

**ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (IsDB) -TWAS  
RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME IN SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCES  
IN ISDB MEMBER COUNTRIES**

**GUIDELINES**

Applicants are advised to read this document carefully, to ensure that they fulfil all the requirements in preparing applications and are familiar with general policies and guidelines concerning grants.

***General Information***

- ***The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)*** - [www.isdb.org](http://www.isdb.org) - is a multilateral development bank (MDB), working to improve the lives of those we serve by promoting social and economic development in Member countries and Muslim communities worldwide, delivering impact at scale.
- ***The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) - for the advancement of science in developing countries*** – [www.twas.org](http://www.twas.org) – is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy, in 1983. TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world. Its principal aim is to promote scientific capacity and excellence for science-based development in the South.
- IsDB and TWAS partnered to promote and support research on key challenges related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- The IsDB-TWAS Grants for Research Collaboration in Sustainability Sciences is fully funded by the IsDB and established to develop collaboration between researchers of IsDB member countries.
- Under this scheme, qualified researchers from 57 IsDB countries working under the umbrella of Sustainability Science are invited to form a joint research collaboration consisting of two groups working on a common problem. Grants will be awarded to enable the collaborating groups to purchase the research equipment and strengthen the facilities they need to enhance their partnership and productivity and to support the mobility of young scientists between the participating institutions for training purposes. Such visits should have a duration of between 2 and 4 weeks. Collaborating partners should ensure, through the grant, that enough consumable supplies are available during such visits.
- One of the two groups must be within an IsDB Least Developed Member Country (see below in **green**).
- The application **MUST** be filled in and submitted via the online portal by Principal Investigator 1 (PI) who in cases where one PI is from a non IsDB Least Developed Member Country should be the one filling in the form. In cases where both PIs are from IsDB Least Developed Member Countries (listed in **green**) either one of the two may submit the form.
- The PI submitting the form will be responsible for inserting correct information for both parties. Each Institution will be required to submit a declaration form that should be downloaded from the Online Forms portal, signed and uploaded back on the portal.

- Preference will be given to applications where at least one of the two Principal investigators/researchers is a female; where absent, inclusion of women in the project must be visible.
- The IsDB-TWAS Grants for Research Collaboration in Sustainability Sciences will be awarded to those projects, which demonstrate the best potential for transformative research and most likely to yield a concrete impact on society.
- The project must be related to sustainability issues and current Global Challenges. The research proposal must demonstrate transformational research with concrete results and outcome.
- The grant amounts to a maximum of USD 50,000, per group.
- A grant is normally provided for a period of 24 months.
- A grant may be used to purchase scientific equipment and consumables and support the travel of scientists between the two participating institutions. The grant may also cover, where justified, expenses related to field work. The grant does not cover salaries of researchers and/or students. In addition, the purchase of laptop computers and laboratory animals are not supported.
- The specific aims of the programme are to:
  - identify the most promising projects relevant to sustainability sciences likely to have a concrete impact on society;
  - encourage the pursuit of scientific excellence in sustainability sciences and collaboration in IsDB member countries for the implementation of the SDGs;
  - reinforce and promote research collaboration;
  - strengthen the endogenous capacity; and
  - counteract the brain drain and, thus, reducing the exodus of scientific talent from these countries by promoting the exchange of young scientists between participating institutions.

### **Research Areas**

- The Research Grants programme provides support for research projects in the following fields:

<b>Major Fields</b>	<b>Sub-fields</b>
Sustainable Agriculture	Food security, resilient crops, postharvest technologies, land agrobiodiversity
Education	Quality of teaching, pupil/teacher ratio , high level training
Education for Sustainable Development	Integration of sustainability-related issues into national curricula and teaching syllabus documents
Climate Change	Strategies for reduction of CO <sub>2</sub> emissions, climate mitigation and carbon sequestration methods
Energy	Renewable energy technologies (solar, wind, wave, etc.), waste-to-energy technologies, biofuels including biogas, energy storage, hydrogen-fuel cell technology
Sustainable Cities	Green design, insulation technology, energy efficiency, transportation, urban planning
Responsible Growth	Reduction of waste, serving communities, ethics of growth

Waste Management	Differential waste collection and recycling, carbon footprint reduction, household and industrial waste, e-waste
Population Growth	Urban sprawl, density and epidemics, overshoot
Green Chemistry	Green and sustainable chemistry, chemistry and nanotechnology for the environment, alternative technologies, degradation of pollutants
Biodiversity	Loss of biodiversity, ecosystem services, 6 <sup>th</sup> mass extinction
Plastic pollution and Micro-plastics	Plastic pollution, microplastics, plastic in the food chain, policies to reduce plastic usage, biodegradable plastic alternatives, plastic recycling processes
Water and Hygiene	Water purity and availability, desalination technologies, underground water, sanitation and quality

### **Eligibility Criteria**

- Each Principle Investigator (PI) must be a national of an IsDB member country and hold a PhD with good research experience and lead each research group. **(Note: The PI will be responsible for the coordination of the research, submission of requested documentation and reporting of the expenses. All TWAS correspondence will be with each PI).**
- One PI MUST be from an IsDB Least Developed Member Country (listed in **green** below) and the other from any of the eligible IsDB member countries.
- Each member of the group should operate in a university or research institution in one of the [IsDB member countries](#) and should be represented in the proposal by a PI. No age limit is applied to the applicant.
- Applications from women scientists are especially encouraged.
- Individual young scientists or leaders of research units currently holding a TWAS Research Grant in the Basic Sciences are not eligible.

### **How to apply:**

- Applications must be submitted online via the **TWAS online portal**. Link at the bottom of the page on the TWAS website.
- Applications not submitted via the online portal will not be considered.
- No applications will be accepted after the deadline. Therefore, it is recommended to submit your electronic application as early as possible.
- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Please note that a researcher may only submit one application at a time and for only one kind of grant (either as an IsDB-TWAS grant or as an individual grant, as a research unit, COMSTECH or the OWSD Early Career Women Scientists (ECWS) Fellowship). Applicants cannot apply for other TWAS programmes i.e. Postdoctoral, Visiting Scholar and Visiting Researcher programme within the same year in order to be present in their home country throughout the duration of the grant.

- For any queries please write to [isdb@twas.org](mailto:isdb@twas.org)

### ***When to apply:***

- The deadline for receiving applications is **12 September 2019**. We strongly recommend that you do not wait until the deadline but submit the application as early as you can to enable us to process your application as quickly as possible.

### ***Documents crucial for this application***

*Below is a list of documentation that MUST be in the application form. Without any of the below documentation your application will be ineligible and will not move on to the review phase. We strongly recommend the application to be completed fully and thoroughly in order to stand a stronger chance of receiving the award.*

- Signed declaration forms by both institutions and PIs. The document should be the TWAS declaration form and no other format.
- A copy of the passport or national ID for each PI.
- PhD certificate of each PI

---

### **\* COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANTS**

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Brunei, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen.