

IDRC Guidelines for Licensing Project Inventions

Context

The mandate of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) is to initiate, encourage, support and conduct research into the problems of the developing regions of the world and into the means for applying and adapting scientific, technical and other knowledge to the economic and social advancement of those regions. An objective in IDRC's current strategic plan, *Investing in Solutions: Strategic Plan 2015-2020*, is investing in knowledge and innovation for large-scale positive change.¹

Under the General Terms and Conditions of each Grant Agreement, Recipients are required to obtain IDRC's express written consent prior to licensing or assigning rights in Project Inventions. Consent may be conditional on specific terms, as deemed appropriate by IDRC.

IDRC's Licensing Guidelines

IDRC is committed to promoting equitable and timely access to the innovations that it has helped fund. To this end, license agreements for Project Inventions should be designed to ensure that resulting technologies are:

- made available in low and middle-income countries
- as promptly as possible
- on terms that target beneficiaries can afford.

IDRC does not mandate one approach for licensing Project Inventions. Each licensing strategy should account for the nature of the specific invention and the diversity of patterns of production and supply across low and middle-income country markets.

Recipients wishing to license rights in a Project Invention should consider the benefits of pursuing the following strategies:

- Licensing rights non-exclusively
- Limiting the duration, territory and/or field of use of licensed rights in situations where exclusivity is warranted
- Stipulating tiered- or other appropriate pricing models for low and middle-income countries (e.g., subsidized, at-cost or no-cost)
- Including detailed and enforceable contractual milestones
- Reserving the right for public sector organizations to practice the invention and to use associated information and data for non-commercial research and educational purposes
- Requiring that licensed rights remain available in all countries in the event of a national or regional humanitarian emergency for the duration of the emergency

¹IDRC, *Investing in Solutions: Strategic Plan 2015-2020*

Note: these licensing guidelines relate only to Project Inventions developed with funding pursuant to a Grant Agreement with IDRC. IDRC does not require Recipients to treat background intellectual property in accordance with the Grant Agreement or these guidelines.