The Indigenous Knowledge Systems (IKS) funding instrument managed by the National Research Foundation (NRF) and funded by the Department of Science and Innovation (DSI) was designed to promote and support research in Indigenous Knowledge to deepen our understanding and its role in the development of community life. The instrument supports knowledge generation projects in applied and basic (i.e., epistemological studies) research, and priority has always been on experimental research with the potential to lead to mutual benefits for both researchers and communities.

The IKS funding instrument was last revised and launched in 2010 following an extensive stakeholder consultative process led by the National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office of DSI in collaboration with the NRF. Since then new developments have taken place including the three-year cycle review of the IKS Programme in 2014, the new IKS Act, the new White Paper on Science, Technology and Innovation, the DSI desire to rethink the role of and reposition the National Indigenous Knowledge Systems Office (NIKSO).

In view of these developments, it is necessary for the DSI and NRF to redesign and reposition the nature of support for IKS knowledge generation and human capital development. The NRF has therefore suspended the 2020 Call for submission of new Research Proposals to afford itself and the DSI time and opportunity to redesign IKS support. This means that NO NEW research grants will be awarded for commencement in 2021. The NRF will however, honour funding commitments for current/ongoing research grants, student bursaries and fellowships. It must also be noted that IKS and IKS-related research proposals can and will be considered for funding through the competitive instruments like the Competitive Support for Unrated Researchers (CSUR) and Competitive Programme for Rated Researchers (CPRR). The NRF and DSI will continuously provide updates for future IKS funding and support.

The NRF sincerely thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Further queries can be directed to:
Dr Zolani Dyosi
Director: Knowledge Advancement & Support (KAS) -NRF
Email: Zolani@nrf.ac.za