

# Global Challenges Forum

## Newsletter (August 2017)

### News

- **Many congratulations to Christopher Gilligan and to John Carr (Department of Plant Sciences) for receiving GCRF Foundation Awards for Global Agricultural and Food Systems Research.** These two Cambridge-led project will tackle surveillance and control of wheat rust epidemics in Ethiopia and virus transmission in beans in Kenya and Rwanda.
- **WaterScope featured for the first time on the Humanitarian Innovation Fund blog.** [WaterScope](#), which span off the OpenFlexure Microscope Project at the Department of Physics, is developing a rapid, handheld water testing device that allows low-income communities to test for bacterial contamination in water.

### Funding opportunities

Global challenges- related funding calls closing in September:

| Deadline  | Call   | Description   |
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| 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2017                                  | <a href="#">GPSDD Collaborative Data Innovations for Sustainable Development</a>                 | The World Bank's Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB), in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data (GPSDD), is seeking proposals to encourage collaboration, experimentation, learning and capacity development for sustainable production, dissemination, and use of data.               |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017                                  | <a href="#">EDCTP - Treatment innovations for poverty-related diseases</a>                       | The purpose of this Call for Proposals from consortia comprising a minimum of three independent legal entities is to provide funding for the clinical evaluation and development of new and innovative drug candidates for HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis, diarrhoeal infections or lower respiratory infections, including co-infections. |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017                                  | <a href="#">STFC/ GCRF Foundation Awards 2017</a>  | This call is supported through Science & Technology Facilities Council (STFC)'s Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF) allocation for projects with the aim of accessing the untapped potential of STFC's community to contribute to addressing challenges in developing countries.   |
| Expression of interest deadline: 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 | <a href="#">RCUK-CIAT Newton-Caldas Fund Sustainable Tropical Agricultural Systems Programme</a> | The Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) have announced a new UK-Colombia programme in   |

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|   |  | sustainable tropical agricultural systems supported by the Newton-Caldas Fund.  |
| 6th September 2017  | <a href="#">Newton Advanced Fellowships</a>  | This scheme provides established international researchers with an opportunity to develop the research strengths and capabilities of their research group through training, collaboration and reciprocal visits with a partner in the UK. The skills and knowledge gained should lead to changes in the wellbeing of communities and increased economic benefits. |
| 8th September 2017  | <a href="#">Human Development Innovation Fund of Tanzania – Phase 3</a>                | Human Development Innovation Fund (HDIF) is a challenge fund providing grants for innovations in education, health, early childhood development and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) across Tanzania.   |
| Deadline for mandatory sandpit:<br>11th September 2017  | <a href="#">UK (RCUK/Newton Trust)-India (DBT) Antimicrobial Resistance Initiative</a> | Research Councils UK (RCUK), the strategic partnership of the UK's seven Research Councils, and the Indian Department for Biotechnology (DBT) have launched a joint initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance funded by the Newton Fund.   |
| Registration deadline:<br>13th September 2017<br>Application deadline:<br>20th September 2017 | <a href="#">Newton UK-China agritech challenge 2017</a>                                | Innovate UK and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) are investing up to £8 million (£4 million each) in projects that use cutting-edge technologies to solve agricultural challenges in China.   |
| 14th September 2017   | <a href="#">DfID/ MRC/ NIHR/ Wellcome Trust Global Health Trials scheme</a>            | This partnership between the UK Department for International Development (DfID), the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) and the National Institute for Health Research and the Wellcome Trust funds late-stage trials of interventions that will provide evidence to help improve health in low- and middle-income countries.                                      |
| 19th September 2017   | <a href="#">Newton Fund Institutional Links Grants</a>                                 | Applications are open for Newton Fund Institutional Links Grants to build UK-partner country research and innovation collaborations centred on shared research and innovation challenges which have direct relevance to social welfare and economic development.  |
| 24th September 2017   | <a href="#">IDRC- Strengthening engineering research and training in Africa</a>        | This call for proposals challenges universities as well as public and private stakeholders to develop and implement novel ways of delivering quality and relevant training and research in engineering and applied science fields.  |

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| 26 <sup>th</sup> September 2017  | <a href="#">NERC/DfID/ESRC Building resilience to natural disasters using financial instruments</a>             | Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), the Department for International Development (DfID), and the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) invite proposals to address the topic building resilience to natural disasters using financial instruments. Funding is available to apply environmental and social science research to inform the design, development, refinement and validation of financing instruments to help developing countries respond and recover from extreme weather and natural disasters.   |
| Mandatory intention to submit deadline: 29 <sup>th</sup> of September<br>Proposals deadline: 9 <sup>th</sup> of November | <a href="#">GCRF Collective Fund Interdisciplinary Research Hubs</a>  | Research Councils UK invites proposals from eligible UK research organisations to establish and lead a number of challenge-led and impact-focused GCRF Interdisciplinary Research Hubs - 12-15 Hubs will receive between £8M and £20M (full economic cost) for 5 years starting in December 2018.  |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2017  | <a href="#">Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies (MEITS) Flexible Funding Scheme</a> | This is a new flexible funding scheme issued by the Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies (MEITS) project, as part of the Arts and Humanities Research Councils (AHRC)'s Open World Research Initiative (OWRI), a major new funding initiative for modern languages that seeks to establish a new and exciting vision for languages research in response to the challenges and opportunities presented by a globalised research environment and multi-lingual world; up to £4m Full Economic Cost (fEC) is available per OWRI programme over 4 years). |
| 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2017  | <a href="#">Singapore National Research Foundation's Intra CREATE seed funding grant call</a>                   | The Intra-CREATE (Singapore National Research Foundation's Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise) Grants aim to generate an impetus for forming collaborations between researchers from the CREATE Partner Institutions co-located in Singapore in order to exploit the potential of CREATE and achieve greater impact from their collaborative research efforts.  |

Future funding opportunities:

- [Second round of Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund engagement begins.](#) Following the announcement of the first challenges that will be supported by the Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, the Knowledge Transfer Network is now asking for expert advice on what other areas could benefit from support. This second round of engagement includes a series of "deep dives" where detailed analysis is gathered from industry and the UK research base on how the fund can best support UK industries and our world-leading science base in tackling some of the greatest societal challenges of our time. **The workshops are taking place over the summer across the UK.**
- [NERC's call for ideas for strategic research](#) (cut-off date for strategic programme areas (SPAs) ideas: 7th September 2017). NERC invites ideas for scientific advances that will, over time, contribute to addressing some of these major challenges of the 21st century: benefiting from natural resources, resilience

to environmental hazards, and managing environmental change. The ideas will be used to inform the development of new strategic research investments through either highlight topics (HTs) or strategic programme areas (SPAs).

- **Anticipated EPSRC 2018 CDT Call: Expression of Interest (deadline: 15th September).** In early 2018, the EPSRC is likely to announce a call for the next round of funding for Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs). The School of Technology and the School of Physical Sciences are seeking early expressions of interest (EoI) for potential new CDTs in order to gain a clear idea of likely demand, to provide initial feedback on the scope of the proposal and whether the topic is already well addressed. Please contact Rachael Tuley ([rtt23@cam.ac.uk](mailto:rtt23@cam.ac.uk)) for more information and for the EoI form.

The [funding page](#) of the CGF is updated regularly with these and other funding opportunities relevant to the global challenges agenda.

## **Resources**

- [The Africa Data Revolution Report 2016 - Highlighting developments in African data ecosystems](#) by UNECA, UNDP, OpenData for development network and World Wide Web Foundation. This first edition of the biennial Africa Data Revolution Report aims to address issues on the process of transforming data ecosystems, from the status quo to an aspirational state where data from both conventional and new sources are being harnessed to better inform decision-making and enable sustainable development with contributions from diverse data communities.
- [Financing health systems to achieve the health Sustainable Development Goals](#), Fryatt and Bhuwane, *Lancet*. In September, 2015, 193 countries agreed to the ambitious Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 3, for “healthy lives and wellbeing”, includes targets for universal health coverage (UHC). Some international commentators have raised questions about whether many of the SDGs are feasible and affordable. Targets related to health have good metrics to assess progress, and there is a good track record of achieving many of the previous ambitious goals. So, health is a good place to start assessments of feasibility and affordability.

## **Events**

Global challenges- related events in September:

- ["Agriculture and health" discussion](#) – 5th September, 4-7.30pm, St John's College, University of Cambridge. The growing food movement and climate change concerns have brought a more critical eye to our agricultural practices. Is agriculture contributing to or detracting from the health of people and the planet? All who are interested in the intersection between food and farming and health are invited to hear relevant stories, engage with expert panelists and meet like-minded people. Book your ticket [here](#).
- [Cambridge Global Food Security Symposium](#) – 6th September, 3-6pm, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge. A day of multi-disciplinary talks and interactive sessions - including talks by Professor Tim Benton and Sir Brian Heap, two of the External Advisors of this Cambridge Strategic Research Initiative. The symposium and particularly the afternoon session on *Developing Country Challenges: GCRF and the Global Challenges Forum* with Dr Lara Allen (Director, Centre for Global Equality) and Professor Howard Griffiths (Department of Plant Sciences) will offer the opportunity to establish working groups as collaborations between the Cambridge Global Food Security and the GlobalChallenges Forum.
- [Decision Making Under Uncertainty Network Conference](#) – 21st and 22nd September, London. Funded by EPSRC, NERC and ESRC, the CRUISSE (Challenging Radical Uncertainty in Science, Society and the Environment) Network aims to help decision-makers in industry, government and civil society get together with academics from a wide range of disciplines in mathematical, environmental, engineering,

psychological, social and other disciplines to provide better understanding and support to practitioners when they have to make difficult decisions stemming from uncertainty.

- [Where next for Humanitarian Innovation & Design?](#) – **22nd September**, Royal College of Art's Senior Common Room. What can humanitarian NGO & /non-profits learn from design approaches, especially prototyping in lab and in field? What can we in the field of design for social impact learn from them, about real-world impact and validation? The purpose of this event is to connect researchers, designers, producers, NGOs and other stakeholders to consider how this improvement might be pursued.
- [Bioenergy 2017, Developing Sustainable Bioenergy Crops for Future Climates](#) – **24-27th September**, Oriel College, University of Oxford. The aim of this meeting is to bring together researchers, breeders, growers and policy makers concerned with the development of new bioenergy crops for future climates.
- [World Social Science Forum 2018 \(deadline for session proposals: 1st September 2017\) – 25-28th September 2018](#), Fukuoka, Japan. The World Social Science Forum 2018 is the fourth in a series of international, interdisciplinary social science conferences focusing on contemporary global challenges. The Forum will address the issue of security for all people in an equitable and sustainable world.
- **eLife's #ECRWednesday Webinar: [Building connections and developing research in Sub-Saharan Africa](#) – 27th September, 4-5pm.** Speakers: Simon Kay (Head of International Operations and Partnerships, Wellcome Trust), Catherine Kyobutungi (Executive Director of the African Population and Health Research Centre), Carol N. Ibe (Founder of JR Biotek Foundation; PhD Student, University of Cambridge) and Kevin Marsh (Director of Africa-Oxford Initiative; Professor of Tropical Medicine, University of Oxford).

*The [events page](#) of the CGF is updated regularly with these and other events relevant to the global challenges agenda.*