



الصندوق القطري لرعاية البحث العلمي
Qatar National Research Fund
عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation



Food Security Call

QNRF-MME Joint Funding



Call for Proposals (CFP)

Second Cycle

July 2020

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Section 1. Acronym List

AA	Award Administration
AMG	Award Management Guide
AROR	Authorized Research Office Representative
CFP	Call for Proposals
Co-LPI	Co-Lead Principal Investigator
GS	Graduate Student
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IBC	Institutional Biosafety Committee
IP	Intellectual Property
IRB	Institutional Review Board
KI	Key Investigator
LPI	Lead Principal Investigator
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health- Qatar
MME	Ministry of Municipality and Environment- Qatar
PD	Post-Doctoral Scholar
PI	Principal Investigator
FS	Food Security
PR	Peer Reviewer
QNRF	Qatar National Research Fund
QNRS	Qatar National Research Strategy
QRLP	Qatar Research Leadership Program
RA	Research Assistant
REG	Research Ethics Guide
RIG	Research Integrity Guide
RO	Research Office
ROC	Research Outcome Center
SI	Submitting Institution



Section 2. Food Security Call Snapshot

SCOPE	
Competition opens	16 July 2020 (noon, Doha time)
Submission deadline	Final date for proposal submission by LPI: 13 October 2020 (noon, Doha time). Final submission and RO vetting: 20 October 2020 (noon, Doha time). The complete application is due at this time.
Announcement of results	February/March 2021
Anticipated Project Start Date	Project activities can begin only after the Master Research Funding Agreement (MRFA) has been signed. This process can take 60 days from the time of the award announcement and this should be taken into consideration when preparing the application implementation timeline.
Research priorities	In alphabetical order: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local supply chain. • Sustainable aquaculture. • Technology to accelerate local production and improve productivity of high-quality vegetables and/or animal feed. • Technology to accelerate the development of highly productive and healthy animals, including combating epidemic diseases.
Eligible applicant	The LPI from academic/research institution must be a researcher who holds a research-oriented doctorate or any of the approved terminal degrees as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees and has at least five peer reviewed publications. The LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree, however they must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of five publications, technical reports, or authored patent applications/patents. The LPI must be affiliated with an approved submitting institution inside, or a collaborative institution outside Qatar. If the LPI is from a collaborative institution outside Qatar, they must collaborate with a Co-LPI from an approved submitting institution inside Qatar.
Awards parameters	Each award is up to US\$ 200,000 per year and up to three years with a total budget of up to US\$ 500,000 . This amount includes personnel, capital equipment, consumables, materials, services, travel, miscellaneous and applicable indirect costs. All capital equipment cost must be inside Qatar.
Co-funding opportunities	QNRF & MME encourage co-funding of projects in cash and/or in-kind.
IP Policy	QNRF & MME will comply with the Qatar Foundation (QF) Intellectual Property (IP) Policy. For further details, refer to the QF IP policy at link .
How to apply	Register and submit the full application through the online submission system website: https://www.qgrants.org/ . The Grant Application Guide is available for download on www.qnrf.org . The site will be active on 16 of July 2020 (noon, Doha time).
QNRF program contact	QNRF support system http://support.qnrf.org/index.php?/Tickets/Submit .



Reference Documents

QNRF Co-Funding Policy: Please visit [link](#)

Research Ethics Guide: Please visit [link](#)

Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements document: Please visit [link](#)

Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS): Please visit [link](#)

Data Management Plan Policy: Please visit [link](#)

Travel Policy: Please visit [link](#)

Intellectual Property (IP) Policy [link](#)

For information about MME resources, please read **Section 6**

Other documents available at [link](#) and [link](#)



Section 3. Overview

Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), in partnership with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME), is hereby launching the second cycle of the joint call on Food Security (FS). This call aims to address some of the priorities identified within Qatar's Food Security Strategy 2018-2023.

QNRF aims to enable research and development excellence in Qatar to achieve a sustainable, diversified economy through the advancement of research and education by providing funding opportunities for original, competitively-selected research and development at all levels and across all disciplines with an emphasis on the following four pillars of the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS):

- Energy and Environment
- Computer Science and ICT
- Health
- Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

MME is joining hands with QNRF to address, through research, the challenges of Food Security in Qatar, and develop a comprehensive, sustainable and long-term National Food System. Food Security is a main priority for the Qatar, and has identified four major pillars:

- International Trade and Logistics
- Domestic Self-sufficiency
- Strategic Reserves
- Domestic Markets

Section 4. Call Objectives

The key objectives of this call are:

- Enhance Food Security measures in Qatar through investing in applied research in the main pillars of Qatar's National Food Security Strategy.
- Harness local and external expertise and knowledge in Food Security related science and technology to develop solutions for the local Qatari conditions.

Section 5. Research Priority Areas

The increase in food and nutritional uncertainty, climate change effects, new and emerging epidemic diseases, and economic fluctuation together with the geopolitical instability all threaten the livelihoods of millions in many countries. The need to improve food security becomes naturally vital to all countries.

QNRF and MME, after thoroughly studying the relevant national strategies, the local Qatari conditions, the different indices of Food Security in Qatar together with the challenges faced and after assessing the local capacity and available resources, agreed to focus the main priorities of this call on the following research priorities which are listed in alphabetical order:

5.1. Local supply chain

This research priority aims to support a local food supply chain that promotes the availability and affordability of quality food produced locally. Research in this priority may include:



- Develop dynamic models that simulate the market needs and customer satisfaction, and update the local supply chain processes in real time.
- Study the factors that influence the cost, quality, and accessibility to locally produced food and make policy programs and recommendations.
- Conduct analysis of market food chain, including food subsidy programs, to identify ways to increase access to healthy food produced locally.

5.2. Sustainable aquaculture

This research priority aims to support significant improvements in aquaculture technologies and fish farming systems that are needed to achieve increase in production and are environmentally sustainable. The “sustainable aquaculture” priority focuses on the research question such as how productivity-improving technologies and management practices can enable aquaculture to achieve its fullest contribution to equitable livelihoods and food and nutrition security in Qatar. Research in this priority may include:

- Sustainable Aquaculture
- Feeds, fish nutrition and health, targeting topics such fish disease surveillance and diagnostic tools, sustainable fish feed resources, integrated fish feed and health management, fish nutrition, and environmental sustainability.
- Fish breeds and genetics, targeting local species (such as grouper, yellow fin seabream, subiti sea bream, etc.) using genomic tools and methods to accelerate genetic gain in fish breeding programs.

5.3. Technology to accelerate local production and improve productivity of high-quality vegetables and/or animal feed

Increasing local food productivity through technologies that do not deplete the natural resource is one of the keys to ensuring food security for the growing needs of Qatar. In a desert climate, there is a special need for technologies and practices to sustainably increase the productivity, stability, and resilience of production systems.

Research on this priority may include:

- Promote the integration of relevant technologies in agricultural production (use of Artificial Intelligence-AI and Smart Agriculture, etc).
- Promote innovation by supporting efforts that explore and enhance ways for season extension, improved productivity and protecting local high-quality vegetables and/or animal feed (such as tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, eggplants, etc).
- Integrate efficient water use, energy into agri-technology (greenhouse design, hydroponics,) for efficient production of local high-quality vegetables and/ or animal feed.
- Integrate food safety and genetic enhancement techniques (breeding and selection) to enhance local crops, high-quality vegetables/and or animal feed.



Accelerating local production of high-quality vegetables and animal feed ensures certain level of sustainability. This will also enhance local foods availability and increase self-reliance of communities.

5.4. Technology to accelerate the development of highly productive and healthy animals, including combating epidemic diseases

This research priority aims to support technological improvements in livestock production and reproduction of breeds adapted to the local environments. Animals provide meat, milk, eggs, fibre, and manure for fertilizer, etc. Genetic diversity ensures that different species and breeds are able to adapt to extreme conditions of drought, humidity, and heat, and are resistant to diseases. Research on this priority may include:

- Reproduction and breeding: aiming to enhance livestock productivity, through better reproduction and breeding technology and management
- Animal nutrition: aiming to enhance livestock productivity, through innovative and efficient animal nutrition
- Sustainable production: aiming to promote livestock production sustainability, through integrated approaches that account for the current increasing demand meeting the environmental, social and economic needs and the risk of emerging infectious diseases.
- Animal health: aiming to support efforts targeting the control and prevention of livestock diseases, including those of zoonotic nature and excluding Transboundary Animal Diseases, through improved diagnosis, surveillance and control. Progressive control and eradication of diseases such as Foot and Mouth disease, Brucellosis and Tuberculosis in Cattle, Sheep and Goat pox, Avian Influenza, Lympy Skine disease, etc, require actions to develop and apply improved techniques for diagnosis and surveillance, and to set guidelines and standards for disease control.

Section 6. Available MME Resources

Researchers participating in the Food Security call are strongly encouraged to benefit from the resources of the MME, including its facilities, data, and expertise which will be available for free if the proposal is awarded. **Utilization of MME resources is one of the evaluation criteria (Section 12.1.2).**

For proposals utilizing MME resources, a supporting letter from MME should be uploaded in the Co-Funding section. The MME supporting letter template is available at [Link](#) and should be signed and stamped as indicated in the template. For MME supporting requests, please use the email; Klbrahim@mme.gov.qa.

The list of resources allocated by MME to the Food Security Call and contact information is available at the link; <http://www.mme.gov.qa/cui/view.dox?id=1588&contentID=7540&siteID=2>. MME will be giving the Food Security Call researchers free access to the indicated facilities and researchers will be able to;

1. Access the laboratories, test facilities, fields, etc. as indicated in the list.
2. Receive support from teams at these indicated facilities (including researchers and technicians).
3. Use equipment at the facilities indicated at the list.
4. Access material and supplies needed to run the experiments at the indicated MME facilities
5. Use logistics at the indicated facilities, e.g., transportation, documentation, admin support, etc.



6. Access data and data sets relevant to the project at the indicated facilities.

If any additional materials, equipment, data sets, etc. are required that are not available at MME, the LPIs are requested to contact Klbrahim@mme.gov.qa in a sufficient time in advance to arrange for their provision, if possible.

6.1. Eligibility of Proposal

The proposal must be within the specific research areas described in **Section 5**.

6.2. Eligibility of Submitting Institution

6.2.1. Institutions inside Qatar with approved Research Offices (ROs) are eligible to submit proposals. See submitting institution and RO roles in the “Institution’s responsibilities and Post-Award” document available [at link](#).

6.2.2. Authorized Research Office Representatives (ARORs) and other members of the RO are not eligible to participate in any FS projects.

6.3. Eligibility of Participants

6.3.1. Eligibility of Lead Principal Investigators (LPIs)

6.3.1.1. LPI is the individual who owns the scientific idea and hence is eligible to apply for the Food Security grant. The LPI must be affiliated with a submitting institution inside Qatar or a collaborative institution outside Qatar. If the LPI is from a collaborative institution outside Qatar, they must collaborate with a Co-LPI from an approved submitting institution inside Qatar.

6.3.1.2. The LPI may collaborate with other PIs in research organizations located inside or outside Qatar.

6.3.1.3. An eligible LPI from academic/research institutions must hold a terminal degree as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees available at [link](#).

6.3.1.4. The LPI should have at least five single- or co-authored peer-reviewed publications uploaded in their profile in the QNRF online submission system. Types of publications accepted by QNRF include journal papers, full paper conference proceedings, books, book chapters, and patents by the LPI. In addition, QNRF accepts peer-reviewed creative works that cover the following research areas: performing arts, visual arts, creative writing, design works, and communication media. These creative works are only accepted when the LPI provides an “attestation letter” from the LPI’s affiliated institution, indicating that these particular creative works are acceptable research outcomes.

6.3.1.5. The LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree. However, they must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of five peer reviewed publications, technical reports, or authored patent applications/patents.

6.3.1.6. MME staff are not eligible to participate as LPIs in this call.

6.3.1.7. A postdoctoral scholar is not eligible to act as a LPI (see definition at [link](#)).

6.3.2. Number of Roles

6.3.2.1. The count of individual participation in all FS proposals as key investigators (KI) for researchers from inside Qatar is unlimited with research effort not exceeding the allowable institutional percentage of effort.

6.3.2.2. For LPIs from outside Qatar, the LPI can submit only one application per cycle.



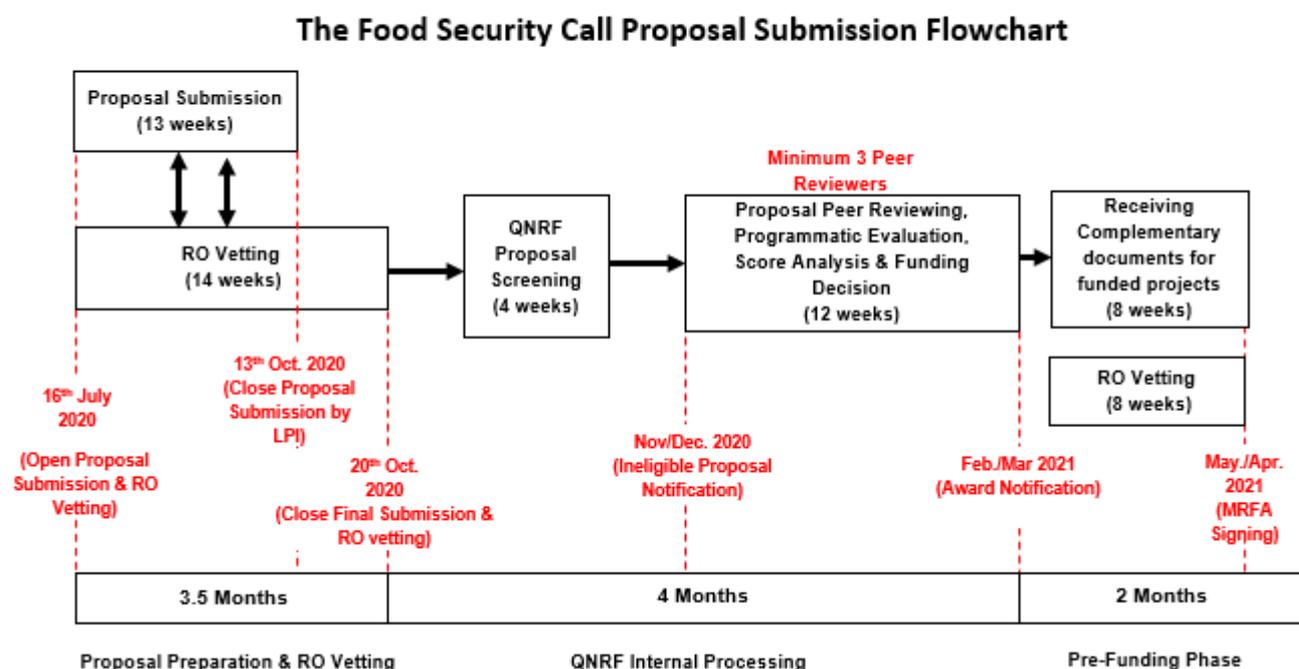
6.3.2.3. For researchers from outside Qatar, the count of an individual participation in all FS Call proposals in all cycles as a key investigator (KI) must not exceed three roles, with research effort not exceeding the allowable institutional percentage of effort.

Section 7. Submission Process

7.1. Proposal Submission Flowchart and Timeline

7.1.1. Flowchart

The following flowchart illustrates the steps necessary from proposal submission by the LPI and the RO to the notification of the final award.



7.1.2. Timeline

The following table shows important dates for the 2nd cycle of the FS call.

Timeline for the 2nd Cycle of the FS call	
Description	Dates
Open proposal submission as well as RO vetting* process.	Thursday, 16 July 2020, 12pm (Doha time)
Close proposal submission by LPI	Tuesday, 13 October 2020, 12pm (Doha time)
RO final proposal submission and vetting	Tuesday, 20 October 2020, 12pm (Doha time)
Ineligible proposals notification	November/December, 2020
Successful proposals notification, awards announced	February/March 2021

*RO vetting can only start once the proposal is submitted.



7.2. Application Procedure

During proposal preparation, LPs must select one of the three types of applications stated below:

7.2.1. New

7.2.1.1. LPI must select “**New**” application, if it is the first time that the application is submitted for funding.

7.2.1.2. New application may also include proposals that did not pass QNRF screening in previous cycles.

7.2.2. Resubmission

7.2.2.1. Proposals which passed screening but were not awarded are allowed to be resubmitted in the subsequent cycle. Such proposals should be flagged as “Resubmission.” Resubmission is allowed once only in the subsequent cycle.

7.2.2.2. Previous proposals that have passed screening but were not awarded and are being resubmitted as “New” proposals will be disqualified during the screening.

Section 8. Budget

8.1. QNRF Grant

FS award is up to US\$ 500,000 for up to three years with maximum of US\$ 200,000 per year. The budget has been reduced in order to encourage the LPs to utilize the MME in-kind available resources; **see section 6 above.**

8.2. Co-Funding

Co-funding is highly encouraged as it is seen as evidence of interest of stakeholders and end-users and of their engagement. The relevance of the co-funders and the level of the co-funding will be evaluated as part of the programmatic review. Applicants are requested to comply with QNRF’s Co-Funding policy [at link.](#)

8.3. Grant and Effort Allocation

8.3.1. At least 70% of the proposed funded research effort must be conducted inside Qatar by the research team.

8.3.2. At least 70% of the total annual budget must be expended inside Qatar.

8.3.3. All Capital equipment cost must be allocated and purchased inside Qatar only.

Please refer to the Budget Components document available at [link.](#)

Section 9. Eligibility of Research team

9.1. Principal Investigators (Co-LPI, PI)

9.1.1. The Co-LPI must hold a research-oriented doctorate or any of the approved terminal degrees as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees, which is available at [link.](#)

9.1.2. The Co-LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree. However, they must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of five peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, or authored patent applications/patents.

9.1.3. An eligible PI must hold at least a university postgraduate degree and should have a suitable research experience relevant to the area of the proposal and the tasks assigned to them. Principal Investigator (PI) must be affiliated with a submitting institution in Qatar or a collaborating institution inside or outside Qatar.

9.1.4. MME staff are not eligible to participate as Co-LPIs or PIs in the call.

9.1.5. A postdoctoral scholar is not eligible to act as a PI (see definition at [link.](#)).



9.2. Other Research Team Members

Post-doctoral scholars, graduate students, research associates, research assistants, undergraduate students, lab technicians, and engineers are considered Research Team Members. MME staff are not eligible to participate as researchers in this call.

9.3. Graduate Students

A graduate student (GS) is eligible to participate in FS projects provided that they are enrolled in a higher educational degree program at the submitting and collaborative institutions. QNRF/MME encourages applicants to hire from QRLP (Qatar Research Leadership Program) graduates and GSs from Qatar. The QRLP graduates and candidates can be used at zero cost. The LPI can find Information about QRLP graduates, in addition to other QNRF awarded researchers, through Qatar Researcher Network (QRN) (**Section 20**).

9.4. Undergraduate Students

If necessary, the LPI may include undergraduate students as Research Team Members under the “Undergraduate Student” roles on the QNRF online submission website, provided that their participation complies with their institution’s policies.

9.5. Consultants

If the need for consultant (see definition at [link](#)) services is anticipated, the nature of the proposed consultant services must be justified and included in the proposal. **Consultant services cannot be considered as scientific or intellectual contribution to the project.**

Section 10. Online Submission Procedures

10.1. Submission Requirements

- 10.1.1. The online application submitted by the LPI must be vetted by the Research Office (RO) of the submitting institution in order to be considered as an official submission to QNRF; RO vetting must be completed in accordance with the timeline (**section 7.1.**), and the RO responsibilities at [link](#).
- 10.1.2. All principal investigators listed on an FS grant application, residing inside or outside Qatar, must register with QNRF at <https://oss.qgrants.org/>.
- 10.1.3. An applicant is required to use their official work email address during registration. Those who have previously registered do not need to re-register, but will need to update their profile and CV, as applicable. Applicants who register with two different emails will be disqualified.
- 10.1.4. Each LPI is required to upload a minimum of five peer-reviewed publications. Research end-users LPIs may include technical reports or patent applications.
- 10.1.5. LPIs from a research end-user entity who do not hold a terminal degree should request an approval from QNRF to act as LPI through the online system. Also, the LPI should request an approval for the Co-LPI from a research-end user entity who does not hold a terminal degree. For more details, please refer to the Grant Application Guide (GAG) at [link](#).
- 10.1.6. Consultants are required to register and upload their CVs stating their affiliation.



10.1.7. For the requirements regarding online registration, please refer to the Grant Application Guide, at [link](#).

10.2. Proposal Registration

10.2.1. After registration, the LPI is required to register the proposal at the following website: <https://oss.ggrants.org/>. For more information regarding the proposal registration and submission, please refer to Grant Application Guide, at [link](#).

10.2.2. The LPI may use the “Comments to QNRF” box to designate persons they would prefer not to review the proposal, indicating why. The decision whether or not to follow the suggestions, however, remains with QNRF. The LPI may also utilize the “Comments to QNRF” box for any other issue they need to declare ahead of submission. The LPI should also identify any research work that they have conducted/are conducting which is similar to the proposal and explain how the latter is distinct.

10.3. Proposal Preparation

During “Proposal Preparation”, the LPI has to submit the information according to the online sections listed below as well as to upload documents as required.

10.3.1. **Proposal Summary:** A brief description written in the third person outlining the major aspect(s) of the proposed activity, while illustrating the objectives and methods to be used. The description should be informative, highlighting the intellectual merit and the potential impact of the project; it is requested during the proposal submission phase on the system.

10.3.2. **Submitting Institution’s Information:** A research institution registered inside Qatar that has appropriate research resources specialized in area(s) within QNRS and is responsible for submitting research proposals to QNRF. The LPI’s institution in Qatar will be considered as the submitting institution and will be responsible for vetting the proposal. If the LPI is from outside Qatar, then the LPI’s institution will be considered as a collaborative institution, and the LPI is required to identify a Co-LPI from inside Qatar. The Co-LPI’s institution in Qatar will be considered as the submitting institution and will be responsible for vetting the proposal.

10.3.3. **Collaborative Institutions’ Information:** Institution inside or outside Qatar collaborating with the submitting institution in conducting the research proposal. If collaborative institutions are involved in the proposal, the LPI should enter the required information for each institution, including uploading an official support letter. The supporting letter template is available at [link](#). The collaborative Institution must include at least a KI.

10.3.4. Personnel:

10.3.4.1. **Research Team:** The LPI can nominate Research Team Members (see definition at [link](#)) from the submitting and collaborative institutions. PIs are required to be registered in order to be added to the proposal submission. The system will request the PIs to update their profiles with all required documentation/information in order to be added to the proposal.

10.3.4.2. **Consultant:** The LPI lists the consultant(s) for the project, if needed. Consultants (see definition at [link](#)) are required to be registered in order to be added to the proposal.

10.3.5. **Research Plan:** The LPI should prepare the research plan file according to the research plan template available at [link](#). The research plan should use Arial font for the body text, font size 11, single space and



the margins as identified in the template (no less than 0.5 inches). The research plan must not exceed 25 pages excluding cover page, table of contents, and references.

- 10.3.6. Budget:** for more information on the budget, see Budget Components document at [link](#).
- 10.3.7. Co-Funding:** In a case of co-funding, the LPI is required to provide justification, the total amount of co-funding, including the expected categories of contributions, and upload a commitment letter from the co-funder(s) signed by an authority of the co-funder(s). The template is available at [link](#). **For any proposal utilizing MME resources, an MME support letter must be uploaded in this section.**
- 10.3.8. Other grants:** The LPI should disclose any information on all ongoing and previously completed research funds for each Key Investigator over the last three years such as project title, name of funding agency, project duration, start and end dates, the total amount of fund/year, total effort, remaining effort, abstract and, if applicable, outcome summary.
- 10.3.9. Ethical Compliance:** For research involving human subject(s), stem cells in human subject(s), research with laboratory animals, DNA research, and biohazards materials; the LPI is required to comply with the laws and regulations set out by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) for the protection of the human subjects and laboratory animals.
- 10.3.10. IP/Market:** This section addresses some questions related to Intellectual Property that need to be addressed by the LPI.
- 10.3.11. Miscellaneous Documents:** This section may contain any supporting documents such as tables, appendices, etc. However, documents wrongly uploaded under this section, such as a research plan, will not be considered. All the information required for the evaluation process should be included in the research plan.
- 10.3.12. Declarations:** The LPI should declare that the proposal is their own work, except where appropriately referenced and that the proposal was not and will not be submitted in whole, or in part, for funding more than once within the same cycle, or to other funding programs within QNRF, or other funding agencies.

Section 11. Screening

All submitted proposals are subject to screening by QNRF/MME according to the screening process outlined at [link](#).

Section 12. Proposal Evaluation

12.1. Proposal Review and Ranking

The proposal review and ranking process comprises a number of assessment steps that first include scientific peer review by international experts, followed by a programmatic review. The two processes are detailed below.

12.1.1. Scientific Peer Review

A minimum of three qualified, international, peer reviewers (representing an appropriate mix of academic, industry and public-sector expertise) are solicited by QNRF to evaluate each proposal against the criteria listed below. The reviewers will evaluate the proposals, make recommendations to QNRF as to “Fund” or “Not Fund” and provide narrative feedback to applicants. The evaluation criteria consist of the following:

12.1.1.1. Intellectual Merit (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project?



- Are the objectives for the project clear, measurable, realistic and achievable?
- What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?
- Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
- Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense?

12.1.1.2. **Expected Impact (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)**

- How significant is the envisaged outcome in addressing priority issues, including QNRS, in areas that are critical to Qatar, in terms of:
 - The potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired economical and societal outcomes?
 - The expected benefits of the proposed research activity to Qatar?
 - Plans to disseminate and exploit the project's results?
 - Extent to which end-users may realistically benefit (co-funded research) from the research.
 - Plans to utilize project outcomes in future studies?

12.1.1.3. **Work Plan (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)**

- Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
- The breakdown into consistent work packages
- Timeline and time-allocation for work packages
- Coherence and effectiveness of the project organization, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
- The organizational aspects of the project and the methods of coordination

12.1.1.4. **Qualifications and complementarity of the Research Team (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)**

- How well qualified is the research team inside and outside Qatar and are their designated roles suitable to conduct the research?
- Assess the LPI's capability to coordinate and manage the project and the research teams.

12.1.1.5. **Budget**

- Appropriateness of the budget in regard to the work plan and effort planning.
- Evaluation of the adequacy of co-funding commitments, if any.
- Are the proposed outcomes and outputs appropriate for the amount of effort and funding?

12.1.1.6. **Research Compliance**

- Protection of human subjects.
- Inclusion and protection of children.
- Vertebrate animals.
- Biohazards.



The table below shows the weights of the peer review criteria.

Criteria #	Criteria name	Weight
C1	Intellectual Merit	25
C2	Expected Impact	35
C3	Work Plan	20
C4	Qualifications and Complementarity of the Research Team	20

12.1.2. Programmatic Review

Following the peer-review evaluation, top-scoring proposals will be shortlisted based on the shortlisting procedure at [link](#). Subsequent to this, expert panels will perform a programmatic review.

The programmatic review is designed to assess and compare all proposals in a given specific research priority area. It takes into account the peer reviewer's comments, as well as programmatic and strategic goals of QNRF/MME related, but not limited to:

12.1.2.1. The strength of the alignment with the Food Security call objectives and the specific research priority

- How strongly aligned are the objectives of the project to the general question of food security and to the themes of the call in particular?

12.1.2.2. Utilization of MME resources

- To what extent will the project utilize MME's resources, i.e., facilities, expertise, and support? (For full list of MME's resources, [see section 6](#) above).

12.1.2.3. The quality of the collaboration and the co-funding commitment

- The extent of knowledge-creation inside Qatar and of knowledge-transfer and potential for technology-transfer to Qatar.
- The quality and extent of collaboration among researchers inside Qatar.
- [The relevance of the co-funders and the level of co-funding, as evidence of interest and engagement and potential to create impact in the relevant sectors.](#)

12.1.2.4. The potential impact on Qatar and the the broader commercial market and TRL level (if applicable)

- The relevance of the project to Qatar's development with respect to industrial development, socio-economic, health and environmental aspects and the ability to address end-user needs, as well as the potential to create positive international scientific visibility for Qatar.
- The extent to which the project provides a solution addressing research needs of end-users in Qatar.

12.1.2.5. The past performance of the LPI/Co-LPI and participating PIs

- [The leadership of the proposal \(LPI and if applicable, Co-LPI\)](#)
- Prominence in the respective field of research, scientific background and track record (quality of publications/patents, technical expertise), proven ability as an independent researcher to carry out the research projects, research team leadership, and project management experience.
- The quality of the outcomes and impact of prior QNRF funded research performed by the LPI/Co-LPI and participating PIs.

12.1.2.6. Previous QNRF funding in this area of research

- Does the project duplicate/overlap with previous and existing grants in the QNRF portfolio?

12.1.2.7. The composition of the local research team



- Participation of local industry, academic and/or governmental entities. Local capacity building (training of graduate students in the project/involvement of RAs, postdocs, and junior researchers in the project), the level of commitment by local institutional participants (resources, effort).

12.1.2.8. Budget

- Appropriateness of the budget as related to the objectives of the project.
- If relevant, end-users' contribution to the budget (co-funding)

At the end of the review and ranking processes, proposals are categorized in terms of their competitiveness. The final funding decision will group proposals as shown in the table below:

	Group	Evaluation Outcome	Description
Shortlisted – Programmatic Review	A	Highly Competitive	The proposal was evaluated to be an excellent project during the review process (with minor to negligible weaknesses) and is, therefore, considered “highly competitive” for funding. (Funding decisions are based on the available budget).
	B	Competitive	The proposal was evaluated to be a very good project during the review process (with moderate to minor weaknesses) and is, therefore, considered “competitive” for funding. (Funding decisions are based on the available budget).
	C	Not competitive	The proposal was considered “not competitive” for funding, due to moderate to significant weaknesses identified by the review process.
Not shortlisted	D	Not shortlisted	The proposal was not shortlisted and is considered “not competitive” for funding due to significant weaknesses or shortcomings identified by the review process.

Section 13. Pre-Funding

13.1. Awarded proposals will go through a pre-funding stage, which starts after the award announcement, and continues for approximately eight weeks. During pre-funding, the submitting institution will be notified about the requirements (possible budget reduction, budget details, timeline changes, etc.).

13.2. During the pre-funding phase, the LPI needs to provide requested information related to the data management plan.

See more information on the pre-funding stage in the “Institutions’ Responsibilities and Post Award” document available at [link](#).

Section 14. Post-Award

For rules and regulations related to fund management, payment schedule, and reporting, please refer to the Award Management Guide (AMG) document available at [link](#).

Section 15. Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements

The proposed research must meet all the requirements of applicable Ministry of Public Health policies for the protection of human subjects from research risks, and data and safety monitoring (when applicable). Please refer to the Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements document available at [link](#).



Section 16. Research Integrity

For further information regarding research integrity and other related policies, please see the Research Ethics Guide (REG) at [link](#).

Section 17. Intellectual Property Policy

QNRF will follow the Qatar Foundation (QF) IP policy. Please consult the QNRF website for details on the applicable intellectual property policy at <http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/IP-Policy>.

Section 18. Data Management Plan Policy

This policy supports the development of a robust environment for the sustainable management, use, and reuse of QNRF funded research data in collaboration with Qatar National Library (QNL).

QNRF recognizes the importance of data management to protect its investment in research and development by ensuring that research data are findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable (FAIR) which will:

- 1) expedite the scientific process;
- 2) reduce duplication of effort;
- 3) support reproducibility and research integrity;
- 4) optimize availability and reuse of research outputs; and
- 5) facilitate the preservation of the scholarly record of Qatar.

LPIs of the awarded projects should submit the data management plan during the pre-funding phase according to the templates that will be available on QNRF website. The Data Management Plan Policy is available at [link](#).

Section 19. Inquiries

For any inquiry regarding this CFP and the electronic proposal submission process, please use the QNRF **Support link** at <https://support.qnrf.org/conversation/new>. Applicants can choose the appropriate department and specify the topic of their query for further information. QNRF's response may be made publicly available in the Q&A section of the QNRF website. For information regarding using resources, please use <http://www.mme.gov.qa/cui/view.do?id=1588&contentID=7540&siteID=2>. For any further enquiry regarding using MME resources, please contact at Klbrahim@mme.gov.qa.

Section 20. Research Support Resources

This section describes a number of available research support resources whether within QNRF or inside Qatar. For more details, please refer to the "Research Support Resources" at [link](#).

For information about MME's available resources please refer to **Appendix A**.

These resources include, but are not limited to:

- Qatar Biobank (QBB) Data and Samples
- Asset management (for available equipment)
- QNRF Researcher Network (QRN)
- QNRF Awarded projects

