

ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION RESEARCH FUND

A Competitive Research Grant for Public Universities in Ghana, for the Improvement of Environmental Sanitation in Ghana

1. About the Environmental Sanitation Research Fund (ESRF)

Over the years, the Jospong Group of Companies has been at the forefront in the fight to improve environmental sanitation across the nation, demonstrated by the number of programmes and projects initiated by the Group on our own or in collaboration with the public sector. We are pleased to offer the Environmental Sanitation Research Fund, which is accessible to researchers in the public universities of Ghana to conduct sustainable, empirical, and practical research in environmental sanitation. Our mission is to improve the lives of people and we believe that eliminating the threats posed to the environment plays a significant role in achieving this goal. We hope to unearth and implement innovative environmental solutions through the Environmental Sanitation Research Fund.

2. Award Information for Jospong Environmental Sanitation Research Fund

2.1 Rationale

The focus of establishing the Jospong Environmental Sanitation Research fund is to provide exclusive opportunities for the implementation of practical and sustainable environmental sanitation research solutions by public universities in Ghana. The Jospong Group of Companies intends to leverage on the research fund to bridge the gap between academia and industry such that specific industry problems will be identified and researched for sustainable solutions. The research fund will be available nationwide to encourage tailor-made solutions that factor in the geographical, socio-cultural, and specific environmental sanitation needs in each location.

2.2 Thematic Areas

Attaining the sustainable development goals (SDGs) as defined by the United Nations in Agenda 2030 requires renewed translational research efforts, especially in the improvement of environmental sanitation. The Eight Dimensions of Wellness identifies environmental sanitation as one area which requires attention because of its potential to avert the burden of diseases on

society. In JGC, we believe in achieving this through concepts that bring novelty in research work, solve problems sustainably and create employment opportunities.

We, therefore, encourage research proposals in areas including but not limited to the following for funding:

- Incineration for energy recovery (Waste to Energy)
- Leachate management and treatment
- Recovery of valuables from residual materials after composting in facilities
- Improvement on the quality of compost
- Digital operations and integration of the informal system in the waste collection scheme
- Improvement in waste collection
- Innovative methods in the cleansing of streets
- E-waste management
- Innovative management and utilization of liquid waste constituents
- Waste collection system dynamics and economics
- Performance evaluation of waste management infrastructure
- Cost-saving and optimization in waste collection
- Improvement in the value chain of waste management
- Health impacts of environmental pollution
- Socio-economic considerations in waste management
- Bio-medical waste treatment systems
- Behaviour change strategies for sustainable waste management
- Household waste utilisation services and willingness to pay

2.3 Stakeholders

The Jospong Group of Companies in partnership with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources will collaborate with the following stakeholders to meet the objectives of establishing the Environmental Sanitation Research Fund:

- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
- Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology
- Public universities in Ghana (Vice-Chancellors Association of Ghana)

2.4 Administration and Management of the Fund

Africa Environmental Sanitation Consult (AfESC) shall manage the Environmental Sanitation Research Fund with the help of the Vetting and Award Committees. AfESC will disburse the funds, and monitor and evaluate research projects.

2.5 Source of the Fund

The Jospong Group of Companies is the source of a total of Five Million Ghana Cedis (GHS 5,000,000.00), which has been provided to a separate account to be managed by the Africa Environmental Sanitation Consult (AfESC). The managing body reserves the right to innovatively apply for any other relevant grants to increase the quantum of funds available for sponsorship.

2.6 Available Fund and Duration of Grants

Each research grant will be awarded through a competitive selection process. Since the nature and scope of the proposed research will vary from application to application, the amount of funding and the allocated duration would also vary with each grant. The recommended maximum duration of research projects is two years.

3. Application Process

3.1 Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be:

- Faculty or staff of institutions within Ghanaian public universities,
- A team of at least two researchers, with the principal researcher being a Ghanaian citizen.

Competitive teams will consist of experienced researchers with multidisciplinary areas of expertise. Collaboration between institutions is permitted.

3.2 Selection Process

The application and assessment process will involve the following stages:

- Call for research concept notes in the print media
- Receipt of applications from universities by the Fund Secretariat
- Vetting and selection of concept notes by constituted committees
- Call for full research proposals from successful applicants
- Vetting of research proposals and award of funding by constituted committees

The Fund Secretariat will undertake the pre-selection of research concept notes and proposals. The Vetting and Award Committees will assess research concept notes and proposals.

Submit completed research concept notes via email to esrfundsubmissions@afesconsult.com by 23rd July 2021 by 23:59 GMT. The administrators of the ESRF will contact applicants with successful concept notes to submit full proposals.

3.3 Application Details

The concept note and proposal should comprise the following (see attached template):

1. **A cover page** setting out basic details of the proposed project
2. **A concept note describing the research ideas should** not be more than **four numbered pages**. This should also describe the proposed research and how it would address the challenges outlined and the aims of the programme.
3. **In the case of research proposals, a case for support** of not more than **twenty numbered pages** describing the detailed proposed research, how it would address the aims of the research and the detailed methodology.
4. Both research concept notes and proposals must comprise the following elements:
 - an introduction to the scientific significance of the research and rationale
 - a summary of the research to be carried out, its scope, objectives and a summary of methods to be employed

- a statement on its innovativeness and originality
- a statement on its developmental relevance (including gender considerations) and an assessment of the potential impact of the research in the near to medium term and, if successful, the nature and extent of its contribution to environmental sanitation
- a statement on collaborative approaches and partnership mechanisms to support the development or the use of innovative methods cutting across disciplines to strengthen the research capacity of universities.

5. A timeline and a **summary of the budget required** (in Ghana Cedis) by the participating researchers, which should only include direct costs of the research.

Concept notes and proposals that are not submitted in the correct format (detailed in section four) will not be accepted.

Only selected applicants will be invited to submit **full applications and presentations.**

3.4 Eligible Costs

Funding may be requested for all research costs that are attributable to the project, including:

- Data collection and analysis
- Standard class travel related to the implementation of the proposed research
- Publication costs

All applications will be scrutinized and should meet the value for money test.

3.5 Assessment Criteria

The potential of the research and its overall impact will be an important criterion in the assessment of concept notes and proposals. The proposed research is expected to generate **innovative and high-quality methods, matrices, and tools for application in the short-, medium- and long-term for the improvement of environmental sanitation** within Metropolitan, Municipal, and District Assemblies **in Ghana**. The leading applicants and co-applicants are expected to have a demonstrable capacity to deliver high-quality research in the relevant areas.

Applications will be assessed using the following six criteria:

1. Innovativeness of the research relative to existing approaches
2. Scientific excellence and originality of the research
3. Development relevance of the research and its potential for application or implementation in Ghana
4. The collaborative inter-sectoral and/or interdisciplinary nature of the research proposed and the researcher team
5. The cost-effectiveness and sustainability of the proposed research
6. The ability of the research to be implemented and replicated.

Assessments will be made based on all the criteria listed above for both concept notes and full proposals. These criteria are described in more detail below. Concept notes that best meet the above criteria will be invited to submit a full proposal. Assessment at both the concept note and full proposal stages will also consider the overall scope of the research proposals and seek to balance environmental issues to be addressed in the final selection of projects.

Innovation

- Does the proposed research represent a new and imaginative approach to measuring and understanding how environmental sanitation systems affect national development?
- Does the research involve the development of new methods, the integration of existing methods into new tools, or the application of existing methods in a novel way that improves and extends their utility?
- Proposals that simply apply existing methods in conventional contexts will not be considered innovative.

Scientific excellence and originality

- Does the proposed research meet the highest standards of scientific excellence in all the sectors and disciplines that it includes?
- Would the project add value to existing research on the topic of the proposal?
- Are the methods proposed sound and is the proposed research feasible?

Development relevance

- Does the proposed research address issues that present significant challenges to environmental sanitation?
- Are the anticipated development outcomes and possible pathways to impact clearly and convincingly argued?
- Have gender issues been mainstreamed in project design and objectives?

Collaborative approaches

- Does the proposed research convincingly bridge the gap between environmental sanitation operations and academia?
- Does the research make a convincing argument for its selection of methods and approaches and how they will be integrated?
- Are there satisfactory partnership mechanisms to support inter-sectoral or interdisciplinary understanding and collaboration?

Cost-effectiveness and Sustainability

- Does the proposed research have value for money?
- Does the implementation of the anticipated outcome exhibit value for money?
- Does the expected outcome of the proposed project provide short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions?

Implementation and Replicability

- Can the proposed research be implemented?
- Is the research replicable?

4. GUIDELINES TO CONCEPT NOTES/PROPOSALS PREPARATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SANITATION RESEARCH FUND FOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION, PUBLICATION AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

TITLE OF RESEARCH CONCEPT NOTE/PROPOSAL

Lead Researcher and Others, and their respective Affiliations

The Research Concept Note must have four (4) sections, a maximum of 4 pages (the font size **should be Times New Roman 12 point, Line Spacing 1.15 with Justified Text**). Any Research Concept Note not meeting these basic requirements will be rejected without an appraisal. Please provide relevant and specific information about your proposed project below.

The Research Proposal must have four (4) detailed sections, a maximum of 20 pages (the font size **should be Times New Roman 12 point, Line Spacing 1.15 with Justified Text**). Any Research Proposal not meeting these basic requirements will be rejected without an appraisal. Please provide relevant and specific information about your proposed project below.

1. SUMMARY OF THE ACTION

1.1 Brief description of the proposed action

2. RELEVANCE

2.1 How relevant is your proposal to any of the outlined research themes to your target population in a locality in Ghana?

2.2 What problems does the research aim to resolve?

2.3 Who are the actors involved (final beneficiaries, target groups)?

2.4 What are the objectives and expected results?

2.5 What is the added value of the action to existing governmental actions and actions implemented by non-state actors?

3. METHODOLOGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 What are the main project activities?

3.2 Who will be your main implementing partners, what is the length of your relationship with them and how will they be involved in the project?

3.3 How will the project achieve sustainability?

3.4 Will it have multiplier effects?

4. EXPERTISE AND OPERATIONAL CAPACITY:

4.1 What is the experience of your institution/team members in research projects?

4.2. What is the experience of your research members/or academic partners on the issues to be addressed?

NAME OF PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI):

ADDRESS OF PI:

SIGNATURE OF PI:

DATE:

ATTACHMENTS:

- **Curricula vitae of all researchers**
- **Proof of affiliation to institutions**