

Goa State Research Foundation

GSRF/Schemes/IRIS/74/2023/

Interdisciplinary Research Interventions Scheme for Local Development (IRIS-LD)

FULL Scheme AS IS of date inclusive of original notification and amendments published as per the approval of the Governing Council

(Official Gazette of Government of Goa: Supplement Series I No. 16, dated 19/07/2024; & Series I, No. 5; dated 02nd May 2025)

The Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF) is pleased to frame the “GSRF **Interdisciplinary Research Interventions Scheme for Local Development (IRIS-LD)**” to provide financial assistance to the Researchers of recognised educational and research institutions in Goa who wish to undertake Research Projects related to Local Development.

I. SHORT TITLE AND COMMENCEMENT

- i) The Scheme shall be called the “GSRF **Interdisciplinary Research Interventions Scheme for Local Development (IRIS-LD)**”.
- ii) The Scheme shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and remain in force until it is amended or closed.

II. INTRODUCTION TO THE SCHEME

National Education Policy 2020 recognises the importance of Interdisciplinary / Multidisciplinary Research Interventions in solving local problems and providing robust data to formulate new policies for improving the lives of citizens and in guiding Government policies in reaching the citizens. The significance of high-quality, interdisciplinary / multidisciplinary research is the need, as problems are not restricted to any single discipline. Hence, the “GSRF **Interdisciplinary Research Interventions Scheme for Local Development (IRIS-LD)**” has been designed to provide financial assistance to a team of Researchers from various Research and Educational institutions in Goa on a competitive basis to pursue interdisciplinary research work as a team on a chosen problem and come out with practical solutions and/or policy prescriptions.

III. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE OF THE SCHEME

This scheme aims to promote interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary teams of researchers, including those from informal/unorganized sector with experience and innovative ideas, to take up any local problems and provide practical solutions based on research interventions. These solutions include scientific solutions that could be implemented/adopted directly on the ground or inputs for policy interventions. Research that considers working with local bodies, industry and/or government departments, keeping solutions as the output, will be considered. In addition to the above, GSRF would also announce periodically under this scheme, as need arises, ‘thematic’ problems/concerns needing solutions through research interventions. Under IRIS-LD scheme, therefore, applicants would thus have the platform to provide solutions through research interventions to thematic and non-thematic/open local level problems.

IV. OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

The Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF) shall implement and operate this scheme.

V. ELIGIBILITY

The Principal Investigator (P.I.) who will be considered as the primary applicant, has to have: (i) a PhD degree or M.D./M.S./M.D.S./M.V.Sc. in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Sciences; (ii) an interest in high-quality research; and (iii) has to be a regular faculty working in a recognised Higher Educational Institute in Goa, or Scientist of a Centrally funded Research Institute in Goa. Co-

investigators (Co-PIs) can be from the same or other institutes in Goa. The team should comprise specialists from different branches to complement the requirements for achieving the goals. To ensure that IRIS-LD spreads to the grass-roots, other members/Co-PIs in the team could include experts retired from formal service, members from NGOs, students with innovative ideas, and/or even those from the unorganised sector, including mechanics and agriculturists, who could share and contribute with their innovative insights, experiences and skills.

VI. PATTERN OF ASSISTANCE

A. Assistance for a single project under this scheme shall not exceed Rs. 10.00 Lakhs. In a financial year, the total quantum of assistance shall not exceed Rs. 100.00 Lakhs.

B. Stratification

The maximum amount payable for accepted proposals will be as follows:

1. Local / Village / Panchayat level issue: up to Rs. 3.00 lakhs
2. City / Municipality level issue: up to Rs. 4.00 lakhs
3. District level: up to Rs. 5.00 lakhs
4. State-level / Technology-driven solutions: up to Rs. 10 lakhs

C. Heads of expense: The PI shall specify Heads under which funding is required, with the purpose explained and quantum fully justified. Funds will be released as follows:

- i. 75% of the sanctioned amount at the beginning of the project.
- ii. 25% after the half-projected timeline on submission of an Interim Report.

Grants will be released to College Principal/Registrar (Goa University)/Head of Institution.

VII. TENURE AND IMPLEMENTATION:

The tenure sanctioned under GSRF IRIS-LD will be one year from the project's sanction date; however, in exceptional cases of need for additional time, on the basis of specific and justified request of the PI and approval of the Review Committee, the tenure may be extended, by up to a maximum of six months. In such cases no further extension will be permissible or considered.

VIII. PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR THE SCHEME:

The scheme will be open seeking proposals from interested applicants/PIs each year [either with or without identified thrust area(s)]. Accepting of applications for the consideration of funding shall not go beyond 15th December, every year. Applications received after the said date will be considered for funding, after following due processes, in the next financial year. GSRF reserves the right to close the scheme for the year at any point of time earlier, with due intimation of closure being announced on its website. The applicants must send a concept note with the proposed budget online in response to the call by GSRF followed by the submission of hard copies in Original. Pre-registration of PI is a must for applying online. Only one proposal from each PI per cycle will be permitted. The applicants shall present the proposal before the Committee constituted for the purpose. The PIs of accepted concepts (with suggestions to modify, if required) will be asked to submit the full proposals online followed by the submission of hard copies in original.

IX. PROCEDURE FOR APPROVAL:

The applications received, complete in all aspects, will be peer-reviewed by the subject Experts Committee; PI's may be asked to present the proposal, if needed. Based on the recommendations made by the Committee, the Governing Council of GSRF will take the final decision based on the availability of funds under the scheme.

X. COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT

The following documents shall be submitted within three months from the end of the project:

- (1) Copy of the project's final technical report containing solution/policy recommendations, etc., along with the soft copy.
- (2) A consolidated item-wise detailed statement of expenditure incurred during the entire project period in the prescribed proforma duly signed and sealed by the PI and the Principal of the College/Registrar of the Goa University/Head of the Institution.
- (3) A consolidated Audited Utilization Certificate for the amount utilised towards the project duly signed and sealed by the Chartered Accountant, Principal of the College/Registrar of the Goa University/Head of the Institution and the PI in the prescribed proforma.
- (4) The unutilised grant, if any, shall be refunded immediately through demand draft / NEFT in favour of GSRF.
- (5) The Committee constituted shall review the completion report; if required, the PI/team will be invited for the presentation and interaction.

XI. GENERAL

- a) The PIs and the Head of the Institution will be intimated about the selection. The PIs should immediately send their acceptance certificate duly forwarded by the Principal of the College/Registrar of the Goa University/Head of the Institution to the GSRF.
- b) The project is not transferable.
- c) If the PI is transferred from the original place of work to another institution within Goa, a no-objection certificate should be furnished for the project transfer from the host institution. The new host institution shall provide a certificate stating that the Institution will provide the necessary facilities to the awardee for the smooth functioning of the project. The assets acquired, if any, can be transferred to the new institution in case of ongoing projects.
- d) Assets, if any, purchased through GSRF assistance may be taken by GSRF on completion of the project.
- e) GSRF encourages publishing the results of the project supported by it. The investigator should acknowledge the support received from the GSRF in these publications.
- f) Generally, no extension in tenure is permissible (*please also refer to item VII*).
- g) The solution/policy recommendations should be clearly stated in the Final Technical Report as per the projections made in the proposal.
- h) If for whatever reason the PI and Co-PI (and team) do not complete or are unable to complete the project, the entire amount as received from GSRF, shall be transferred back to GSRF immediately through Demand Draft / NEFT. This will also apply in case of PIs who move outside the State of Goa during the tenure of the project, and are no longer associated with the institution through which the project was originally sanctioned.

XII. RELAXATION OF CONDITIONS

The GSRF is empowered to relax any/all clauses or conditions of the scheme in genuine cases.

XIII. INTERPRETATION

If any questions arise regarding the interpretation of any clause, word or expression of the scheme, the decision about the interpretation shall be with the GSRF, which shall be final and binding on all concerned.

The scheme/amendments are as per approvals of the Governing Council.

Savio P. Falleiro, Managing Director, Goa State Research Foundation.
Alto-Porvorim, dated 02/05/2025