



## **Agropolis Fondation**

### **Call for Proposals 2010 “Grand Federative Projects”**

[Ref. CfP 2010-GFP]

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### ***I. Background***

Established in 2007, Agropolis Fondation is committed to support and promote research and higher education in agricultural science and sustainable development. It promotes innovation while ensuring that cutting-edge science responds to critical development challenges through interdisciplinary and integrated approach to plant research, i.e., from its genes to its environments to practical application of research findings in the field.

The Foundation's scientific network involves 1,700 permanent staff (including 900 scientists), 400 PhD students and around 100 post-docs. This network is organized into two scientific domains, namely Integrative Plant Biology (IPB) and Social and Technological Dynamics of Innovation (STDI).

From the onset, the Foundation's primary objective has been to promote interactions between these two scientific domains and to enhance international collaborations by providing fellowships and supporting scientific programmes.

To meet these objectives, the Foundation has launched three waves of Calls for Proposals - either open, or with thematic or geographic focus. This has resulted in the funding of 80 projects, including two Flagship Projects, with a combined funding commitment of € 11.3 million. As a whole these initiatives have allowed the hosting of about 106 Fellows from over 27 countries across the globe. Altogether, the projects supported by the Foundation have involved more than 200 international partners from 55 countries. To date, more than 85% of the Foundation's grant commitment concern interdisciplinary projects.

### ***II. Scope of the Call for Proposals (CfP)***

This Call for Proposals on **Grand Federative Projects** seeks to reinforce the Foundation's primary focus towards interdisciplinarity, innovation, integration and international partnerships.

As such, this Call will privilege proposals that:

- a) Involve the two thematic domains of the Foundation i.e., Integrative Plant Biology (IPB); and Social and Technological Dynamics of Innovation (STDI);

**and**

- b) Favor an integrated approach to plant (i.e., from genes to its environment to its final uses), and interdisciplinary interactions notably between social and natural sciences.

Grand federative projects are expected to:

- c) Allow research units involved to position themselves and gain visibility at the international level;
- d) Result into a real scientific breakthrough;
- e) Include a robust training through research component;
- f) Display strong scientific leadership and prove capacity to mobilize partners; and
- g) Be widely open to partnership (national, international, public, private).

Grand Federative projects are development- and innovation-oriented research activities that:

- h) Address issues and challenges at the interface with upstream research disciplines or other scientific domains;
- i) Tackle major sustainable development issues linked to plants in both the North and the South (e.g., increasing demand for food and non-food stuffs, climate change, risk management); and
- j) Address temperate, tropical and/or Mediterranean issues.

*For this Call for Proposal, an over-all budget of €4M is available for three to four proposals. Proponents are invited to submit projects between €600K and €1M. This does not exclude that projects could be selected and granted for funding inferior or superior to this indicative budget range.*

### **III. Eligibility of proposals**

*The present CfP builds on the Call for Ideas launched by the Foundation in June 2009. However, proposals developed outside of the Call for Ideas are welcome provided they meet the eligibility requirements listed below:*

- Proposed projects should be submitted by a research unit that is part of the Foundation's scientific network. <sup>1</sup>
- 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.

### **IV. Description of the categories of funding**

Under the present Call for Proposals, proponents may apply for any of the Foundation's eight funding categories, namely:

- Category 1: Senior Fellowship
- Category 2: Junior Fellowship
- Category 3: Post-doctoral Fellowship
- Category 4: Doctoral Fellowship
- Category 5: Visiting Fellowship for short period of stay (less than 12 months)
- Category 6: Grants for scientific platforms
- Category 7: Sponsorship of international training courses
- Category 8: Small grants
  - 8a. Support for the organization of high-level scientific events (Conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.)

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<sup>1</sup> For the list of the Foundation's research units, please visit [www.agropolis-fondation.fr](http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr). Interested parties are highly encouraged to contact directly the concerned research unit(s) in writing.

- 8b. Support for the preparation of application to international Calls for Proposals. This includes the support to networking and relationship development aiming at elaborating projects to be submitted to international donors.
- 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

The funding categories above are further defined in the document "Table of Funding Categories" which outlines the selection and specific eligibility criteria per category, the required counterpart funding from the research units as well as the corresponding level of financial support that can be provided by the Foundation.

Proponents can submit their application for funding which combines several support categories. Such "**Packages**" are expected to create a strong leverage effect on the promotion or strengthening of strategic scientific themes and international visibility.

#### ***V. Criteria for the evaluation of the proposals***

Proposals submitted to the Foundation shall be evaluated according to the criteria listed below.

1. *Scientific quality: originality, innovativeness, feasibility*
2. *Fostering strong linkages*
  - Interactions between the two thematic domains of the Foundation, i.e., Integrative Plant Biology (IPB); and Social and Technological Dynamics of Innovation (STDI)
  - 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 Southern and Mediterranean areas
3. *Contribution to international attractiveness and visibility*
  - Does the proposal allow research units to position themselves and gain visibility at the international level?
4. *Relevance to socio-economic and sustainable development issues*
  - Does the proposal show strong potential to result into a real scientific breakthrough that can be used to address major sustainable development issues linked to plants?
  - Does the proposal explicitly state how its expected outputs can (- or will-) be put in use, and linked to broader issues related to sustainable development?
5. *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?

In addition to the above, proposals submitted to the Foundation under the present Call will pay particular attention to the following:

- Strong scientific leadership and proven capacity to mobilize partners
- Robustness of the capacity building (e.g., training through research) component
- Clarity of project management and coordination
- Adequacy of project budget

**VI. Submitting proposals**

- 1) All proposals must be written in English and must follow the prescribed format provided by the Foundation. It should include all the following documents:
  - Application Form
  - Project LOGFRAME (as Annex 1)
  - Gantt Chart (as Annex 2)
  - Financial Table (as Annex 3)
- 2) All proposals must be sent electronically to [cfp2010-gfp@agropolis.fr](mailto:cfp2010-gfp@agropolis.fr) by the deadline indicated below. Incomplete and late submissions will be automatically disqualified.
- 3) By submitting a proposal, the proponent assures that he/she has obtained the approval of his/her managing authorities and of all the participants involved in the project.

**VII. Provisional Calendar**

Launching of the 2010 Call for Proposals GFP	03 December 2009
Deadline for the submission of Proposals <i>Late and incomplete submissions will not be accepted.</i>	03 March 2010 (12 noon, French time)
Review of proposals by the Science Council	29-30 April 2010
Deliberation and decision by the Board's Bureau	11 May 2010
Publication of results	17 May 2010

**VIII. Documents attached**

- Table of Funding Categories
- GFP Application Form
- Project LOGFRAME
- Gantt Chart
- Financial Table

**IX. Documents available online**

All documents related to the present Call for Proposals are available online at <http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr/uk/supporting-science/call-for-proposals.html>

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