

Agropolis Fondation

Call for Proposals 2009

“Promoting and supporting partnerships in the Southern Mediterranean Region”

[Ref. CfP 2009-01]

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I. Background

Established in 2007, Agropolis Fondation is a charitable institution dedicated to the support of research and education in plant science and sustainable agricultural development.

From its base in Montpellier in the south of France, the Foundation is able to draw on an extraordinary pool of international expertise and talent in the fields of agriculture, food, biodiversity and the environment.

It supports interdisciplinary research that focuses on some of the key issues facing the temperate, tropical and Mediterranean regions: plant adaptation to climate change, the increasing demand for plants and plant by-products for food and non-food uses, the prevention and management of risks related to crop and food systems, and the sustainable management of natural resources.

The Foundation is dedicated to creating a world class, international scientific network working across a wide range of scientific disciplines to promote integration and innovation while ensuring that cutting-edge science responds to these development challenges through (a) an integrated approach to plant research - from its genes to its environments to its final uses; (b) a uniquely interdisciplinary approach that combines technical and social sciences; and (c) pooling scientific knowledge and experience from the whole range of climatic environments: Mediterranean, tropical and temperate alike.

II. Scope of the Call for Proposals (CfP)

1. Proposed projects should be submitted by a research unit that is part of the Foundation’s scientific network. Proponents outside of the Foundation’s scientific network interested to submit a proposal should develop and present their application jointly with at least one of the Foundation’s research units.¹
2. Thematic focus of the proposal should match the thematic area of the Foundation, as defined above.
3. While the Foundation offers various types of support, funding categories included under the Call for Proposals 2009-01 is limited to the following:

Category 5: Visiting Fellowship for short period of stay

Category 8: Small grants

8a. Support for the organization of high-level scientific events (conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.)

8b. Support for the preparation of application to international calls for Proposals

¹ For the list of the Foundation’s research units, please visit www.agropolis-fondation.fr. Interested parties are highly encouraged to contact directly the concerned research unit(s) in writing.

- 8c. Overseas travel grants for Doctoral and Post-doctoral scientists
 - 8d. "Release from teaching duties" with a view to contributing to the attainment of Foundation's objectives
 - 8e. Support for publication and dissemination of research results
 - 8f. Support for small exploratory, risky and innovative projects (proof-of-concept studies, new frontier research)- concerning either research or training by research
 - 8g. Support to hosting pre-doctoral students
4. The current CfP will not consider requests for the following: long period of stay of Senior and Junior Fellows, post- and doctoral fellows, grants for scientific platforms and sponsorship of international training courses.
 5. The funding categories above are further defined in Attachment 1 which also outlines the selection and specific eligibility criteria per category and the required counterpart funding from the research units.
 6. While there is no pre-determined number of proposals to be funded, the combined total cost of selected projects should not exceed 500K €. The maximum level of financial support per funding category which can be provided by the Foundation is also presented in Attachment 1.
 7. This current CfP focuses on the Southern Mediterranean region.
 - a. For visiting fellowships, priority will be accorded to candidates from southern Mediterranean countries. However, candidates should not have resided or carried out their main activities² (work, studies, etc) in France for no longer than 12 months within a three-year period prior to the date of submission of the proposal. The proposal should specify whether the Fellowship requested is for Senior or Junior scientist³.
 - b. Proposals under the Small Grants category should not only involve but should particularly target actors and organizations from the Southern Mediterranean region. The thematic focus of the proposals should be on issues confronting the southern Mediterranean region.
 8. All proposals are expected to create a strong leverage effect on international visibility and attractiveness.

III. Criteria for the evaluation of the proposals

Proposals submitted to the Foundation shall be evaluated according to the criteria listed below. Complementary or specific eligibility or evaluation criteria for each category of support are defined in Attachment 1.

- a. Scientific quality
 - i. Originality
 - ii. Innovativeness
 - iii. Feasibility
- b. Fostering strong linkages
 - i. Interactions between the scientific axes and sub-axes as defined by the Foundation
 - ii. Interactions between disciplines, and in particular interactions between social and bio-technical sciences
 - iii. Interactions between temperate, Mediterranean and tropical issues to be tackled by the proposed project
 - iv. Partnership strengthening, in particular with Southern and Mediterranean areas

² Short stays such as holidays do not count.

³ Senior scientist : PhD + 10 years or more experience; Junior scientist: PhD + 3 to 10 years experience

- c. Contribution to international attractiveness and visibility
- d. Relevance to socio-economic and sustainable development issues
- e. Value addition (value addition 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?)

IV. Submitting proposals and provisional Calendar

1. Submitted proposals will undergo a "One-stage process," i.e., submission and evaluation of the Concept Note (CN).
2. All submitted CN must be written in English.
3. All submitted CN regardless of funding Category must follow the prescribed format provided by the Foundation (Attachment 2) and should include:
 - a. One-page Financial Annex (Attachment 3)
 - b. Gantt Chart (Attachment 4)
4. All CN must be sent electronically to cfp2009-01@agropolis.fr by the deadline indicated below. Incomplete submissions will be automatically disqualified.
5. 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.
6. Below is the provisional calendar for 2009 Call for Ideas:

• Call for Proposals	6 March 2009
• Deadline for the submission of Concept Notes <i>Late and incomplete submissions will not be accepted.</i>	6 May, by noon (12:00)
• Publication of results: Proposals selected for funding	11 June 2009
7. For more information: please contact cfp2009-01@agropolis.fr

V. Documents attached

Attachment 1: Table of Funding Categories
 Attachment 2: Concept Note Format
 Attachment 3: One-page financial annex
 Attachment 4: Gantt Chart

VI. Documents available online

All documents related to the present Call for Proposals and other Information concerning the Foundation and the RTRA are available online at <http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr>