

Agropolis Fondation 2103 Call for Commissioned Project (CfCP) [Ref. CfCP 2103]

"Call for commissioned project"

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I- Context and background

Since its creation in 2007, Agropolis Fondation has supported research, training and innovation projects through calls for proposals and commissioned projects. The latter are notably at the origin of numerous flagship endeavours that represent 43% of the total allocated funding. The identification of topics and teams for these flagship projects has historically been the result of a balance between the launch of calls for ideas in the Foundation's network and the identification by the Foundation's bodies and team of strategic topics to address. For example, Agropolis Fondation is now developing three new commissioned projects: ClimOliveMed¹, MOMAC² and PLANTHEALTH³.

II- Objective of the call and thematic coverage

Strategic themes for this project were identified between 2016 and 2021 by the Science Council, the evaluators of Labex Agro and through the scientific facilitation process led in 2019. Among them, the theme of **Plant proteins** was considered strategic and chosen by the Science Council for its ability to embrace different disciplinary fields, its strong fit with the Foundation's thematic priorities and its lack of recent funding. This thematic choice was then selected by the Bureau of Agropolis Fondation for potential funding.

It is against this background that Agropolis Fondation initiates **a new commissioned project on Plant proteins** for the 2022-2024 period. This new project shall have an **international dimension** involving partners in the **South** and **must include a training/capacity building component**. It will also have to be in line with the overall objective of promoting agro-ecological transition for tomorrow's agricultures, and the three cross-cutting axes of the Foundation, namely:

- Axis 1: Agriculture and climate change: adaptation and mitigation;
- Axis 2: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Axis 3: Responsible production and consumption.

Applicants are invited to include in their proposals at least one case study in West Africa with potential links with the Great Green Wall. This should be articulated in relation with recent commitments made by French President Emmanuel Macron during the One Planet Summit held in Paris in January 2021⁴.

¹ "Diversity of varieties, cropping systems and oil markets as an asset of Mediterranean oleiculture in a global change setting" lead by UMR AGAP (B. Khadari, F. Lançon, S. Louafi)

² "Monitoring Mediterranean agro-ecosystems responses to climate change: from field to landscape scale" lead by UMR LISAH, LEPSE, PSH and MISTEA (F. Vinatier, T. Simonneau, B. Gauffre, B. Pallas, A. Charleroy)

³ "Health of plants in their socio-ecological environment" lead by UMR PHIM (G. Béna, E. Fournier, C. Abadie)

⁴ <https://apasec.net/articles/20/01/2021/Emmanuel-Macron-promeut-les-proteines-vegetales-africaines-51351/>

III- Eligibility

1. **The lead proponent must be from one of the research units belonging to the Foundation's scientific network** (Labex Agro)⁵.
2. A submitted proposal must tackle the theme presented in Section II above.
3. A submitted proposal must tackle at least one of the crosscutting axes presented in Section II above.
4. A submitted proposal must have an international dimension involving partners in the South.
5. A submitted proposal must include a training component.
6. At least two units of the Foundation's scientific network must be involved in the project.
7. Scientists from research units or institutions outside of the Foundation's scientific network can participate as partners.

IV- Type of actions, conditions, costs and duration

8. A total of 500 k€ is available for this CFP. Co-funding by other partners is highly encouraged.
9. Project duration: between 24 and 30 months maximum.
10. As the selected project will last 30 months at most, only half PhDs grants are eligible.

V- Eligible expenditures

11. Eligible costs for each funding category are restricted to expenditures directly related to the project, such as:
 - Personnel recruitment costs (temporary personnel to be specifically involved in the project)
 - Consultancies and services subcontracted specifically for the project
 - Limited consumable items⁶
 - Publication and dissemination costs, including cost related to organization of events
 - Travel expenses
 - Overheads (max 8% of the grant amount for each partner)

All the expenses must comply with ANR Financial Regulation (IDEX).
(<https://anr.fr/fileadmin/documents/ia-rf-idex.pdf>).

12. No more than 30% of the total grant should be transferred to partners outside of the Foundation's scientific network (Labex Agro), to external service providers or to consultants.
13. Non-eligible costs include items such as:
 - Expenditures linked to internal services
 - Salaries of staff that are not specifically recruited for the project
 - Expenditures linked to existing infrastructure
 - Expenditures already funded through other sources
14. The project's full cost must be presented including counterparts from the applicants and their partners in the Financial Annex.
15. In the case of a proposal that is only partially funded through this CFP, the proponents should provide all elements concerning funding of the other part of their project (obtained, requested, and/or planned funding request). Co-funding under this call is subject to the proponents' success in mobilizing the necessary other co-funding required to complete the overall project.

⁵ For the list of the Foundation's research units, please visit <https://www.agropolis-fondation.fr/Research-units-in-the-network>.

⁶ Only consumables related to the project are eligible. As stipulated in the ANR rules, « only depreciation rates corresponding to the duration or the project are eligible » for the purchase of materials and equipment.

16. In the case of a proposal that is a standalone project contributing to a larger project or programme, the proponents should provide all elements concerning the objectives, organization and overall funding of the larger project (i.e., obtained, requested, and/or planned funding request).

VI- Evaluation process and criteria

17. Eligible proposals shall be evaluated by the Foundation's Science Council (SC) on the basis of the criteria below:
- Adequacy with the call and particularly with section III:
 - Contribution to the theme of the call
 - Inclusion of the proposal in one or more of the crosscutting axes of the Foundation
 - Quality of the international/South dimension of the proposal, in particular:
 - i. Quality of partnership and collaboration (i.e., role of partners in the project design, implementation and management; involvement of actors from the South; clarity and fairness of data and knowledge sharing, exchange and management mechanism across partners)
 - ii. Visibility, international dimension and benefits for developing countries (e.g., accessibility, relevance of the topic, etc.)
 - Quality of the training/capacity building component
 - Scientific and educational quality, overall coherence and feasibility (i.e., clarity of objectives and expected outputs, robust methodology, proposed timetable, project leadership, past research and training activities of the partners, etc.)
 - Project's potential leverage effect
 - Budget adequacy
 - Originality, innovativeness
 - Structuring effect of the project within the Labex Agro community and complementarities with existing initiatives
 - Project trajectory (i.e., strategic positioning and ambition) and sustainability (how will the proposed actions be sustained beyond project funding and how will these be mainstreamed in the activities of the institution) and how the project may adapt to the Covid-19 situation.
 - Clarity of project management and coordination
 - Strong justification as to why the Foundation, through its Labex Agro programme, should fund the proposed project
 - Gender balance

VII- Submitting proposals, timetable and requirements

18. All submitted proposals must be written in English. Proponents should submit a duly completed Application Form, including applicable annexes.
19. All proposals must be submitted electronically, by the specified deadline, via the link <https://agropolis.jotform.com/210331210326031>
20. Agropolis Fondation shall not be held responsible for submissions not received due to technical problems preventing the transfer of proposals electronically.
21. By submitting a proposal, the proponents assure that they have obtained the due approval of all the participants involved in the project. The application form should bear the signature of the head of the research unit/institution of the (co-) leaders (use the template provided in the annex).
22. Please note that all proposals received under this CfP shall be archived and could be used by Agropolis Fondation for analysis in the context of its activities. Except for the Abstract, a proposal shall not be shared with a Third Party without prior consent of its proponent.
23. If the project is selected, the project leader commits to the following, in addition to other contractual obligations to be reflected in the Grant Agreement: (a) **Indicate the support of Agropolis Fondation through its Labex Agro in any communication coming from the**

project (scientific publications, oral communications, book chapters, etc.)⁷; (b) provide the Foundation with all communication materials it may need; and (c) ensure a regular and quality interaction with the Foundation team.

24. Calendar:

14 June 2021	Launch of the Call for Proposals
03 August 2021, 11.59 AM	Deadline for the submission of proposals Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.
Early September 2021	Pre-selection of two or three proposals by the Science Council of Agropolis Fondation. Publication of results (the two or three pre-selected proposals).
September and October 2021	Lead proponents of the two or three proposals pre-selected will have to integrate the recommendations of the Science Council. The two or three proposals will be evaluated by two external evaluators.
October 2021	Selection of one proposal (between the two or three) by the Science Council.
November 2021	Publication of results (selected proposal).
January 2022	Start of the project.

25. Selected projects may be required to develop a Data Management Plan.

All documents related to the present Call for Proposals are available online at the following website:
<https://www.agropolis-fondation.fr/Call-for-a-commissioned-project>

⁷ « Ce travail a bénéficié d'une aide de l'État générée par l'Agence nationale de la recherche au titre du programme "Investissements d'avenir" portant la référence ANR-10-LABX-001-01 Labex Agro et coordonnée par Agropolis Fondation / This work/project was publicly funded through ANR (the French National Research Agency) under the "Investissements d'avenir" programme with the reference ANR-10-LABX-001-01 Labex Agro and coordinated by Agropolis Fondation » - Acknowledgment statement to be revisited depending on co-funding arrangements.