



**Japan - Philippines
Joint Call for Proposals:**

**Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)**

2025

Summary:

Call announcement:	June 30, 2025 at 1:00 PM (JST) at 12:00 PM (PHT)
Deadline for submission:	August 29, 2025 at 1:00 PM (JST) at 12:00 PM (PHT)
Selection results announcement:	January 2026 (tentative)
Start of projects:	April 2026 (tentative)
Funding per project:	(Japan-side: per project) <u>Direct Expenses</u> : Up to 36 million yen <u>Indirect Expenses</u> : 30% of Direct Expenses (Philippines-side: per project) <u>Direct Expenses</u> : Up to Php 15,000,000.00 (maximum) <u>Indirect Expenses</u> : 15% of Direct Expenses
Maximum duration of the projects:	36 months
No. of projects to be funded per call:	Up to five
Research Fields:	Smart Agriculture
Eligibility:	Researchers who belong to the Philippines research institution and higher education institutions and researchers who belong to the Japanese research institution
Submission:	To JST via e-Rad: https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html To DOST via DOST Project Management Information System (DPMIS): https://dpmis.dost.gov.ph/
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1. Introduction

Working collaboratively, the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) aim to promote and strengthen collaboration between researchers from Japan and The Philippines. Under this framework, JST and DOST launch this Call for Proposals for research, which are to be jointly developed and implemented by researchers from both countries. The program aims to achieve the following objectives:

- To contribute to scientific advancement by conducting bilateral research (including conferences/seminars) in the identified priority research fields;
- To facilitate the exchange of expertise, technology, and best practices between Japanese and Filipino researchers to mutually enhance R&D capabilities; and
- To provide opportunities for young researchers from Japan and the Philippines to meet, interact, and exchange ideas to build a robust S&T community in the region.

JST and DOST are supporting joint projects through strategic project support measures to promote cooperation between Japan and the Philippines. A maximum of five (5) research projects will be jointly funded in this Call.

On the Japan side, this funding measure is carried out under the program called NEXUS (**N**etworked **E**xchange, **U**nited **S**trength for Stronger Partnerships between Japan and ASEAN) which aims to build a “Complementary and Sustainable Research Ecosystem”, facilitating mutual growth as co-creating partners by enhancing sustainable research cooperation grounded in longstanding initiatives such as international collaborative research and the exchange of research personnel.

On the other hand, the funding measure is carried out for the Philippines, under the DOST Grants-in-Aid (GIA) Program. The measure aims to promote joint research projects of mutual interest and thus contribute to intensified scientific and technological cooperation between each country. Teams from the Philippines are encouraged to include collaborators from other ASEAN Member States. Possible collaborators from institutions in other ASEAN countries should seek their own funding or provide in-kind contributions. The research outcomes from the bilateral initiative are expected to benefit and spread throughout the ASEAN region through opportunities such as dissemination activities.

2. Research Fields

Research Fields: Smart Agriculture

Addressing shared challenges such as climate change and sustainable food production is a pressing issue. In this joint call, JST and DOST are looking to support research within the following subtopics within the field of “Smart Agriculture.

Subtopics:

- (i) Advanced Monitoring and Optimization Systems for Smart and Cost-Effective

Agriculture Implementation

- (ii) Next-Generation Smart Agriculture Technology/Infrastructure for Automation of Agricultural Production and Postharvest Processes
- (iii) Design and Implementation of Smart Agriculture Technologies Reflecting Regional and Farmland Diversity
- (iv) Smart Breeding and Cultivation Approaches for Neglected and Underutilized Species (NUS)
- (v) Building Smart and Resilient Agricultural Models for Sustainability and Climate Change Adaptation

*Proposed research is recommended to follow the subtopics above, but the themes are not limited to them hence the team is open to explore other subtopics related to the research field on Smart Agriculture.

3. Researcher Eligibility

Two identical copies of a proposal must be submitted to both the JST and DOST. Detailed information on project proposal and submission guidelines can be found in the sections below.

Please note that proposals received by the DOST and not submitted to JST (and vice versa) will automatically be considered ineligible.

When submitting your application through both the JST and DOST online submission systems, you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore, applicants are advised to start submitting their applications at least one week before the deadline of this Joint Call for Proposals. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

3.1 Eligible researchers for JST support:

If a research proposal is selected, the research project must maintain its qualified status as per the submission requirements for the entire duration of the period of research. If the research project fails to meet the requirements during the research period, the research project will in principle be completely or partially suspended (i.e. be terminated early). Please also refer to the Application Guidelines Appendix (for Japan-side PIs).

- Any independent researcher personally affiliated with (and actively conducting research at) a 'Domestic Japanese research institution', where they will organize and pursue the proposed research, is eligible to apply. (The nationalities of research project applicants are not considered.).
 - 'Domestic Japanese research institution' refers to universities, independent administrative institutions, national/public testing and Research Institutions, specially authorized corporations, public-service corporations, and enterprises, etc. that satisfy requirements predetermined by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT). Please refer to the MEXT homepage for more information:
https://www.mext.go.jp/a_menu/kansa/houkoku/1324571.htm
- The Japanese applicants must also complete a research ethics training program

conducted by the research institute with which the Principal Investigator (PI) is affiliated, and then declare the completion of the program to JST. If it is very difficult for the Japanese PI to undertake a program provided by his or her affiliated institute, they should contact JST. Please note that unless applicants complete a research ethics program, his / her application will be deemed ineligible. For more details, please refer to the call announcement page linked from the JST homepage.

- The Japan-side researchers are not allowed to propose more than one proposal as a PI in this call; the Co-PI is not restricted in this respect, and is not prevented from proposing one proposal as a PI and participating in other proposals as a Co-PI. In such cases, measures might be taken to avoid excessive concentration. For details, please refer to Application Guidelines Appendix (for Japan-side PIs).
- Japanese applicants will have to register their applications on the Cross-Ministerial R&D Management System (e-Rad: <https://www.e-rad.go.jp/index.html>).

3.2 Eligible researchers for DOST support:

A. On the program/project proposal

The program/project proposal shall comply with the following eligibility requirements:

1. Alignment with and support of the Harmonized National R&D Agenda (HNRDA); and
2. No duplication with completed and ongoing programs/projects.

B. On the Implementing Agency

The implementing agency that will be involved in the program/project:

1. must be a Filipino entity duly registered with the appropriate government agencies; and
2. must be either a government agency or its instrumentalities, educational institution,

C. On the Program/Project Leader

The following are the criteria for the Program/Project Leader:

1. must be a Filipino citizen, subject to applicable laws;
2. Shall submit documents/proof of the following, which shall include but not limited to: credentials/proof of capability; certificate of employment; track record; letter of commitment from counterpart Japanese PI, and endorsement letter of his/her institution. Eligibility shall be determined by the assigned Monitoring Agency based on his/her readiness in terms of technical, managerial, financial and marketing capabilities (if necessary);
3. Must hold a permanent position or a regular position for private entity or must be a DOST S&T Fellow and not due to retire the conduct of a program/project;
4. Must not have any existing accountability with DOST and its agencies particularly technical and financial reports; and
5. Must not have been found guilty of administrative or criminal case, including those under appeal.

4. Characteristics of Proposals under this call

4.1 Proposal for JST

A joint proposal must be written in English and must comply with instructions in the Joint Application Form. Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to DOST and JST, respectively. In addition, Japan-based PIs must also submit the Japanese Application Form Appendix (for Japan-side PIs).

The Japanese team is basically composed as follows:

- Principal Investigator (PI)

The PI is a researcher who will be directly supported by JST and is the representative of the research team(s) in Japan. They are responsible for directing and overseeing the whole project. The PI must be affiliated with a research institution in Japan.

- Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) (if needed)

The Co-PI is a researcher who will be directly supported by JST and collaborates with the PI in conducting the research project. The Co-PI must be affiliated with a research institution in Japan. Whether or not it is necessary to designate a Co-PI depends on the unit by which the research contract with JST is concluded. If the research expenses can be executed under the same contract as the PI (e.g., when the Co-PI belongs to the same department as the PI), it is not necessary to designate a Co-PI. Please confirm the unit of the contract with the administrative office in charge of research contracts at your institution.

- Research participants (if needed)

Research participants are researchers, technicians, research assistants, students, coordinators and others who are part of the research project under the direction of the PI or Co-PIs but are not directly supported by JST.

4.2 Proposal for DOST

The Program/Project Leader shall submit documents that are required by respective DOST funding agencies. These shall include, among others, following:

- A. Accomplished Joint Application form shall be submitted to DOST through email (itcu@dost.gov.ph). The Application Form is attached as Annex.
- B. Complete DOST Forms 1 and 2 (detailed R&D program/project proposal) for R&D Programs/Projects.
- C. Detailed breakdown of the required fund assistance to indicate the counterpart of the proponent and other fund sources including letter/s of commitment from the implementing, collaborating and coordinating agency/ies;
- D. A counterpart fund, in kind and/or in cash, shall be required from the implementing agency as one of the application requirements. All projects must have a minimum of 15% counterpart contribution except for projects involving public goods;

- E. Curriculum Vitae or Personnel Data Sheet (PDS) of Project Leader and other co-researchers/implementers. The service record may be requested if needed;
- F. Clearance from the DOST or the Funding Agency (eg. DOST Councils) on previously funded completed projects handled by the Project Leader;
- G. Approval from the institution's ethics review board for research involving human subjects or in the case of animal subjects, approval from the country's Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI);
- H. Clearance from the DOST Biosafety Committee (DOST-BC) shall be required for research proposals involving the use of GMOs under contained use (i.e. experiments done in laboratories, screen house, and greenhouse). For projects other than contained use, they shall be referred to the appropriate agency. The DOST Sectoral Councils, after a determination as to whether or not the proposal has biosafety implications, shall endorse the same to the DOST-BC in accordance with the prescribed format under Annex 3 of the Philippine Biosafety Guidelines for Contained Use of GMOs); and
- I. Private Sector/non-government organizations and startups (see DOST-GIA Guideline AO 011 Series of 2020).

5. Amount of Funding

5.1. Amount of Funding by JST:

JST will support each Japan-based team up to 36 million Japanese Yen as direct expenses for 36 months. In addition to direct expenses, the overhead cost of 30% of direct expenses will be added as indirect expenses separately. The budget for a project may differ each year, depending on the content of activities. The amounts will be adjusted each year due to the budgetary limitations for this program.

5.2. Amount of Funding by DOST:

DOST shall provide a maximum funding of PHP15 million for each project for 36 months in support of the Filipino researchers in conducting their joint research project with Japan, which includes international travel expenses between the Philippines and Japan; research-related domestic travel expenses in the Philippines; medical and accident insurance (based on prescribed accounting and auditing rules); and daily allowances, accommodation, and domestic travel expenses in Japan of the Filipino team.

A counterpart fund, in kind and/or in cash, shall be required from the implementing agency as one of the application requirements. All projects must have a minimum of 15% counterpart contribution except for projects involving public good.

6. Eligible costs

6.1. Eligible costs for JST

(1) Direct expenses

Direct expenses are expenses directly used for research purposes at the awarded research institution and can be used for the following:

- Equipment costs (equipment and consumables)
- Travel costs
 - In principle, travel costs are incurred in accordance with the guidelines of the awarded research institution. Travel expenses are applicable to travel directly related to the execution of the research, dissemination activities, etc.
- Personnel costs (PI personnel costs and buyout policy may apply)
- Miscellaneous
- In addition to the above, research expenses may include, for example:
 - Expenses for organizing and hosting events for research result dissemination
 - Outsourcing costs (excluding subcontracting)
 - Equipment leasing costs, transportation costs, for equipment used for the research project
 - Personnel expenses for administrative staff that coordinate the travel of exchange activities and their personnel-related procedures can be recorded as direct expenses.

(Points of Caution)

Participants are to allocate around 30% of the total direct expenses to exchange activities of young researchers including graduate and undergraduate students who can play an important role in the joint research and who are expected to be internationally active in the future, *e.g., by promoting their international mobility and circulation, such as dispatching them to the partner country or holding workshops, or by providing international research opportunities such as presenting at international conference.*

(2) Indirect expenses

In addition to the direct expenses, the overhead cost of 30% of the direct expenses will be added separately as indirect expenses to cover administrative purposes.

6.2. Eligible costs for DOST

The grant shall finance project expenditures itemized in an approved Line Item Budget (LIB) following the DOST Form 4-Project LIB. The grant may cover partial or full cost of the project both direct and indirect costs which shall include personnel services, maintenance and other operating expenses, and capital outlay that are integral part of the project. All expenditure items in the LIB shall be in accordance with the Unified

Account Code Structure (UACS), relevant provisions to include:

1. Direct Cost. Direct cost covers expenses incurred by the implementing agency in the execution of program/project considered indispensable to its operations. It can be broken down according to specific accounts under Personnel Services (PS), Maintenance and Other Operation Expenses (MOOE), and Capital Outlay (CO).
2. Indirect Cost. Indirect cost covers the overhead expenses incurred by the Implementing Agency in managing and, Monitoring Agency in evaluating and monitoring the program/project. The administrative and project management costs shall fall under this account.

Specific details which must be complied with can be found in DOST AO No. 004, series of 2023 "Amendments to the DOST Administrative Order No. 011 s. 2020, otherwise known as the "Revised Guidelines for the Grants-in-Aid Program of the Department of Science and Technology and its Agencies".

7. Submission

The Principal Investigator from Japan must submit the collaborative proposal to JST and the Principal Investigator from the Philippines must submit the joint proposal to DOST. **Identical copies of the proposal must be submitted to JST and DOST, respectively.**

7.1. Submission procedure for JST:

Application documents by the Japan-based researcher should be submitted through the online e-Rad platform (<https://www.e-rad.go.jp/>).

7.2. Submission procedure for DOST:

Filipino applicants must submit their proposal online through the DOST Project Management Information System (DPMIS) on or before the closing date. Email/physical submissions will not be considered.

Filipino applicants are advised to closely coordinate with their Japanese partner to meet the application requirements and deadline set by DOST and JST.

The Calls for Proposals are listed on the DPMIS. Likewise, the DOST Forms can be downloaded from the DPMIS to serve as a guide in the submission of proposals. Since proposal submission will be through the DPMIS, the proponent shall use the DOST Forms to serve as a guide in the proposal submission.

The relevant links to the call for proposals are as follows:

- DPMIS: <https://dpmis.dost.gov.ph/>
- DPMIS Video Tutorial: <https://bit.ly/DPMISvideo>
- DOST Forms (Guide only):
<https://dpmis.dost.gov.ph/index.php/transparency/downloads/category/2-dost-forms>

8. Timeline

Call announcement: June 30, 2025 at 1:00 PM (JST) / 12:00 PM (PHT)

Deadline of submission: August 29, 2025 at 1:00 PM (JST) / 12:00 PM (PHT)

Evaluation period: September to December

Expected selection results announcement: January 2026 (tentative)

Expected start of granted projects: April 2026 (tentative)

9. Assessment and Selection

9.1. Evaluation Procedure

Independent Committees consisting of experts selected by JST and DOST respectively will evaluate all proposals. Based on the results of the evaluation, JST and DOST will make a common decision regarding funding of selected proposals.

9.2 Criteria for evaluating proposals

The following general evaluation criteria will apply to each proposed proposal:

- **Relevance to the Research Field:**
The proposal's alignment with the designated research area of the call and its potential to contribute to advancements in the field.
- **Research Leadership Capacity:**
Assessment of the capabilities and expertise of the research leaders involved, including their track record and ability to effectively lead the proposed project.
- **Anticipated Scientific Outputs:**
Evaluation of the expected scientific achievements resulting from the collaborative research effort.
- **Synergistic Impact of International Collaboration:**
Examination of the potential synergies and added value generated through the collaboration between international partners with a focus on reciprocal/mutual and balanced contributions from both countries.
- **Soundness of Research and Exchange Plans:**
Review of the validity and robustness of both the research and exchange plans outlined in the proposal.
- **Anticipated Economic and Social Benefits:**
Consideration of the potential economic and societal impacts arising from the outcomes of the joint research initiative.
- **Feasibility of Implementation:**
Assessment of the practical feasibility of implementing the proposed project, considering factors such as the proposed timeline, budgetary allocations, availability of facilities, and the mechanisms for cooperation among participating entities.

10. Contract between Researchers

10.1 the Japan-based PIs

A contract for cooperative research (Collaborative Research Agreement: CRA) **MUST** be entered into among institutions with which collaborating researchers are affiliated for implementing actual research collaboration. The contract for cooperative research shall include conclusions of discussions among the institutions which are entitled to intellectual property arising as a result of research collaboration, and the institutions concerned on issues regarding treatment of research information brought by researchers involved for the implementation of research collaboration, of research achievements as a result of research collaboration and of intellectual properties among the concerned institutions. Before the conclusion of the contract, the Japan-based principal investigator must submit the checklist in specified form to JST and then undergo a check by JST. When concluded, JST needs to be promptly notified of the contract. If there is any difficulty in concluding the contract, please consult JST in advance. Please note that in cases where research activities or technology handled within this project relate to sensitive technologies or information that may impact international security, please ensure to contact JST in advance. We may request that you consult with the Japan-side program officer (PO) and exercise caution as appropriate.

10.2 Philippines-based Project Leads

The DOST, through the Special Projects Division (SPD), shall prepare a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to be executed by the Implementing Agency, Monitoring Agency, and Funding Agency. The MOA shall stipulate the following responsibilities:

The Implementing Agency in the Philippines shall have primary responsibility for all project activities. It shall notify the Monitoring Agency of significant concerns/problems related to project implementation. The Head of the Implementing Agency shall ensure that the Project Leader submits to the Funding Agency all the required reports/documents on time.

The Program/Project Leader shall provide technical leadership and directly implement the program/project; adhere to the goals/objectives of the program/project; follow strictly the approved activities as reflected in the work plan; deliver committed outputs; and submit required reports/documents on time. The Program Leader shall coordinate with the project leaders to ensure that the goals of the projects and program are attained; consolidate the projects' output, which shall be packaged as a program output; ensure that all implementing guidelines has been read and understood; and execute manifestation to abide by all the rules.

The Program/Project Leader shall submit periodic accomplishment reports to the Funding Agency (DOST) through the Monitoring Agency. All reports must be duly endorsed by the Head of the Implementing Agency.

Other details can be found in X. Grant Administration of the DOST AO. No. 011, series of 2020.

11. Reporting

11.1 the Japan-based PIs

Japan-based PIs shall submit to JST annual research plans for the year ahead and reports on the progress in the past year, and the institution with which the PI is affiliated shall submit an annual financial report. Any key changes to the project team or activities, particularly if they affect the ability to complete the project should be made known to JST immediately.

At the end of the period of support and after completion of the joint research activities, the Japan-based PI shall promptly submit to JST a final report which shall include a financial report and a description of the research activities and outcomes. The report shall include a general summary of the activities of both the Japanese and the Philippines research teams. If papers describing results of the research activities are presented to academic journals, societies etc., a list of those papers and other related information should be attached to the final report. Detailed instructions for preparation of the final report will be provided to the Japan-based PI during the final year of the project. Completed projects will be duly evaluated and excellent outcomes may be made public.

11.2 the Philippines-based Project Leads

The Program/Project Leader shall submit periodic accomplishment reports to the Funding Agency (DOST) through the Monitoring Agency. All reports must be duly endorsed by the Head of the Implementing Agency.

12. Contact information

Japan-based applicants: inquiries to JST regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to joint-call-ja@jst.go.jp

Philippines-based applicants: inquiries to DOST regarding this Call for Proposals should be sent to itcu@dost.gov.ph