

RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE



Leadership, Innovation and Development

PRESS STATEMENT

RESEARCH COUNCIL OF ZIMBABWE IN SCIENTIFIC BILATERAL COOPERATION WITH MALAWI AND BOTSWANA ON AGRICULTURE BIOTECHNOLOGY AND MINERALS TECHNOLOGY

The Research Council of Zimbabwe has entered into collaborative Research Agreements with Malawi and Botswana on Agriculture Biotechnology and Minerals Technology respectively.

Both collaborations were made possible through support from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), headquartered in Ottawa, Canada, under the Grant Agreement, ‘Support for Research Call Management in Zimbabwe.’ The Agreement seeks to support the RCZ to manage Research Calls on Agriculture Biotechnology, Space Science and Minerals Technology in Zimbabwean Universities and Research Institutes; strengthen the capacity of RCZ in research management; strengthen RCZ’s ability to foster collaboration with other Councils; Universities and research institutes and the private sector; and promote women in innovation and science. Under the Agreement, the Research Council of Zimbabwe will manage research calls in Agriculture Biotechnology and Mining and Minerals Technology with Malawi and Botswana, parties to the Science Granting Councils Initiative, (SGCI).

The agreement, paves way for Zimbabwe, to cooperate in research with Malawi in the area of Agriculture Biotechnology, with a view to promoting national interest and the research capabilities of academics within Universities and Research Institutes of the two nations. Under the Agreement, the Research Council of Zimbabwe and its Malawian counterpart, the National Commission of Science and Technology of Malawi will jointly administer the research management of the project.

“The Research Council of Zimbabwe continues in its endeavours to execute its mandate, as entrusted by Government, which is to promote, direct, supervise and coordinate research in Zimbabwe, as well as coordinating with partners from other parts of the world in the furtherance of research,” said RCZ Executive Director, Mrs Susan Muzite. “We are indeed pleased to be engaging in country to country research collaboration with Malawi, a regional counterpart, with whom we have strong historical ties,” she added. “The research collaboration will allow for our nations to focus on areas of mutual interest and concern in Agriculture

Biotechnology, an area of great strategic importance; especially in light of new emerging technologies. We hope that through this collaborative research effort, our nations will be equipped to boost agricultural productivity, underpinned by the application of science and emerging technologies.”

Researchers from both Zimbabwe and Malawi Universities and research institutes will be expected to collaborate in research in agriculture biotechnology, looking at the fields of either Plant biotechnology or Animal biotechnology.

Under the same arrangement, the Research Council of Zimbabwe has also entered into scientific bilateral cooperation with the Botswana Innovation Hub, which falls under the Department of Research, Science and Technology of Botswana. Under the agreement, Tswana and Zimbabwean researchers will work collaboratively in research on Mining and Minerals Technology. The focus will be on value addition and beneficiation which is expected to result in socio-economic benefits to the two nations.

“This research collaboration undertaking, no doubt places an emphasis on research on one of the most strategic natural resources that our nations possess; minerals, which are a major foreign currency earner,” said Mrs Susan Muzite. Research in this area puts us at the point of attaining our vision to attain middle income economy status by 2030, given the value attendant to minerals and mining technology.”

The bi-lateral agreements are expected to enhance research collaboration between cooperating countries and to bring about evidence-based solutions ultimately centred on national transformation.

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