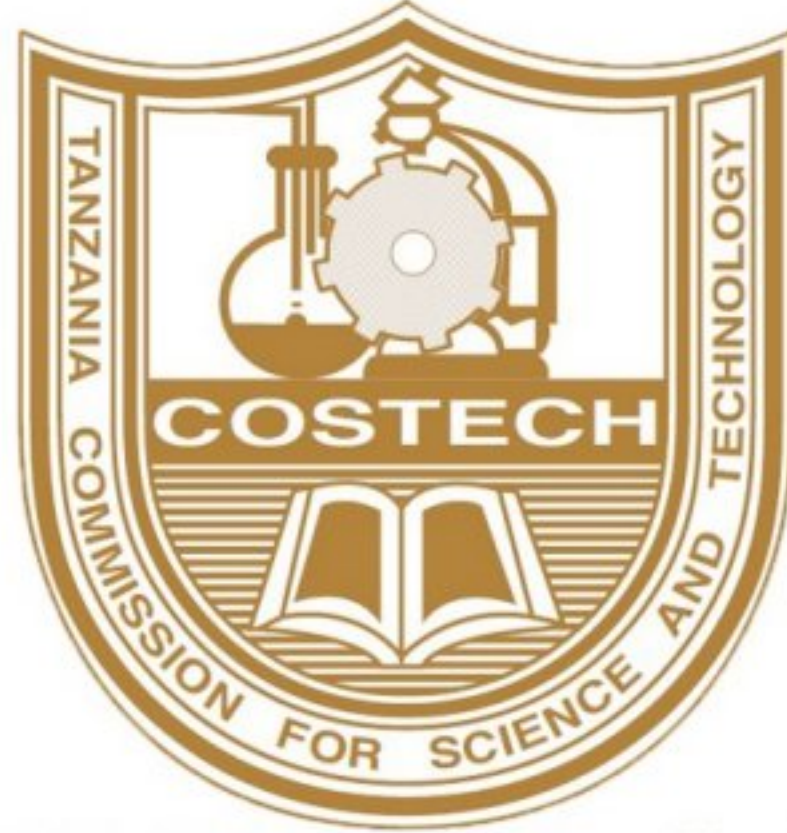


**TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(COSTECH)**



ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified

**CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR COSTECH
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROPOSALS REVIEW**

The application should be submitted through COSTECH Online Submission Portal
found at <https://crweb.costech.or.tz/>

Deadline for application submission is: **Friday, 28th March 2025** at 23:59 (EAT).

CONTENTS

- 1.** 2
- 2.** 3
- 3.** 4
- 4.** 5
- 5.** 5
- 6.** 6
- 7.** 7
- 8.** 7
- 9.** Error! Bookmark not defined.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology (COSTECH) was established by Parliament Act No.7 of 1986. The Commission is mandated to advise the Government on matters related to scientific research and technology development in the country. Among its functions, COSTECH is responsible for promoting research and mobilizing funds to support Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) development for socio-economic transformation.

To fulfill this mandate, COSTECH, through the National Fund for Science and Technology (NFAST), provides financial support to researchers and innovators conducting scientific and technological research in the nationally prioritized areas. To ensure high quality and maintain standards while enhancing the transparency of the research and innovation proposal review process, COSTECH engages experts from higher learning (HL) and research and development (R&D) institutions for evaluation before making funding decisions. Reviewers are selected based on their competence and experience in relevant fields, in line with specific calls for proposals.

To enhance transparency, fairness, and inclusion in the review process while engaging a broader range of experts, COSTECH invites researchers and innovation experts to express their interest in serving as reviewers of COSTECH research and innovation grant proposals. This opportunity is open to all researchers and innovation experts within and outside the United Republic of Tanzania (URT). Women researchers and innovation experts are highly encouraged to apply.

The selected reviewers will serve a three-year term starting from their appointment date. During this term, reviewers will be responsible for evaluating proposals issued in the area of his or her expertise and will not be eligible to apply for that particular call intends to review. Additionally, if a reviewer intends to apply for COSTECH grants during their tenure, they will be ineligible to review that particular call.

The outcome of this call is expected to establish a COSTECH reviewers' database, accessible to relevant stakeholders and useful for various research and innovation purposes, including fostering collaboration among researchers.

2. OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this call for expression of interest is to gather information about potential researchers and innovation experts who have ability and willingness to engage in reviewing grant proposals. This initiative aims to enhance the quality and relevance of research and innovation projects funded by COSTECH and its partners in addressing national development challenges, while maintaining high standards of integrity, fairness, and transparency.

Specifically, the call intends to:

- i. Mitigate bias by ensuring participation of a diverse range of reviewers with different perspectives.
- ii. Select highly qualified researchers and innovation experts to review grant proposals fairly and transparently.
- iii. Establish an online database of potential reviewers.
- iv. Equip reviewers with COSTECH review tools and criteria to ensure smooth carrying out of evaluation processes.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The applicants should adhere to the following set of criteria as categorized below:

3.1 Research Reviewers:

- i. Must be researchers, citizens or non-citizens of URT. Female researchers are strongly encouraged to apply.
- ii. Must hold a PhD degree with at least five (5) years of experience in relevant fields.
- iii. Must have strong experience in reviewing research proposals or journal papers.
- iv. Must have a proven track record in securing research grants.
- v. Must have experience in mentoring or supervising MSc and PhD students or Postdoc Fellows.
- vi. Must have a strong publication record in peer-reviewed journals.
- vii. Must be active members of recognized research professional bodies or associations.
- viii. Must demonstrate commitment to performing reviews within the specified timeframe.

3.2 Innovation Reviewers:

- i. Must be innovation experts, citizens or non-citizens of URT. Female innovation experts are strongly encouraged to apply.
- ii. Must hold a master's degree with at least five (5) years of experience working in the innovation ecosystem. A PhD degree is an added advantage.
- iii. Must have a proven track record in securing innovation funds.
- iv. Must have experience mentoring or supervising innovators, startups, or students.
- v. Must demonstrate commitment to performing reviews within the specified timeframe.

4. REVIEWER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The following are the key responsibilities of reviewers for COSTECH research and innovation grant proposals as categorized below:

4.1 Research Reviewers:

- i. Evaluate the scientific and technical soundness, originality, and significance of proposed research.
- ii. Assess the research team's expertise and experience in relation to project success.
- iii. Assess budget justification and cost-effectiveness
- iv. Assess the project's potential impact, including scientific, societal, and economic benefits.
- v. Evaluate gender considerations in project design.
- vi. Review sustainability plans for long-term impact beyond funding periods.
- vii. Ensure adherence to ethical guidelines and regulations.
- viii. Provide constructive, relevant, adequate and timely feedback to COSTECH.

4.2 Innovation Reviewers:

- i. Evaluate the novelty, feasibility, and potential impact of innovations.
- ii. Assess project alignment with national priorities.
- iii. Review sustainability and scalability plans.
- iv. Provide detailed, unbiased feedback on project strengths and weaknesses.
- v. Examine technical soundness and likelihood of successful implementation.
- vi. Analyze socio-economic benefits.
- vii. Review sustainability practices, including environmental impacts.
- viii. Assess budget justification and financial feasibility.
- ix. Review intellectual property and legal compliance.
- x. Evaluate collaboration and partnership potential.
- xi. Provide constructive, relevant, adequate and timely feedback.

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Interested applicants must submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) through the COSTECH Online Submission Portal found at www.costech.or.tz. The submission should include the following components:

5.1 Research Reviewers:

- i. **General Information:** Full name and contact details.
- ii. **Education & Professional Qualifications:** Academic and professional qualifications as well as focus areas of expertise should be given.
- iii. **Research Experience:** List research projects (PI, Co-PI, or team member) from the last five years, including title, funding source, and year.
- iv. **Publications:** List local and international scientific publications (journal title, publication type, title, year, volume/issue, co-authors).
- v. **Mentorship/Supervision:** List MSc, PhD, or Postdoc candidates mentored or supervised (names, research areas, graduation year).
- vi. **Professional Affiliations:** List professional bodies/associations and editorial boards active in the past five years.
- vii. **Awards/Recognition:** List scientific awards received in the last five years (award name, awarding body, year).
- viii. **Other Merits:** Kindly provide any other merits (Specific)

5.2 Innovation Reviewers:

- i. **General Information:** Full name and contact details.
- ii. **Education & Professional Qualifications.**
- iii. **Innovation Experience:** List innovation projects led or participated in over the last five years (role, project title, and year).
- iv. **Grants/Funding Experience.**
- v. **Mentorship/Supervision:** Details of innovators, startups, or students mentored (names, programs, years).
- vi. **Professional Affiliations:** Membership in innovation networks, advisory boards, or regulatory committees.
- vii. **Awards/Recognition:** Local and international awards for innovation.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated based on the criteria listed below:

6.1 Research Reviewers

- i. Educational and professional qualifications.
- ii. Research experience.
- iii. Grants and funding records.
- iv. Mentorship and supervision history.
- v. Professional affiliations and networks.
- vi. Research Outputs
- vii. Awards and recognitions.
- viii. Capacity Building Experience (Mentorship/Supervision)
- ix. Experience in Peer Review Journals

6.2 Innovation Reviewers

- i. Educational and professional qualifications.
- ii. Innovation experience.
- iii. Grants and funding records.
- iv. Mentorship and supervision history.
- v. Professional affiliations and networks.
- vi. Innovation Outputs
- vii. Awards and recognitions.
- viii. Capacity Building Experience (Mentorship/Supervision)

7. ATTACHMENTS

- i. Curriculum Vitae (CV): Detailed CV highlighting relevant experience.
- ii. Signed Letter of Commitment: Stating willingness to serve as a reviewer.

8. KEY TIMELINES

SN	ACTIVITY	DATES
1.	Call opening	7/3/2025
2.	Call closing	28/3/2025
3.	Evaluation of applications	29/3 /2025 -14/4/2025
4.	Feedback to the applicants	15 -18 /4/2025

9. CONTACT INFORMATION

For any clarification regarding to this call, please contact:

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