

High-Value Nutrition Contestable Fund

Frequently Asked Questions (5 June 2019)

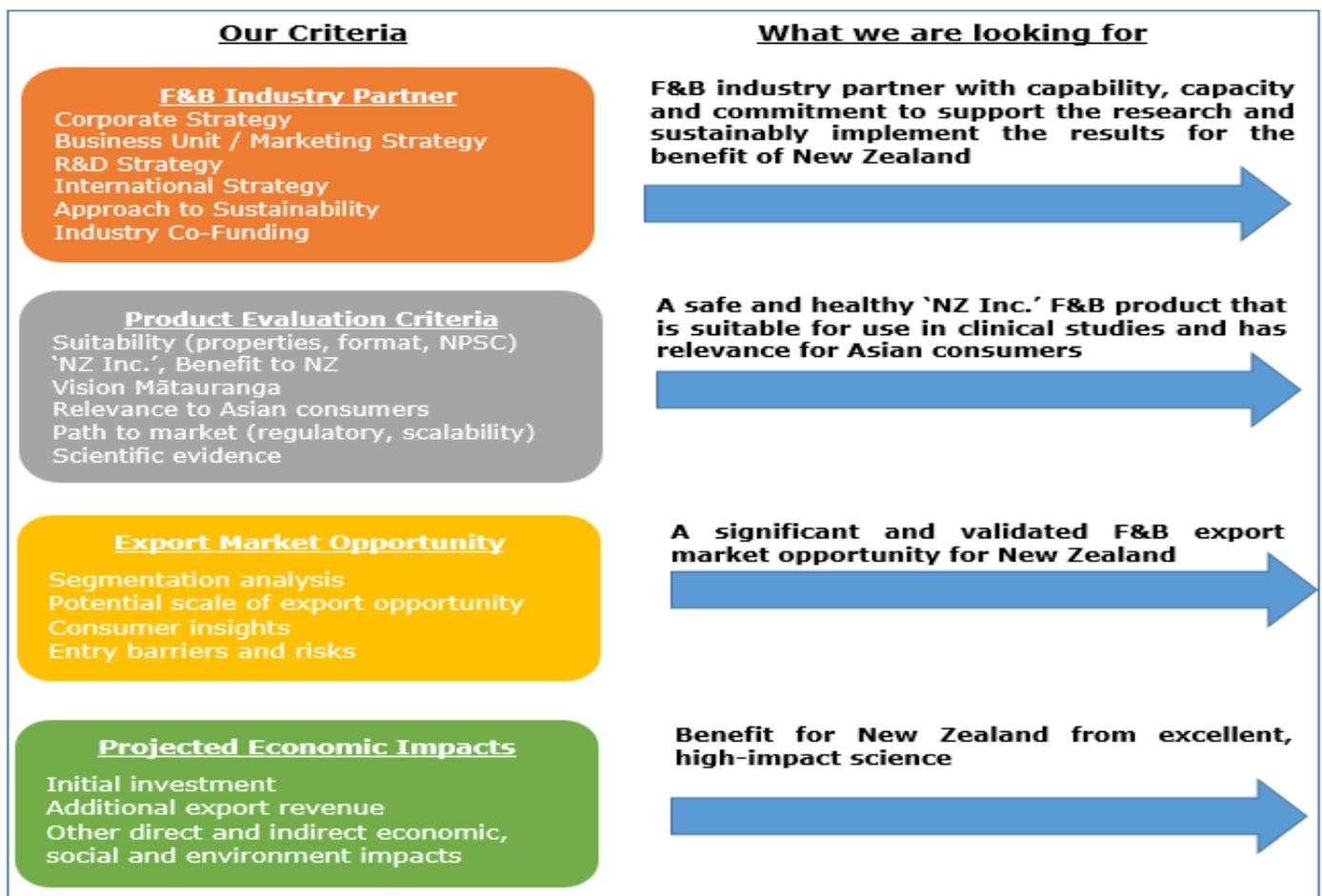
Ingredients

Are food and beverage ingredients eligible for funding?

Ingredients are eligible for funding subject to the F&B Eligibility criteria outlined in the RFP (Part A, Section 6.4). The proposal will need to clearly demonstrate that the ingredient is not a dietary supplement (as defined in the Dietary Supplements Regulations 1985) and that there is a clear and credible pathway to commercialisation / increase in export revenue.

We are looking to develop and commercialise an ingredient on a 'Business to Business (B2B)' rather than a 'Business to Consumer' (B2C) basis. How will this be assessed?

There are four elements to the Business Case Assessment Criteria, as articulated in the diagram below. The decision to commercialise an ingredient or product on a B2B basis forms part of the company operating model and strategy, and should be clearly articulated in the relevant sections of the response form (Questions 1.3 - 1.4 of the Research Grant Business Case). The responses to the Product Evaluation Criteria, Export Market Opportunity and Projected Economic Impacts questions should also have appropriate regard to the end F&B product that will be sold to consumers and should not be limited to the ingredient or the B2B transaction. Where possible, it is preferable for the Business Case to be supported by MoUs or Letters of Collaboration from all F&B industry stakeholders involved in the value chain for the end F&B product.



HVN Capabilities

What is meant by the term ‘HVN Capabilities’?

HVN Capabilities is a broad term that encompasses the intellectual property, biomarkers, metabolic or immunological fingerprints, research methods, data and tools developed through HVN-funded and aligned research projects. This includes, but is not limited to:

- ‘omics and immune phenotyping analyses
- data science capabilities
- clinical study protocols
- clinical study data
- dietary assessment techniques and questionnaires
- decision support tools (e.g. FoodFort)
- novel bioactive delivery technologies

Is there a list of biomarkers that have been developed by HVN?

A number of candidate biomarkers have been identified and are currently being validated through pre-clinical and clinical studies. The process of validation requires substantial evidence and peer review through publication. Following this HVN will be able to provide details of the biomarkers. In the interim, discussion with the relevant science theme leader will provide early indications of the types of biomarkers being developed.

What is meant by the term ‘fingerprint’?

A combination of metabolites and/or immunological features that occur together, and which arise from genetic and environmental (including dietary) factors. A fingerprint may be associated with a specific physiological state in a similar manner to a single biomarker, but can often provide additional insights into underlying mechanistic processes.

Projected Economic Impacts

We are developing a new F&B product. Should we record the counter-factual revenue projections as zero?

The counter-factual revenue projections can be zero if the product would not be developed and commercialised without the HVN-funded research.

Co-Funding

Can Industry Partner investment in product development be counted as part of their in-kind-contribution?

In-kind co-funding must directly contribute to the cost of delivering the research. If the product needs to be developed prior to undertaking the research and this activity would not be undertaken but for the HVN-funded research, then this can be included as an in-kind contribution. If the product development activity would occur irrespective of whether the research or is occurring or after the conclusion of the research, then this will not be considered in-kind co-funding.

FTE

Is there a minimum FTE requirement for named researchers? No. HVN has not specified a minimum FTE. However, sufficient FTE must be allocated to ensure timely delivery of the project.

NZ Inc

Is there a preferred definition for ‘NZ Inc’?

The term ‘NZ Inc.’ incorporates a number of different perspectives. There is the ‘consumer perspective’ on what makes a product a ‘New Zealand product’, which includes considerations such as provenance, branding, where ingredients are sourced, the location of the manufacturing and production facilities, the ownership and control of businesses and a range of other considerations. It can also be considered from a ‘networking perspective’ in terms of whether the

business is making effective use of NZ Inc agencies, such as MPI, NZTE and Treasury to develop and commercialise their products. Finally, there is the 'reputational perspective' - i.e. how is the product enhancing the 'NZ Inc.' reputation of the country more broadly as a producer of high-value F&B products.

Assessment

What weight is given to the Industry Business Case in a Research Grant Proposal?

It is important that respondents view the research plan and industry business case as being of equal importance. HVN will only fund excellent science if there is a clear and credible pathway to economic impact, as demonstrated by the Industry Business Case.