



**THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA**  
**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**  
**TANZANIA AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE**



**THE TARI DIRECTOR GENERAL'S YOUNG SCIENTISTS INNOVATIVE GRANT PROGRAM: SECOND CALL 2026/2027**

**Background and rationale**

In developed and developing countries, capacity building for skills and knowledge is one of the key strategic objectives of higher learning and research institutions. Capacity building is done for various reasons, including ensuring smooth succession and increasing efficiency and effectiveness in research. It is common and universal for institutes to domestically and internationally train their staff, both in the short and long term. This is what the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute (TARI) has been doing since its establishment in 2016.

TARI was established by the Parliamentary Act No. 10 of 2016 in order to conduct, coordinate, and promote agricultural research in the country. TARI's vision is to become the Institute of Excellency for Agricultural Research in the Country and Beyond. On this basis, the institute has strived to train and recruit staff/researchers in various disciplines of agriculture. The institute trains its staff using government or donor funds. International development agencies and foundations such as SIDA-SAREC, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Danish International Development Agency, and many others have funded research activities and supported human capacity development.

TARI appreciates the fact that researchers and scientists graduating and returning from domestic and foreign universities are brimming with new ideas and concepts about cutting-edge research and innovating. However, the dreams of most of these scientists fade not too long after reporting back to their working stations. This is mainly due to lack of funds for conducting research. The young scientists do write proposals for grants but they don't succeed because they do not have strong international networks and they are not trusted due to a lack of demonstrated experience. In a few cases where they succeed, the funding may not align with their original research ideas.

TARI put out the first call for Young Scientists in FY 2024/2025 whereby 10 outstanding young scientists were awarded the grant. These young scientists have delivered in accordance with their proposals and notably they have innovated tools for disease detection and a multi-thresher for cereal crops. Moreover, they have demonstrated that sound agricultural research activities can be implemented using meagre resources. The Management of TARI continues to trust that giving young scientists small funds will enable them to realize their research ideas. Additionally, when their aptitude for scientific thought grows, they will be able to compete for larger funding. Inspired with the results from first call, the TARI Director General and Management of TARI hereby makes this second call whereby 10 young scientists from

within TARI will be awarded with research grants. In this call, innovation proposals from ten young TARI researchers will be funded (up to TZS 20,000,000) to enable them innovate but also build research skills for future bigger research roles undertaking.

### **Objective of the grant**

The objective of funding young scientists in the agricultural research institute is to encourage and build the competence of early-career scientists in conducting agricultural research.

### **The purpose**

The purpose of this program is to nurture outstanding agricultural researchers in Tanzania to become innovative and, in the long-run, generate technologies that will positively impact the livelihoods of smallholder farmers in Tanzania.

### **Alignment with policies and development programs**

The TARI Director General's young scientists innovative grant program aligns with the National Agricultural Research Agenda, Agenda 10/30, BBT program, Agricultural Sector Development Programme II, and the Third National Five-Year Development Plan. In these programs and policies, agricultural research and innovations are considered key in the generation of technologies and eventually of paramount importance in the realization of the agenda of making Tanzania an industrialized country.

### **Eligibility for the grant**

- a) Must be researchers who are citizens of the United Republic of Tanzania and permanent employees of the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute
- b) The age of the researcher must be 45 years or below; BSc, MSc. and early career PhD holders are eligible to apply.
- c) The researcher must have not been a PI of any donor (including COSTECH) funded projects
- d) Funding priority will be given to proposals for on station experiments.
- e) Female PIs are highly encouraged to apply but there will be equal chance of funding proposals from male and female PIs
- f) Creative ideas for developing technologies and innovations that will increase participation of youth and women in agriculture will be given a high priority
- g) It is compulsory that the PI conceives the idea, develops and submits proposal; if at one point it is found out that the PI did not write the proposal but somebody else did, the funding will be terminated with immediate effects
- h) Researchers are discouraged from budgeting for per diems but can budget less than TZS 1,200,000 to visit a mentor at another TARI Centre and even at another institute. The same budget can be used for the mentor to visit the young scientist. Strong justification is required for this budget to go through a review process.
- i) Applicants whose proposals are shortlisted will be asked to make presentations before the team of subject matter experts to attest the originality and

understanding or ownership of the proposed project. Failure to demonstrate this the application will be dropped

- j) Must include an official endorsement letter(s) from the Centre Director or Centre Manager.
- k) Young researchers who were awarded in the first call of the Director **General's young scientists innovative grant program are not eligible to apply. Also, those who have been offered with TFSRP and other scholarships should not apply.**

## Themes

There is **no specific theme** for this funding call. The young researchers are free to submit proposals that when implemented will lead to innovations or technologies that will be useful to small holder farmers and attract youth and women to engage in agriculture. TARI is keen to integrate the use of nanotechnology and artificial intelligence in agricultural research and therefore proposals venturing into these research areas are highly welcome.

## Application and submission

The applicant is required to use the application template for this call (Application 2026 form). The young scientists are required to fill all parts. It is encouraged that the young scientists fill the forms themselves however, consulting with senior scientists is okay as long as the senior scientists do not write the proposals on behalf of the young researchers. Proposal to be submitted through <https://www.tari.go.tz/grants/> Deadline is 24 Days from 22/04/2026.

## Monitoring and evaluation

The Monitoring and Evaluation Section will be done to gauge the progress of the program through the mandatory project quarterly reports. There will also be a committee of scientists (consisting of the program coordinator, CIA, two scientists and the Director of Research and Innovations of TARI).

## Reporting

The young researchers will be expected to write and submit quarterly progress reports to the coordinators of the program who will update the Management on the progress of the project/research activities. The report will also capture how the capacity of the researcher has been developed during the reporting period. Specifically, for this project, there will be a mandatory annual report that will contribute to the evidence to determine if funding is continued in the following year. The PI will submit technical and financial reports as required by the funding organizations.

## APPLICATION FORM FY 2026/2027

### Part I. PI particulars

Name of PI	
Check number	

Centre name	
Field of specialization	
Name of mentor, if any	
Centre/Institution of mentor	
Age of PI	
Level of education	
Year graduated PhD	
Year graduated Masters	
Year graduated BSc	

## Project summary

Proposed Project title	
Implementing Centre	
Name of Supervisor	
Project budget	
Project duration (Max. 2 years)	

### A. Project Overview

#### Project title

*Please write a clear project title here*

#### Summary of research project (Max. 250 words)

*Provide a summary of your proposed research work. Indicate the genesis of the idea, the problem, how the problem is impacting people and what solution your innovation or technology will offer. Also indicate the objectives and outputs of the project.*

Background (Max. 1000 words)

*The researcher will use this section to present literature about technologies and innovations s/he intends to generate. This call has no specific theme but researcher will use this section to indicate the issue the proposed research is addressing. The researcher will show what has been done in the field and the gaps.*

#### Problem statement (Max. 150 words)

There must be a problem that the project or research activity aims to solve. The researcher is expected to show the nature and magnitude of the problem.

#### Solution to the problem (Critical. Max 300 words)

*Please clearly show how the problem you have highlighted above can be solved. Indicate clearly if you are going to come up with a new technology/innovation or you intend to modify the existing technology. Adoption and adapting a technology/innovation used elsewhere is allowed but the research may be required to indicate if there are no intellectual property right for the same.*

### **Objectives and outputs (Max. 200 words)**

*You indicate the general and specific objectives here. It is important that your specific objectives are SMART. You may list as many outputs as you can deliver but the key output that will be considered is the innovation or technology that you commit to generate/deliver. In innovations/technologies you can commit to generate just prototype. For technologies, may consider validation of the technology but what is important in this phase is to generate and demonstrate the potential of the technology.*

### **Methodology (Max. words – 1000 words)**

*The researcher should clearly and thoroughly spell out the research and development plan for the project. The plan should identify and describe the different phases of the project. It should also indicate the proposed methods, analytical techniques and their appropriateness. The researcher should indicate if the technology will be developed in laboratory or it is field-based one. It is important for the researcher to indicate he/she has experience or will need assistance from a senior supervisor and the arrangement in place for the supervisor to help. The researcher will indicate availability of facilities and their appropriateness in conducting experiments or supporting the innovations.*

### **Collaboration**

*The funds cannot be used outside the station of the Centre of PI but collaboration and extra funds from external funders is allowed. If there are extra funds, request for a longer duration of time can be considered.*

### **Sustainability and Dissemination**

*The candidate should demonstrate how innovations or technologies generated will be disseminated in the future and the potential consumers of the technologies.*

### **Others**

*Attach files for drawings/graphics about the prototypes you wish to develop or other files you consider relevant to your proposal.*

### **Schedule of activities**

*Please include a schedule of activities.*

## Budget

<b>Budget category</b>	<b>Budget Item</b>	<b>Amount requested (TZS)</b>	<b>Justification</b>
Equipment	e.g., Soil moisture sensors	e.g., 1,000,000	This work involves determination of moisture contents of soils
Supplies	e.g., Potato dextrose Agar	e.g., 500,000	One experiment is on isolation of microbes; thus, PDA is required to prepare media for culturing the same
Field work (budget for activities) – no per diems except for mentors	Causal laborers, greenhouse construction, procurement of bearings, etc		As above
Others	Items not fitting in the above categories		As above
<b>Total</b>			As above