



Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(**ESRS Concept Stage**)

Date Prepared/Updated: 05/07/2024 | Report No: ESRSC04284



I. BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Operation Data

Operation ID	Product	Operation Acronym	Approval Fiscal Year
P505177	Investment Project Financing (IPF)	Innovation Fund	2024
Operation Name	India - Enhancing Innovation among ICMR Institutions		
Country/Region Code	Beneficiary country/countries (borrower, recipient)	Region	Practice Area (Lead)
India	India	SOUTH ASIA	Health, Nutrition & Population
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	Department of Health Research, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare		27-Jun-2024
Estimated Concept Review Date	Total Project Cost		
24-May-2024	1,000,000.00		

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Proposed Development Objective

To create an ecosystem for successful commercialization of medical technologies among the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) institutions

B. Is the operation being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project Activities

[Description imported from the Concept Data Sheet in the Portal providing information about the key aspects and components/sub-components of the project]

The project will foster innovation and entrepreneurship among ICMR institutions in India and create an ecosystem for commercialization of successful medical technologies. It will cover the ICMR headquarters and its network of twenty six institutions. It will support the creation of an ecosystem to promote technology advancement partnerships and the establishment of a bio-property sharing platform to improve access to unique bio-properties created by ICMR. It will



also build the capacity of research fraternity within ICMR on identification of innovations, management of research results, technology protection and advancement to commercialization.

D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1 Overview of Environmental and Social Project Settings

[Description of key features relevant to the operation’s environmental and social risks and opportunities (e.g., whether the project is nationwide or regional in scope, urban/rural, in an FCV context, presence of Indigenous Peoples or other minorities, involves associated facilities, high-biodiversity settings, etc.) – Max. character limit 2,000]

The grant will support commercialization of successful technologies development through medical research by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and its network institutions. This includes granting access to biological materials and properties to leading Industry houses involved in medical research and development of prescription medicines, vaccines, diagnostic kits and medical equipment. The proposed grant will also invest in building capacity of ICMR staff and its network institutions in translating medical research into commercial products. The proposed grant will, therefore, foster innovation and collaboration. Given good track record of India's health sector in managing the key environmental issue of biomedical waste management, as well as the social issue of ensuring inclusive and equal access to medical support, the proposed grant is unlikely to have any significant, irreversible or long-term adverse impacts. E&S provisions will focus on building capacity for better biosecurity and biosafety measures at the institutional level.

D.2 Overview of Borrower’s Institutional Capacity for Managing Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description of Borrower’s capacity (i.e., prior performance under the Safeguard Policies or ESF, experience applying E&S policies of IFIs, Environmental and social unit/staff already in place) and willingness to manage risks and impacts and of provisions planned or required to have capabilities in place, along with the needs for enhanced support to the Borrower – Max. character limit 2,000]

The borrower is already implementing a Bank funded PforR operation, wherein as part of the PAP, an expert panel has been set up to guide and advice the borrower on the E&S requirements of the health sector. These include, construction management, biomedical waste management, biosafety and biosecurity issues etc. Besides this PforR operation, the borrower (ICMR) has extensive experience of researching on biological materials, vaccine development and overall medical research, thereby having good cumulative experience of managing environmental issues, primarily, biomedical waste management.

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Moderate

A.1 Environmental Risk Rating

Moderate

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]

The grant will essentially support building the institutional capacity in managing and accessing biological properties already available in storage with premier government institutions. Minor research activities and laboratory processes/ protocols might be involved while arranging access to these biological properties. Given the long experience of these institutions in managing the risks, identified for the proposed grant relating to biomedical waste management,

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biosecurity and biosafety, are assessed to be moderate. The key factors contributing to the Moderate risk rating are: (i) good institutional capacity in storage and research on biological material and properties, (ii) extensive experience of managing biomedical wastes at the research institution level, (iii) good capacity of managing occupational health risks through use of personal protective equipment at the research facilities.

A.2 Social Risk Rating

Low

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating, in accordance with the ES Directive and the Technical Note on Screening and Risk Classification under the ESF – Max. character limit 2,000]

The grant's focus is on research and commercialization of research by granting access to biological materials and properties for innovation and product development. This is unlikely to have any adverse impacts on social issues of inclusion and equity. The developed products will be available for use by the general public, including as and when required by vulnerable sections of the society through the government medical health support system.

A.3 Sexual Exploitation and Abuse/Sexual Harassment (SEA/SH) Risk Rating

Low

[Summary of key factors contributing to risk rating. This attribute is only for the internal version of the download document and not a part of the disclosable version – Max. character limit 2,000]

The SEA/SH is rated low. The project supports research activities in scientific institutions having well managed laboratories. The experience shows that the women are well represented in research including as leading scientists and research associates, further, involvement of government agencies ensures the provisions of Protection of Women from Sexual Harassment, (POSH Act, 2013) are duly implemented.

B. Relevance of Standards and Policies at Concept Stage

B.1 Relevance of Environmental and Social Standards

ESS1 - Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

ESS1 is relevant to allow for initial screening of the activities that will be financed by the grant. The key risks at the concept stage identified are those associated with biosecurity, biosafety and managing biomedical wastes. While there is good laboratory safety systems in place and good experience in managing biomedical wastes at the research institution level, the grant will focus on building staff capacity in biosecurity and biosafety. During preparation phase, a screening checklist will be prepared for screening the biosecurity, biosafety and biomedical waste management capacity of the private and public entities accessing biological materials and properties for developing technologies and products for commercialization.

ESS10 - Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

A stakeholder engagement plan will be development during preparation that will identify the relevant stakeholders. At this stage, the key stakeholders are the ICMR and its network institutions, the staff working in these institutions

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and potential (not yet identified) industry and public research bodies who will access biological materials and properties.

ESS2 - Labor and Working Conditions

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

An initial screening of the working conditions will be undertaken for scientists and researchers involved in ICMR and its network institutions. These personnel are governed by the Government of India service rules, therefore, the focus will be on contractual staff and labor working in these research facilities. However, the project will place relevant GRM systems to address any issues related particularly for contractual /outsourced staff.

ESS3 - Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This is relevant because there would be generation of bio medical wastes. Most laboratories are having good experience in management and disposal of bio medical waste. The project will ensure adherence with established protocols relating to bio medical waste management as well as applicability of OHS measures.

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This is relevant but limited to scientific staff and researchers working in research laboratories of ICMR and its network institutions. There is already a good track record of use of PPE but the grant will support further strengthening of biosecurity and biosafety measures.

ESS5 - Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

ESS6 - Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

This is relevant as primarily the research will be carried out on biological materials and properties. This will be largely limited to the genetic diversity and intraspecific diversity of microbes and will not involve species and habitat level issues. The applicability of the National Biodiversity (2002) Act will be explored to ascertain if provisions relating to Access and Benefit Sharing mechanisms apply to the proposed grant activities.

ESS7 - Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

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ESS8 - Cultural Heritage

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

ESS9 - Financial Intermediaries

Not Currently Relevant

[Optional Explanation - Max. character limit 1,000]

B.2 Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Operations on International Waterways

No

OP 7.60 Operations in Disputed Areas

No

B.3 Other Salient Features

Use of Borrower Framework

TBD

[Optional explanation – Max. character limit 1,000]

Use of Common Approach

No

[Optional Explanation including list of possible financing partners – Max. character limit 1,000]

B.4 Summary of Assessment of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

[Description provided will not be disclosed but will flow as a one time flow to the Concept Stage PID – Max. character limit 5,000]

The proposed grant will support commercialization of research on biological materials and properties for developing innovative products for the medical and health sectors. The primary risks will be centered around biomedical waste management, biosecurity and biosafety. No adverse impacts are expected on key social issues of inclusion and equity. There is good capacity and years of experience within the ICMR and its network institutions on conducting research on biological materials and properties, occupational health and safety and on storing of biological materials. The grant will focus on strengthening biosecurity and biosafety measures. ESS1, ESS2, ESS4, ESS6 and ESS10 are considered relevant at this stage. The grant will support development of screening checklists for ascertaining capacity of the private and public entities as and when they express interest in accessing biological materials and properties for further research.

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C. Overview of Required Environmental and Social Risk Management Activities

C.1 What Borrower environmental and social analyses, instruments, plans and/or frameworks are planned or required by Appraisal?

[Description of expectations in terms of documents to be prepared to assess and manage the project’s environmental and social risks and by when (i.e., prior to Effectiveness, or during implementation), highlighted features of ESA documents, other project documents where environmental and social measures are to be included, and the related due diligence process planned to be carried out by the World Bank, including sources of information for the due diligence - Max. character limit 3,000]

An ESCP and a SEP will be prepared and publicly disclosed by appraisal.

At this stage a the environmental and social due diligence might explore developing relevant checklists and protocols for ensuring biosecurity and biosafety.

III. CONTACT POINT

Contact Point

Task Team Leader: Suresh Kunhi Mohammed Title: Senior Health Specialist

Email: smohammed5@worldbank.org

TTL Contact: Dinesh M. Nair Job Title: Senior Health Specialist

Email: dnair@worldbank.org

IV. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

The World Bank
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20433
Telephone: (202) 473-1000
Web: <http://www.worldbank.org/projects>

V. APPROVAL

Task Team Leader(s): Suresh Kunhi Mohammed, Dinesh M. Nair

ADM Environmental Specialist: Anupam Joshi

ADM Social Specialist: Venkata Rao Bayana

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