

Agropolis Fondation

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

“SENIOR FELLOWSHIPS AND STRUCTURING SCIENTIFIC PLATFORMS”

[Ref. CfP 2008-01]

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Background

The aim of Agropolis Fondation, located in Montpellier, France, is to promote and support the development of international level projects (programmes for research and training by research) in agricultural sciences and sustainable development on themes and issues concerning both the North and the South.

The foundation supports a Thematic Advanced Research Network (*Réseau Thématique de Recherche Avancée - RTRA*) as defined under the French Research Programming Act of 2006. The Foundation aims at providing complementary resources for the research units of this scientific network (see attached list) to help them attract high level scientists from abroad and reinforce international partnership. These units can associate their projects with units outside the RTRA.

The network is composed of high level scientific teams, working on biotechnical sciences and social sciences, and organized in two tightly connected fields: 1) Integrative Plant Biology, broadly speaking (genetics and genomics, plant improvement and ecophysiology; plant pests and diseases, integrated crop protection and population ecology) and 2) Socio Technical Dynamics of Innovation (i.e., agri-environmental innovations, agrifood innovations; social innovations and the social management of innovations).

Plants are the central theme of the RTRA: plants from the gene to the whole plant; plants in their environment; plants, plant products for food and non-food uses. The Foundation promotes research activities that address the following major development issues:

- the increasing demand for plants for food and non-food purposes;
- the agricultural adaptation of cultivated plants as a response to climate change;
- risk prevention and management: plant pests and diseases, food safety, erosion of natural resources and biodiversity, social risks linked to changes in farming systems, etc.

Scope of the Call for Proposals

- Eligibility is restricted to projects led by an RTRA unit (see attached list) and that match the thematic area of the Foundation, as defined above.
- The categories of funding provided by the Foundation under the present Call for Proposals 2008-01 are as follows :
 - Category 1: Senior Fellowships
 - Category 2: Structuring scientific platforms

- See attached table for details regarding description of the category, specific eligibility and selection criteria for each category, what is required from the units in return (counterparts from the units) and the corresponding level of financial support.
- Proposals under the present Call will undergo a “*Two-stage process.*” The first stage consists of the submission of a **Concept Note** (CN). Proponents receiving positive evaluation will be requested to submit a **Full Proposal** which will be subjected to a second round of review.
- For both categories, proposals are expected to foster strong linkages between RTRA units, and with external partners, and to create a strong leverage effect on international visibility and attractiveness.

Criteria for eligibility and evaluation of proposals

- Quality of proposals shall be assessed in terms of the criteria listed below:
 - a. Scientific quality: originality, innovativeness, feasibility
 - b. Fostering strong linkages
 - Interactions between RTRA units
 - Interactions between axes and sub-axes
 - Interactions between disciplines, and in particular interactions between social and bio-technical sciences
 - Interactions between temperate, Mediterranean and tropical issues to be tackled by the proposed project
 - Partnership strengthening, in particular with South and Mediterranean areas
 - Contribution to increasing international attractiveness
 - c. Relevance to socio-economic and sustainable development issues
 - d. Value addition (What is the added value of the Foundation’s financial support as compared to other sources of funding? Is the Foundation the most appropriate funding source for the proposed initiative? What is the leverage effect of the Foundation’s funding to the proposed initiative?). Budget adequacy will also be taken into account.
- Specific criteria for Senior Fellowships
 - Concerning Senior Fellowships, proposals must involve the two RTRA axes - Integrative Plant Biology (IPB), and Socio-technical Dynamics of Innovations (STDI) - and at least two RTRA units from the two different axes.
 - Proposals under this category should be submitted **jointly** by the prospective Senior Fellow and the relevant RTRA Research Units. The Full Proposal must include the curriculum vitae (CV) of the candidate. However in the first stage, the Concept Note can be submitted without any pre-identified candidate.
 - Specific attention will be given to the following criteria :
 - o The scientific excellence of the candidate and the international visibility of his/her project
 - o The quality of the technical facilities and biological resources placed at the disposal of the project by the units concerned
 - o Quality of international partnership
 - o The issues being addressed and the potential socio-economic impacts of the project
- Specific criteria for Scientific Platforms
 - In the case of application concerning a structuring scientific platform, proposals should explain the coherence and complementarity of the proposal with respect to local, national or international existing schemes and facilities.

- Proposals may include financial support for salaries of development engineers. In such a case, the capability of the teams to supervise the activity will be a key point in the evaluation.
- Specific attention will also be given to the following criteria :
 - o International visibility, quality of international partnership and opening up of the platform to foreign scientists
 - o Resources and products freely available with non exclusive access
 - o Project hosted in Montpellier or Avignon
 - o Relevance, originality and innovativeness
 - o The issues being addressed and potential socio-economic impacts of the project

Provisional Calendar for Cfp 2008-01

- Call for Proposals	10 April 2008
- Deadline for the submission of Concept Notes (CN)	4 June, by noon (12:00)
- Publication of results: CN selected for elaboration of Full Proposal	10 July 2008
- Deadline for the submission of Full Proposals	10 September 2008
- Publication of results: proposals selected for funding	22 October 2008

Submitting proposals

- All Concept Notes submitted regardless of funding Category must follow the prescribed the 4-page format provided by the Foundation (attached), completed with the one-page financial annex format provided by the Foundation (attached).
- All Concept Notes must be written in English.
- Nota Bene: By submitting a proposal, the proponent assures that he/she has obtained the approval of his managing authorities and of all the participants involved in the project.
- Deadline: all Concept Notes must arrive at cfp2008-01@agropolis.fr by **noon (12:00)** on 4 June.
- For more information: please contact cfp2008-01@agropolis.fr

Documents attached

- Concept note and Financial annex
- Table of Funding Categories
- List of RTRA units

Documents available online

- Documents related to the present Call for Proposals, as well as information concerning the Foundation and RTRA is available online at <http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr>