

# Agropolis Fondation

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### “VARIOUS FUNDING SUPPORT”

[Ref. CFP 2008-02]

## 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 (see attached list) of this scientific network 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 scientific 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 funding category opened under the present Call for Proposals 2008-02 is “category 7” as defined in the Foundation’s Funding framework. Category 7 includes the following subcategories:

- Category 7.1- Support for the preparation of any type of proposal under Categories 1 to 6, including proposals focused on training by research.
  - Category 7.2- Support for the organization of high-level scientific events (conferences, seminars)
  - Category 7.3- Support for the preparation of application for international calls for proposals
  - Category 7.4- “Release from teaching duties” with a view to contributing to the attainment of RTRA objectives
  - Category 7.5- Support for publication and dissemination of research results
  - Category 7.6 - Support for small exploratory, risky and innovative projects (proof-of-concept studies, new frontier research), including proposals focused on training by research
  - Category 7.7-Invitation of Senior or Junior scientists for short period (less than 12 months)
- See attached table for further 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 “*One-stage process*” which consists of submission of a Concept Note.
  - For all sub-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
    - 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.

#### ***Provisional Calendar for CfP 2008-02***

- |  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| - Call for Proposals   | 10 April 2008                  |
| - <b>Deadline for the submission of Concept Notes</b>        | <b>4 June, by noon (12:00)</b> |
| - Publication of results: the proposals selected for funding | 10 July 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 [cfp2008-02@agropolis.fr](mailto:cfp2008-02@agropolis.fr) by **noon (12:00)** on 4 June.
- For more information: please contact [cfp2008-02@agropolis.fr](mailto:cfp2008-02@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>