelau	Maldives
Rwanda		Ukraine	Marshall Islands
Sao Tome and Principe		Uzbekistan	Mauritius
Senegal		Viet Nam	Mexico
Sierra Leone		West Bank and Gaza Strip	Montenegro
Solomon Islands			Montserrat
Somalia			Namibia
South Sudan			Nauru
Sudan			Niue
Tanzania			Palau
Timor-Leste			Panama
Togo			Peru
Tuvalu			Saint Helena
Uganda			Saint Lucia
Vanuatu <sup>1</sup>			Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Yemen			Serbia
Zambia			Seychelles
			South Africa
			Suriname
			Thailand
			Tonga
			Tunisia
			Turkey
			Turkmenistan
			Uruguay <sup>2</sup>
			Venezuela
			Wallis and Futuna

(1) The United Nations General Assembly resolution 68/L.20 adopted on 4 December 2013 decided that Equatorial Guinea will graduate from the least developed country category three and a half years after the adoption of the resolution and that Vanuatu will graduate four years after the adoption of the resolution.

(2) Antigua and Barbuda, Chile and Uruguay exceeded the high income country threshold in 2012 and 2013. In accordance with the DAC rules for revision of this List, all three will graduate from the List in 2017 if they remain high income countries until 2016.

# What is ODA eligible research?

- ✓ Only research **directly and primarily relevant** to the problems of **developing countries** may be counted as ODA.
- ✓ Research should investigate a **specific problem** or seek a specific outcome which will **impact on developing countries** in the immediate or longer-term.
- ✓ Research proposals can **focus on a development topic or address an unmet capacity need** in the partner country.
- ✓ Research does not need to be solely relevant to developing countries, but **developing countries should be the primary beneficiaries**.
- ✓ Proposals should articulate a **pathway to development impact** (even if outside the timeframe of the project)
- ✓ Primary beneficiaries should be developing countries but **secondary benefits to UK** can also be articulated

## ODA eligible research – some examples

- Research conducted into zoonotic diseases primarily affecting developing countries but conducted at a UK institution – counts as ODA
- Research conducted on wheat counts as ODA if the nature of the specific research question being addressed by the study is relevant to problems specific to a developing country/ies
- Activities which build research and innovation capacity to increase skills and knowledge in a developing countries is ODA if in a sector which is important for economic development and/or welfare enhancement in those developing countries.

# Is my research idea ODA compliant?

- Funding calls scoped with ODA requirements in mind and guidance is provided in call text
- ODA compliance forms part of eligibility checks carried out on research proposals post submission
- Important to make a clear case for the benefit and relevance to developing countries (be specific!)
- Proposals should articulate a pathway to development impact (even if outside the timeframe of the project)
- Primary beneficiaries should be developing countries but secondary benefits to UK should be articulated

# Guidance available to help your application

## Generic ODA guidance

- OECD '*Is it ODA?*' pdf available to download from the OECD website:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/officialdevelopmentassistancedefinitionandcoverage.htm>

## ODA Guidance for GCRF proposals

- RCUK '*Official Development Assistance Global Challenges Research Fund Guidance*' available to download from the RCUK website: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/funding/gcrf>

## ODA Guidance for Newton Fund proposals

- RCUK '*Official Development Assistance Newton Fund Guidance*' available to download from the RCUK website:  
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/international/newton>



Questions?

