



**The New Zealand Fund for Global Partnerships
in Livestock Emissions Research**

Round 4: Frequently Asked Questions

Pre-proposal stage

May 2016

These FAQs are a compilation of questions asked and answered during previous rounds of the NZ Fund for Global Partnerships in Livestock Emissions Research (GPLER), and those asked and answered during this current funding round.

If you are unable to find an answer to your question please email GPLER@mpi.govt.nz

The following acronyms are used in the FAQs:

- GPLER: New Zealand Fund for Global Partnerships in Livestock Emissions Research
- MPI: New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries
- TAP: Technical Assessment Panel

IDENTIFYING COLLABORATORS

Have the dates of the GPLER been timed to coincide with international funding cycles?

We are not able to coordinate the GPLER with all international funding cycles. Some Global Research Alliance member countries have set aside some of their own research funding to support the work of the Alliance and collaborate with other Alliance aligned projects.

Finding international co-funding for research in temperate pastoral farming (NZ specific projects) can be difficult – can we form collaborations with those who normally work outside of agricultural greenhouse gases?

Collaborations with scientific disciplines outside of agricultural greenhouse gas research are strongly encouraged. Proposals should identify the best teams for the research which may include forming new and multi-disciplinary collaborations.

Is international collaboration a requirement of the GPLER?

International collaboration is not a requirement. It is possible that the best team for the proposed research will all be based in New Zealand. However, please ensure that this is clearly justified in the completed application form and consider a “whole of New Zealand” approach. It is not possible to have a project team that **does not** include New Zealand researchers.

Is New Zealand participation a requirement of the GPLER?

Yes. The GPLER requires that at least 30% of the requested budget is used to fund New Zealand researchers. International participants will need to find a New Zealand institute as a collaborator. Contact the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre at enquiry@nzagrc.org.nz if you are having trouble identifying an institute to partner with.

What is the minimum percentage of time a collaborator needs to spend on a project before they can be listed as a key contributor?

Only collaborators who are making a substantive time commitment to the project should be listed as a key contributor. This should also include the project leader. As a guide, the project leader would be expected to devote a minimum of 10-30 per cent of a 'full time equivalent' per year on average to the project, and other designated key member/s to devote a minimum of 30 per cent of a full time equivalent per year on average to the project

As a New Zealand scientist, is it possible to be part of more than one pre-proposal?

Yes it is possible for an individual to be part of more than one pre-proposal. However, people must be able to commit to delivering the work. As a general rule MPI recommends that an individual does not commit more than 120 per cent of their time across all of the proposals that they will possibly be involved in. i.e. if an individual was involved in three pre-proposal project teams, the time committed for that individual to each of the proposals should not add up to more than 120 per cent of their available work commitment.

Does MPI have a preference for cooperation between more than two countries in these projects?

The GPLER actively encourages international collaborations between the best people available for the project. If that means only two countries are involved because that team is the most appropriate team globally to deliver the research then that is acceptable. However, it is important that the pre-proposal application details how the team's core skills and ability to deliver high quality outcomes make it the most appropriate team to undertake this project, and why including other countries/disciplines/individuals would not have improved the team in any way.

Can MPI please provide a definition of "international (non New Zealand) organisation or company" that might contribute to the co-funding requirement of this fund?

MPI considers an "international (non New Zealand) organisation or company" to mean an organisation or company or subsidiary of a

company registered to do business or carry out activities in a country that is not New Zealand. We would expect that the co-funding provided by this non New Zealand organisation or company would be generated from revenue or funds in the country that they are registered to do business in and that that co-funding would largely provide support for the non New Zealand based research in the project.

Can developing countries apply for this funding?

Yes, developing countries can apply to the GPLER. Non-Alliance member developing countries cannot lead a bid but they can be part of a project that is led by an Alliance member country. Note that all projects must include at least 30 per cent New Zealand participation.

The call clearly states that we should have a collaborator from New Zealand. Can MPI help us identify a collaborator for each research challenge?

MPI cannot put you in contact with New Zealand scientists who may be preparing bids. However the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (our domestic science institution working in this area), may be able to be of assistance. You can contact them at enquiry@nzagrc.org.nz . We would suggest that when you contact them you supply clear details of your project so they can direct you to a relevant organisation. Before you do this, make sure you have carefully read the research challenges that the GPLER is supporting.

Is it possible to add additional members to the project team during the full proposal stage of the funding process?

Yes, it is possible to add new members to your project team. It will be important that your full proposal clearly demonstrates why the project team that you are proposing represents the most appropriate combination of international expertise for the project proposed, being sure to identify any new members since the pre-proposal stage.

Are international organisations that are Alliance Partners but not organisations of an Alliance Member country eligible to lead the project?

The GPLER requires that proposals have to be led by an organisation from New Zealand or another Alliance member country. Organisations from non-Alliance member countries, even those that are Alliance Partners, could not therefore lead a bid. However, organisations from non-Alliance member countries can still be partners/collaborators in projects and we welcome their involvement.

CO-FUNDING CLARIFICATIONS

Please explain the co-funding requirements

Co-funding from international (non-New Zealand) participating organisations is strongly encouraged in all proposals. Note that up to 10 per cent of the budget requested can be paid to an international organisation without requiring co-funding in return. However, as soon as more than 10 per cent of the budget is to be paid to an international organisation, then that organisation must match **dollar for dollar** the amount of funding that is allocated to that international organisation.

Is co-funding required from all international partners?

Co-funding is not required if all the money requested from the GPLER is being paid to New Zealand institutions, or if less than 10 per cent is being spent offshore. This 10 per cent may be used for an international technical expert, the cost of contracting research or supporting the participation of an international partner. Once more than 10 per cent of the budget sought leaves New Zealand to be paid to an international partner, then the co-funding rules apply.

How can partners without access to funding contribute to a proposal?

Co-funding from international collaborators may be “in-kind”. That is, researchers may count the time spent on the project as co-funding if cash co-funding is not possible. Please note that there are caveats around “in-kind” co-funding, see below.

When should co-funding be confirmed by?

Co-funding **must** be confirmed in writing prior to submitting the full proposal and evidence of this included with the application. If this is not included, the application may be assessed as incomplete and not considered.

What type of guarantee does MPI require from international collaborators who are offering in-kind co-funding contributions?

MPI requires written confirmation of co-funding, whether that contribution is cash or in-kind. This must be attached to the full proposal. Written confirmation should specify the total value of the co-funding contribution and, if it is in-kind, how that contribution has been calculated and what it represents in terms of contribution to the project. In addition to the written confirmation, there are tables in the budget section of the full proposal form to specify what parts of the project the in-kind co-funding will contribute to.

Can work that is already funded by international partners that is aligned with and contributes to the research proposal, be counted as co-funding, or must co-funding be “new” money, time, data invested by these collaborators?

Work already funded by international partners can be "counted" as co-funding in a bid to the GPLER. However (and this is an important caveat), any existing programmes/projects that are being put forward as co-funding must demonstrate that their work is being changed to meet the requirements of the project that is the subject of the bid to the GPLER. This means that if existing work is being proposed as co-funding but without any changes, then it will not pass the test of being "beyond business as usual" so will not be counted.

Can applicants build on proposals accepted for funding in previous rounds to form a proposal for Round 4?

Yes, provided the pre-proposal clearly addresses one of the research challenges.

Can we apply more than once but under the four themes given?

Yes. One project team can submit more than one project proposal under each or any of the four different research challenges.

WHAT COSTS WILL THE FUND WILL COVER

How much money can be spent on equipment?

It is not MPI policy to fund equipment purchases as this is regarded as the responsibility of the research provider. Therefore, the GPLER cannot cover equipment purchase. However, it is acceptable to include depreciation costs on capital equipment needed to carry out an experimental programme.

What can I use seed funding for?

Seed funding is only available for those pre proposals that have been invited to submit a full proposal.

The purpose of the seed funding is to reimburse the costs associated with developing a full proposal (e.g. telecommunications, venue hire for meetings, travel and accommodation) so that team members may meet to develop and finalise the proposal.

How will the money be paid?

Research funding will be paid via a contract between MPI and the institution leading the successful project. A payment schedule will be agreed as part of negotiating that contract. Please note that work carried out by New Zealand organisations will be invoiced directly to MPI,

whether they lead the project or are sub-contracted by another Alliance member country.

Can the money be spent to pay scholarships for doctorate students?

It is acceptable to include funding for PhD and Post-Doctorate students in a proposal. Please note that for developing countries, New Zealand also has another fund for scholarships for doctorate students - to find out more, please see www.livestockemissions.net

GENERAL QUESTIONS

When will the final decision on full proposals be announced as this can affect an agricultural research project with seasonal requirements?

We expect applicants to be notified about the success of their full proposals in April 2017. Exact dates will depend on the assessment and decision-making process.

Will we be provided with feedback from the TAP if our pre-proposals are not accepted?

No, the TAP does not provide feedback on unsuccessful pre-proposals. However, if your pre-proposal is successful, then you will receive feedback from the TAP as to what they expect to see in the full proposal.

Will we be provided with feedback from the TAP if our full proposal is not accepted?

Yes. The letter you receive that notifies you of the outcome of your full proposal will include brief feedback from the TAP. In addition, summaries of the reviews from the independent referees will be available on request.

Are references permitted in the pre-proposals?

References are not needed at the pre-proposal stage. The point of the pre-proposals is for the project team to demonstrate in a concise manner that they have an innovative idea for responding to one or more of the research challenges. The pre-proposal is not a detailed assessment of the science claims. Adding references is unlikely to help at this stage in the application process and therefore MPI requests that references are not included in the pre-proposals.

Should the end users identified be the immediate users for the proposal outcome, or the ultimate end users?

You should list **all** end users, being those who can immediately benefit from the work of this project (for example other scientists working in the

area) **and** those who may benefit from the outcomes of the project in the future (e.g. farmers once a piece of technology has been developed following on from further research). It depends on the stage that the research is at but MPI asks that applicants think about all possible end users.