**CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS**

**Innovative Research on Kithul (*Caryota urens*) & Kithul-based Value-Added Product Development**

**Kithul Development Board** (**KDB**) supports R & D activities of Sri Lankan scientists across all fields of Science & Technology related to the Kithul industry. KDB invites universities, research institutions, and industry partners to submit proposals for collaborative research on Kithul (*Caryota urens*) processing, product innovation, and commercialization. This initiative supports sustainable utilization, technological advancements, and market expansion of Kithul-based products.

**Research Focus Areas**

We seek proposals in the following areas:

✅ **Sustainable Kithul Tapping & Processing**

* Improved sap harvesting methods
* Fermentation control & shelf-life enhancement of Sap

✅ **Novel Kithul-Based Products (Kithul Flour /Kithul Sap)**

* Functional foods and Nutraceuticals

✅ **Packaging Improvement**

* Development of innovative, food-grade, healthy packaging solutions for Kithul treacle and jaggery, with the exclusion of glass

✅ **Value Chain & Market Development**

* Supply chain optimization
* Food safety and production effectiveness

✅ **Policy & Socio-Economic Impact**

* Farmer income enhancement
* Impact evaluation on past government-implemented Kithul development projects

✅ **Mechanical / Engineering Improvements**

* Climbing devices/automated tapping process for the Kithul
* Energy-efficient, low-cost flour production
* Other Kithul related process/projects improvements
* **Who Can Apply?**
* **Academic researchers** / **Research Institutes**
* Principal Investigator should be in the permanent cadre of his/her institution.
* **Submission Guidelines**
* The proposed research project should necessarily be an original investigation or continuation of research.
* Priority will be given to research proposals with high economic impact and/ or social benefits.
* Maximum project period should not exceed 01 (one) year.
* A detailed time-based work plan (Gantt chart) should be included stating the proposed activities, time frames and key performance indicators clearly.
* Research proposals which address inter-disciplinary work, require to have expertise from each of the relevant disciplines as Co-Investigators or Collaborators. If Collaborators are there, it should be supported with letters of consent.
* Projects that require ethical clearance/ necessary permissions should submit the certificate with the application or within one month from the deadline for submission of the application to the KDB.

 **Proposal Format:**

* **Max. 5 pages** (Title, Objectives, Methodology, Expected Outcomes, Time line, Proposed Budget).
* Narrative CVs of all investigators should be submitted.

Narrative CV (maximum word count 1000) • Profile • Educational qualifications • Training and/or research experience in the proposed research • Latest 10 publications/ patents

**Deadline:** 15th September 2025

* To apply, the principal investigator must submit the duly perfected proposal along with the recommendation with seal and signature of the institutional head or Vice-Chancellor, in the form of one hardcopy and exact scanned copy (soft copy) of the same.
* One properly bound hardcopy (original) to be sent by registered post, addressed toChairperson, Kithul Development Board, No 45, St. Michael's Road, Colombo 3
* Soft copy of the proposal should be sent in both MS Word and PDF (Scanned copy as pdf) formats.

E-mail : chairmankdb@gmail.com

* Late, Incomplete and Inaccurate applications WILL NOT be considered.
* Please note that the decision of the KDB is final.

**Contact**

For inquiries, contact:
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