



ICGEB International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology



ICGEB Regional Research Centres (RRCs)

2021 Guidelines

Background

The idea to create ICGEB RRCs stems from the need, expressed by the ICGEB constituency, that the ICGEB should provide cost-effective assistance and support to science-based priorities identified at a national or regional level. Furthermore, the initiative addresses the need to promote capacity enhancement programmes at a local level, as well as technology transfer capabilities, with the ultimate goal to promote development and job creation. The RRCs, established under the national law of the country and availing of the expertise and mentorship of the ICGEB, could well fulfill this mandate.

Main objectives

The main objectives of newly created RRCs would be: (i) to conduct scientific research at the highest international standards according to the needs of the Hosting Country and countries in the same geographical area; (ii) to provide an international centre for short- and long-term research training activities, and (iii) to enhance the capacity of the scientific community in the geographical region in the field of biotechnology.

Governance

The RRC should be governed by a Steering Committee composed of 5 members chosen by the authorities of the hosting country with no ICGEB participation.

The **Steering Committee** should be supported and advised by the Scientific Committee.

The **Scientific Committee** would be instrumental in overseeing and directing the scientific activities and outputs of the RRC and ensuring top international standards. It is advised that the Scientific Committee should be composed of:

- The ICGEB Director-General, or his/her delegate (Chair)
- One eminent scientist from the Region of the RRC with undisputed international standing nominated by the ICGEB Director-General
- One eminent scientist with undisputed international standing nominated by the ICGEB Director-General
- The Minister of the Hosting Country/Government, or his/her delegate
- One eminent scientist with undisputed international standing nominated by the local authorities
- One eminent scientist with undisputed international standing nominated by the local authorities or the Government



Activities

The activities of the RRC may include the followings:

- Scientific research activities in the various fields of molecular genetics and biotechnology, to be agreed with the Host Country and based on the needs of the geographical area
- Organisation of international meetings and courses
- An international fellowship programme for pre- and postdoctoral studies
- Exchange of staff and students to and from the ICGEB Components as required
- Provision of technical assistance and know-how to the Hosting Country and other regional laboratories

Other activities may be agreed upon on the basis of the specific requirements of the Host Country and/or other countries in the geographical area. All staff and students of the RRC should have access to the ICGEB funding programmes and facilities for advanced experimentation (Genomics, Proteomics, High Throughput Screening, Microscopy, and others).

Support and Funding

The decision to establish an RRC should be evaluated in the context of the science and technology development strategy of each country. Funding for an RRC and its activities shall be the responsibility of the country hosting the RRC itself, which should be an ICGEB Member State. The ICGEB should nevertheless provide technical, operational and fundraising support to the RRC, while the ultimate financial responsibility for the initiative shall lie with the Hosting Country/Countries. The ICGEB can collect an expression of interest for the establishment of an RRC initiative from a number of Countries that could decide to join efforts to fund and support an RRC, addressing the specific needs of their region

Role of the ICGEB

Throughout the process, the ICGEB should authorize the use of its emblem and provide assurance of quality to the RRC, ensuring full compliance of the RRC activities with international standards in terms of performance and adherence to best practices. The ICGEB should also undertake to provide international visibility for the RRC operations by utilizing its own channels of communication and dissemination. The ICGEB should collaborate in organizing activities and sponsoring participation in the activities of scientists from the least developed countries of the region. The details and modalities of ICGEB support and participation will be defined on a case-by-case basis and specified in the Agreements. The ICGEB and the ICGEB RRC will remain independent entities and will have separate legal personalities. The RRC will be regulated by the domestic law of the hosting country.

