

**Introduction to**  
**International Thematic Research Groups of**  
**COMSATS**

## 1. Background of COMSATS' International Thematic Research Groups:

The Coordinating Council of COMSATS created the following eight International Thematic Research Groups (ITRGs) with the objective of achieving South-South cooperation by undertaking well-defined joint research projects in different thematic areas with the participation of research scientists belonging to different institutions in COMSATS' Member Countries:

Sr. No.	International Thematic Research Groups	Lead Centre	Collaborating Institutions
1	Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)	CIIT (Pakistan)	i. TIRDO (Tanzania) ii. RSS (Jordan) iii. IRCC (Sudan) iv. NMC (Nigeria)
2	Agriculture, Food Security and Biotechnology	NRC (Egypt)	i. IRCC (Sudan) ii. TIRDO (Tanzania) iii. RSS (Jordan) iv. ICCBS (Pakistan) v. Embrapa Agrobiologia (Brazil)
3	Natural Products Sciences	ICCBS (Pakistan)	i. NRC (Egypt) ii. IRCC (Sudan) iii. TIRDO (Tanzania) iv. RSS (Jordan) v. IROST (Iran)  <u>Institutions added in the Foundation Meeting of ITRG:</u>  vi. Department of Science Laboratory Technology of the Federal Polytechnic (Nigeria) vii. Institute of Fundamental Studies (Sri Lanka) viii. Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Dhaka (Bangladesh) ix. Department of Biology, Ege University (Turkey) x. Lorestan University of Medical Sciences (Iran)

(cont.)

4	Climate Change and Environmental Protection	ICCES (China)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ICENS (Jamaica)</li> <li>ii. IROST (Iran)</li> </ul> <p><u>Institutions added in the Foundation Meeting of TRG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. Pakistan Meteorological Department (Pakistan)</li> <li>iv. Global Climate Change Impact Studies Centre (Pakistan)</li> <li>v. COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (Pakistan)</li> <li>vi. Sudan Meteorological Authority (Sudan)</li> <li>vii. Meteorological Services Department (Zimbabwe)</li> <li>viii. Pakistan Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission (Pakistan)</li> <li>ix. Himalayan Cryosphere, Climate and Disaster Research Center (Nepal)</li> </ul>
5	Materials Science	RSS (Jordan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. NRC (Egypt)</li> <li>ii. NMC (Nigeria)</li> <li>iii. IRCC (Sudan)</li> <li>iv. TIRDO (Tanzania)</li> <li>v. CIIT (Pakistan)</li> </ul>
6	Mathematical Modeling	NMC (Nigeria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. ICENS (Jamaica)</li> <li>ii. ICCES (China)</li> <li>iii. TIRDO (Tanzania)</li> </ul> <p><u>Institutions added in the Foundation Meeting of TRG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. CIIT (Pakistan)</li> <li>v. ITI (Sri Lanka)</li> <li>vi. Obafemi Awolowo University (Nigeria)</li> <li>vii. University of Ilorin (Nigeria)</li> </ul>

7	Construction Materials	BRRRI (Ghana)	i. NRC (Egypt) ii. IRCC (Sudan) iii. TIRDO (Tanzania) iv. CWHR (Pakistan)
8	Renewable Energy	IROST (Iran)	To be identified

## 2. Membership:

COMSATS' ITRGs are composed of:

- Centres of Excellence of COMSATS
- Relevant research/scientific organizations from the Member Countries of COMSATS and other developing countries

## 3. Method:

An ITRG will comprise of a Group Leader belonging to the Lead Centre, and a well-defined group of research workers from different Institutions in developing countries. The project out-line will be prepared by the Group Leader and distributed to all members. Whereas group members will remain in their respective Institutions, they will get instructions/feed-back/guidance from the Group Leader and report to him/her on the progress made at their end. Group Leader will be responsible to evaluate and integrate the contributions of all members to prepare result reports of the projects.

## 4. Activities:

ITRGs will perform the following activities:

- Joint research projects with mutual consent, under the leadership of the Lead Centres
- Expert exchange
- Short term trainings
- Sharing of facilities/laboratory resources

## 5. Funding Sources:

The funding for the joint research projects initiated by ITRGs will be acquired from the following sources:

- **International donor/development agencies** and the **Governments of the Collaborating Countries** will be, jointly, approached by COMSATS

Headquarters and the Lead Centres of ITRGs, at a stage when the group becomes operational and achieves initial research output.

- **COMSATS Headquarters** will extend financial support for the international travel of scientists/researchers in the following events:
  - International Thematic Research Group Meetings
  - Exchange of researchers/scientists among the Lead Centre and Collaborating Institutions of ITRGs for performing joint research
- The local hospitality is to be provided by the **host institution** in the events of joint research and Group meetings

**6. Benefits offered to the Collaborating Countries, in general, and Member Institutions of COMSATS' International Thematic Research Groups, in particular:**

COMSATS' International Thematic Research Groups will provide:

- A platform to the scientists/researchers of the Collaborating Institutions to discuss and initiate joint research projects in the areas relevant to the theme of the group.
- Opportunities to the less technologically advanced Member Institutions working in the areas relevant to the group's theme to benefit from the expertise/experiences of the superior Lead Centre and Member Institutions of the group.
- Opportunities of sharing the laboratory resources/facilities needed to perform research among the group members. Those institutions with weaker technological base will be able to benefit from their advanced counterparts in the group.
- Opportunities of short-term trainings/workshops to the researchers of the Member Institutions in order to build their capacity in the subject area and enable them to perform their research assignments indigenously and efficiently.
- Opportunities of expert exchange to the Member Institutions.

**7. COMSATS' expectations from the Foundation Meetings of each International Thematic Research Group:**

- Identification of the common areas of interest of the participating institutions and initiation of at least one joint research project
- Selection of the Title of the joint research project
- The broad outlines of the project proposal to be finalized
- Identification of the Collaborating Institutions from amongst the members of the International Thematic Research Group
- Requirements of training by the collaborating institutions

- Distribution of research assignments among the members of the International Thematic Research Group
- Identification of international partners
- MOU to be signed by all participating institutions
- Agreement on organizing the Second Group meeting of active researchers in the subsequent year