

## Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) Report Writing Workshop

14-15th December, 2017  
KEMRI, Nairobi - Kenya

### CONCEPT NOTE

**Organised by:**  
CAAST-Net Plus

**In collaboration with:**  
Kenya Medical Research Institute, Nairobi, Kenya  
Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED)  
Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Affairs (FCSAI)  
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MoEST), Kenya



[caast-net-plus.org](http://caast-net-plus.org)

**Building Bi-regional Partnerships for Global Challenges**

## Background

CAAST-Net Plus is a project funded by the European Commission and a network of 26 partner organizations from Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa, working together to support bi-regional cooperation in research and innovation. The aim of the project is to encourage better bi-regional STI cooperation for enhanced outcomes around topics related to climate change, food security and health.

The Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), the Kenyan Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MoEST) and the Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Affairs (FCSAI) are jointly responsible for the health research thematic area in CAAST-Net Plus. Over the past few years, these institutions have been developing the Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) – a reporting system that encourages governments, business, organisations and funders to share their efforts to develop fair partnerships by describing their policies and practices. In the process, the institution, develop better guidelines and benchmarks that will increase their global capacity to deal with the challenges of global health, equity and development. Led by COHRED, the team is currently in the process of promoting and implementing the reporting tool to enhance framework conditions around health research partnerships. From 2016 to 2017, a number of RFI workshops have conducted in various pilot countries in the context of CAAST-Net Plus which including the following;

- **Kenya, Nairobi** – May 2016, hosted by Kenya Medical Research Institute (KEMRI);
- **Nigeria, Abuja** – July 2016, hosted by the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP);
- **Senegal, Dakar** – August 2016, hosted by Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MESR);
- **Belgium, Brussels** – September 2016, hosted by Spanish Health Institute Carlos III;
- **South Africa, Cape Town** – November 2016, hosted by the South African Medical Research Council.
- **Senegal, Dakar** – June 2017, hosted by Ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MESR).
- **South Africa – Cape Town** - 2nd-3<sup>rd</sup>October, 2017 hosted by The Department of Science and Technology (DST).

In addition, COHRED and FCSAI are presenting the initiative in European countries and around the world. The link to the global perspective lends an important dimension to the RFI as a tool to improve research governance in Africa-EU collaboration.

## Objectives

This RFI Report – writing workshop is aimed at Kenyan research and academic institutions on RFI and in order for them to understand how the RFI concept can add value to their international research collaborative partnerships with European partners and worldwide at large.

This workshop will inform participants on development in the RFI, and provide hands-on guidance on how the RFI Report is prepared, how it can be integrated into an institution's routine research administration as a strategic tool, and how it can add benefit to the RFI Reporting institutions and their partners. While the RFI was developed through the lens of 'research for health', the RFI is a generic 'due diligence' instrument applicable in any field of science collaboration.

## Participants

This workshop is geared for decision makers in research and academic institutions – led by a member of the institution's executive responsible for research development: including deputy vice chancellors (research), deputy directors or vice-presidents for research, deputy CEO's and other colleagues in charge of research portfolios. In case the RFI is prepared for a Faculty / Division rather than an institution – then the most relevant executive staff member

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for the Faculty/Division research development should attend preferably institutional Directors of Research who are conversant with health research funded programs.

Ideally, the executives lead a small team from their institution – whose members could include senior staff who will be made responsible for certain parts of the RFI Report: such as i) Senior academics and researchers who run or manage or are project leaders for major donor funded collaborative health research and innovation program and projects, ii) head of administration, iii) head of finance, iv) head of legal services, and others who might be responsible for parts of the RFI report drafting activity.

**In total, a team of 3-5 people from your institution, led by a member of the executive responsible for research management and development of is envisaged.**

Below are some of the institutions that have been identified as potential participants for the workshop:

1. KEMRI, Nairobi
2. University of Nairobi
3. Moi University - Eldoret
4. Agha Khan University -Nairobi

Prior to the workshop, invited individuals will receive the following documents: the *RFI Summary*, the *RFI Reporting Guide*, and the *RFI implementation Guide*. These documents can also be accessed on <https://rfi.cohred.org>.

### **Expected outcomes**

Participating institutions will gain a better understanding on how RFI makes research partnerships work and how it can be applied by research institutions in Kenya to strengthen their standard operation procedures.

Participants will also work as a team to draft their institutional RFI reports. They will be invited to share their report outcomes and finalise their reports within a month's time to be submitted to COHRED for validation.

For further information on the RFI please visit <https://rfi.cohred.org>

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**PROGRAM - Research Fairness Initiative (RFI) Report Writing Workshop – KEMRI, Nairobi.**

**DAY 1 – 14<sup>TH</sup> December 2017**

8:30-9:00	Registration/Tea/Coffee
Session-1	Chair - Prof. Jennifer Orwa (KEMRI)
9.00 – 9.15	Welcome remarks and introduction - Prof. Jennifer Orwa (KEMRI)
9.15 – 9.30	Scene setting - Objectives and expected outcomes of the of the second RFI Workshop in Kenya Dr. Eric Mwangi (MOEST)
9.30. – 9.45	The Research Fairness Initiative in a nutshell: Overview of the RFI Reporting guide Golbahar Pahlavan (COHRED Associate)
9.30-10.00	Introduction of participants
Session-2	
10:00-10:20	Application of RFI in Senegal Dr Nouhou Diaby, Ministère del'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MERS), Senegal
10.20 – 10.40	RFI workshops in Kenya Dr Kimani Gachuhi (KEMRI)
10.40 – 11.00-	RFI application in EU - Africa research cooperation - Katharina Kuss (FCSAI)
11.00 -11. 30	Question and Answers on RFI application
Session-2	Co-Chairs – Dr Simon Langat – NACOSTI and Agha Khan University
	Objectives of the Breakout sessions and expected out comes Golbahar Pahlavan
11.30 -13.00	Break Out Sessions – Institutional Group works (RFI domain I)
13.00-14.30	Lunch
14.30 – 15.30	Break Out Sessions – Institutional Group works (RFI domain II)
15.30-16.00	Brief on Day 2 activities

**Day 2 – 15th December, 2017**

8:30-9:00	Tea/Coffee
9:00-10:00	Break Out Sessions – Institutional Group works (RFI domain III)
Session 4	Chairs – Dr Kimani Gachuhi(KEMRI) and Prof. Were (Moi University)
10.00 – 12.00	Presentation of RFI draft Reports: Results of institutional group work sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University of Nairobi</li> <li>• Moi University</li> <li>• Agha Khan University</li> <li>• Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization (KALRO)</li> </ul>
12.00-13.00	Lunch
Session -5	Co-Chairs –Golbahar Pahlavan and Dr Eric Mwangi
13:00-14.00	Discussion on RFI relevance for Kenyan institutions and for bi-regional research cooperation - Panellists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prof.Jennifer Orwa (KEMRI)</li> <li>• Prof. Were (Moi University)</li> <li>• Dr Simon Langat (NACOSTI)</li> <li>• Lillian Mutengu, African Academy of Sciences (AAS)</li> <li>• Dr Jacques Lançon, French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD), France</li> <li>• KALRO Delegate</li> <li>• Nairobi University Delegate</li> <li>• Dr NouhouDiaby, Ministère del'Enseignement supérieur et de la Recherche (MERS), Senegal</li> </ul>

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<b>Session -6</b>	<b>Chair - Prof. Jennifer Orwa (KEMRI)</b>
<b>14.00-14.30</b>	<b>Official Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dr Yeri Kombe, Director Kenya Medical Research Institute(KEMRI)</b></li><li>• <b>Dr George Ombakho, Director Department of Research Science and Technology (MOEST) –</b></li><li>• <b>Dr Moses Rugutt, Director General National Council for Science and Technology (NACOSTI)</b></li><li>• <b>Katharina Kuss, Spanish Foundation for International Cooperation, Health and Social Affairs (FASCI).</b></li></ul>
<b>14.30 – 15.00</b>	<b>Closing remarks</b>  <b>Dr Eric Mwangi</b>