



SOUTH AFRICAN FOOD DATA SYSTEM (SAFOODS) - FOOD COMPOSITION DATABASE

Request for Expressions of Interest (Eoi)

Date of Issue:	17 May 2019
Closing Date and Time:	12 July 2019 (midnight)
Submissions to be emailed to:	Mr Earl Prinsloo Grants, Innovations, and Product Development Unit, SAMRC earl.prinsloo@mrc.ac.za
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The South African Food Data System (SAFOODS) is a national food composition database developed, hosted and maintained by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) and currently made available through the FoodFinder software tool. The SAMRC is seeking partnership opportunities with entities that have the relevant capability and track record to use the SAFOODS data to provide value added products and services to improve the health of the public.

1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The SAMRC has a mandate to improve the health of the nation through research, development and innovation so that people can enjoy a better quality of life. The role of nutrition in all aspects of health is indisputable. Understanding and quantifying the nutritional content of food consumed in South Africa and using this as a planning and management tool for improved health outcomes has significant benefits at all user levels.

As early as the 1970's, researchers from the SAMRC identified the need for a country-specific food composition database that could be used for the analysis of dietary intake. In 1981, the first official edition of the MRC Food Composition Tables (FCT) was published by the SAMRC (Gouws and Langenhoven, 1981).

The SAFOODS food composition database, tables and related products continue to be maintained and updated by the SAMRC, with the most recent update published in 2017. The database serves as the definitive South African food composition database, as guided by the National Department of Health. The data in SAFOODS has been made available by the SAMRC as a resource to dietitians, students, universities and members of the food industry through the published Food Composition Tables, statistical services and newly developed, soon to be released, web-based FoodFinder software.

The SAMRC is now seeking partnership opportunities with companies, non-profits, academic institutions and/or NGOs to utilize the food composition data in SAFOODS for the development of value-added products and services for a variety of target markets aimed at improving health outcomes for the public, informed by SAMRC protocols and guidelines.

Please Note: This call is not for research projects that aim to use the raw data for academic or implementation research purposes.

2. INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Submissions of Expressions of Interest (Eoi) are hereby invited from reputable organisations to access and utilize the food composition data in SAFOODS to develop new and/or enhance existing products and services with the ultimate goal of improving health. Public and private for-profit and not-for-profit entities and academic institutions from South Africa and abroad that have a track record and experience in offering such products/services in the nutritional and health arena are eligible to apply. Products and services could include, for example, mobile applications, food analysis software and other e-health solutions.

Please note that:

- Eols that propose to apply the data to existing products and services will be given preference
- Eols that propose accessing the data for research purposes will not be considered.

2.1 Eoi PROCESS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Expressions of Interest should be submitted by email to the SAMRC on or before the closing date of **12 July 2019**. The submission must include the information specified below and any other information that the organisation deems is relevant for the successful beneficiation of the Food Composition Database.

The Eoi should not exceed 20 pages, and where relevant, supporting documentation should be attached as appendices. The following information and documentation must be included:

- Company profile, with ownership / management information;
- Details of products and services currently offered by the organization;
- Details of the proposed new and/or enhanced product(s) and/or service(s) that will utilize the SAFOODS database, their target markets, how they will be made available, their health benefits, and how they fit into the company's business/complement existing offerings;
- Indication of how the product(s) and/or service(s) fit in with/complement the SAMRC's FoodFinder software;
- Proposed revenue and benefit sharing model with the SAMRC;
- Evidence of experience/track record in operating in the nutritional and health care environment in South Africa and/or emerging economies with emphasis on public sector engagement;
- Information on technical capabilities and resources that will enable the entity to deliver on the development of new and/or enhancement of existing products and services related to nutrition and health using the Food Composition Database, including, marketing, sales and support, or an indication of what you would need to do to get these in place;
- Tax clearance certificate; and
- BBBEE certificate.

3. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The submissions will be evaluated according to the criteria below. The SAMRC may contact applicants for further information during the evaluation process.

CRITERIA CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Value proposition	Experience and track record in the nutrition and health arenas
	Technical capabilities and infrastructure
	Complementary assets / offerings
	Approach / business model
Economic and health benefits	Location of the entity (South African versus non-South African)
	Potential for improving the health of the public
Financial	Financial sustainability
	Revenue and benefit sharing model
BBBEE level	% Black ownership
	BBBEE level

Preference will be given to South African not-for-profit entities and those that seek to incorporate and/or complement existing offerings from the SAMRC, i.e. FoodFinder.

4. COST OF SUBMISSION

Organisations submitting an EoI assume all risks for resource commitments and expenses, direct or indirect, in the preparation and participation throughout the EoI process. The SAMRC is not responsible directly or indirectly for any costs incurred by organisations during this process. The SAMRC will, in addition, not be making any funding available for the proposed use and beneficiation of the SAFOODS database by applicants.

5. PARTNERSHIP TERMS

It is anticipated that the EoI process will culminate in the conclusion of one or more non-exclusive license agreements with successful applicants to access the SAFOODS database. These agreements will outline the terms and conditions relating to the commercial use of the SAFOODS food composition database and will be negotiated on an individual basis with successful entities.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND DISCLAIMERS

- All information received by the SAMRC in response to this call for Expressions of Interest will be treated as confidential.
- The SAMRC reserves the right not to accept an EoI.
- The SAMRC reserves the right not to select any EoIs for conclusion of a partnership.

The SAMRC has produced this EoI in good faith. However, the SAMRC, its agents and its servants do not warrant its accuracy or completeness. To the extent that the SAMRC is permitted by law, the SAMRC will not be liable for any claim whatsoever and howsoever arising (including, without limitation, any claim in contract, negligence or otherwise) for any incorrect or misleading information contained in this EoI due to any misinterpretation of this EoI. This EoI is a request for expressions of interest only and is not an offer document; answers to it must not be construed as acceptance of an offer or imply the existence of a contract between the parties. By submission of its information, organisations shall be deemed to have satisfied themselves with and to have accepted all Terms & Conditions of this EoI. The SAMRC makes no representation, warranty, assurance, guarantee or endorsements to any party concerning the EoI, whether with regard to its accuracy, completeness or otherwise and the SAMRC shall have no liability towards any party in connection therewith.