



## Episode 7: Funder Insights

**Summary:** Episode seven of the STARTcast features a conversation between START Executive Director, Jon Padgham, and Bruce Currie-Alder, Climate Change Program Leader at the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), a Canadian governmental organization that supports research in developing countries to promote sustainable growth, reduce poverty, and drive large-scale positive change. Here, Bruce and Jon revisit points and ideas raised throughout this season of the STARTcast relating to current realities of research funding, potential future directions, and general insights into the proposal writing process, and this time from a funder's perspective.



Bruce Currie-Alder

### Highlights:

- Research funders are intermediaries with dual accountability to research communities and home jurisdictions, organization boards or other backers
- There are two main drivers for more impact focused research, 1) pressure to show results and value of research that is publicly or otherwise funded, and 2) the urgent and persisting question of how does one actually address complex and wicked problems?
- Encouraging and purposefully fostering learning within and across diverse research programs and projects is hugely important
- Over time, large research funders are learning that long term project budgets should really be thought of as long term forecasts that may evolve over time and that diversity and complementarity of project participants is essential
- There is a great need to design funding calls and opportunities that are sensitive to the emergent and that promote collaboration
- Moving forward during and after COVID, more distribution of responsibilities and accountability across national and regional nodes will likely become necessary

### Links:

[IDRC Climate Change Program](#)  
[CARIAA](#)

[ASSAR](#)  
[FRACTAL](#)