I- Context and background

The globalization of narratives, practices and institutions (values, norms, rules) affects agriculture as a whole and at many levels on spatial, temporal and jurisdictional scales¹. At the same time, agricultural, forestry and other land-use activities are among the main drivers of climate change² and biodiversity loss³.

Global agriculture policies are now facing major challenges: nourishing an increasingly urbanized world population that is expected to grow by nearly 2 billion by 2050, while responding to the major challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. Moreover, there is a growing consensus on the importance of using the "food system" approach to address various segments of the food production, transformation and consumption⁴. Food systems also face increasing societal demand to become more responsible by reducing negative externalities on the environment and human health, among others.

Thus, more and more Science-Policy platforms and think-thanks (e.g., IDDRI, Belmont Forum, One Earth, FAO, etc.) advocate for a transformative society to face those multidimensional changes and global challenges.

Scientists play a key role in various reflections, discussions and actions which contribute to addressing the challenge of agro-ecological transition by promoting practices and solutions which conserve natural resources and lead to more desirable socio-ecosystems. One way of achieving this is through crosscutting disciplines, methodologies and approaches in addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The consultation process within its research network, initiated by Agropolis Fondation in 2019, led to the collective identification of key research issues and challenges regarding the Foundation’s scope. This aligns with the key research questions to guide further development based on scientific certainties and controversies. The consultation helped define the overall objective of promoting agro-ecological transition for tomorrow’s agricultures, and the three crosscutting axes, namely:

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

This overall orientation of the Foundation has been endorsed both by its Charter members and its Science Council.

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² The latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srcccl/) showed that agricultural, forestry and other land-use activities accounted for about 23% of total net anthropogenic GHG emissions.

³ The latest Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report explained that more than a third of the world’s land surface and nearly 75% of freshwater resources are now devoted to crop or livestock production (https://ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment).

II- Objectives of the Call

As a result of the above mentioned consultation process, the Foundation launched a first Call for Proposals (primarily targeting research but also including training and innovation) entitled “Climate change, biodiversity, food systems: Agriculture-Based Solutions” which resulted in the selection of nine projects. As its title implies, the Call underscored the need to implement solutions that hinge on agriculture, particularly on agro-ecology, co-designed with stakeholders in order to address the nexus of SDGs (and not in silos9), and which require questioning complex interactions of SDGs (e.g. sustainability science7, transformative science8, integrated, interdisciplinarity or participatory science, problem-oriented solution-driven approaches).

These kinds of approaches are not easy to put in place. They require building new collaborations across disciplines and/or stakeholders for co-learning in order to trigger transformation (i.e. cross-learning between researchers from different disciplines, between academic and non-academic actors, between researchers and PhD students). Mutual learning is seen as a way to establish dialog between scientific and non-scientific knowledge, between various branches of science and between science policy, civil society and private actors. In pursuing agro-ecological transition for tomorrow’s agricultures, there are many aspects of knowledge that are shattered or bridled, limiting active engagement of actors for suitable implementation of the concepts. Knowledge system is not enough. Without a protracted learning system, including bottom-up knowledge sharing, the implementation gap will remain for a long time.

Building on the above and in complementarity with Calls issued by the I-Site MUSE9 and others (ANR, Belmont Forum10, Fondation de France & Fondation Carasso…), this current Call therefore aims to capitalize on, enhance or strengthen such practices and make them more visible, as well as to explore new transdisciplinary, crosscutting or resolutely different methodologies, tools, approaches and sectors. It aims to support innovative, inter-sectoral and cross-disciplinary learning, for promoting agro-ecological transition through transformative approaches and tools, innovative teams and networks.

This will be carried out by funding different types of actions (i.e., Twin postdocs, partial PhD fellowships, young scientists, summer schools) in support of research and training through research. For all these types of action, the Foundation seeks to encourage and mobilize a combination of disciplines, approaches or methodologies (Ref: Section V).

III- Thematic coverage

The present Call covers the three crosscutting axes of the Foundation. Its generally broad scope is designed to generate proposals addressing the various themes identified under each of them and which are fully aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDGs 12, 13 and 15.

Axis 1: Agriculture and climate change: adaptation and mitigation

Under this axis, the aim is to understand the effects of climate change on agricultural systems (from genes to landscapes, from local to international levels, and from short-term to long-term) and to explore/propose adaptation strategies and mitigation measures. Among the key issues, the following themes may be the subject of research and training proposals:
- Interactive biotic and abiotic stresses on plants, animals and other living organisms, and risks associated with political, social and economic factors;
- Socio and agro-ecosystem co-viability and co-benefits, synergies, tensions, trade-offs;
- Vulnerability and resilience of territories: tools, practices, strategies, policies;
- Enhanced crop-livestock integration.

5 Eligible proposals submitted under this Call were evaluated during the April 2020 meeting of the Foundation’s Science Council, the results of which were published in May 2020.
7 * Sustainability science is problem-driven, interdisciplinary scholarship that seeks to facilitate the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective interventions that foster shared prosperity and reduced poverty while protecting the environment. It is defined by the problems it addresses rather than the disciplines it employs. It thus draws as needed from multiple disciplines of the natural, social, medical and engineering sciences, from the professions, and from the knowledge of practice ». (Harvard Univ., 2008)
8 * A specific type of science that does not only observe and describe societal transformation processes, but rather initiates and catalyses them. Transformative science aims to improve our understanding of transformation processes and to simultaneously increase societal capacity to reflect on them* in: Schneiderwind U., H. Singer-Brodowski, K. Augenstein, F. Stelzer, 2016, Pledge for a Transformative Science: A Conceptual Framework. Wuppertal Papers No. 191. Wuppertal Institut, p. 6.
9 https://muse.edu.montpellier.fr/app/
10 BiodiversA, “Climate, Environment and Health”, “Cultiver et Protéger autrement”
**Axis 2: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity**

Under this axis, the aim is to document and analyze the measures and policies that support the conservation, and promote sustainable use of biodiversity in various agroecosystems. Among the key issues, the following themes may be the subject of research and training proposals:

- The links between biophysical functions and biodiversity: study of the microbiota, crop associations, wild, domestic, improved and hybrid biodiversity, etc.;
- Agrobiodiversity through its ecological, economic and sociocultural functions;
- Studies including controlled conditions, field experiments and real agrosystems;
- Interactions between biodiversity, food security and plant health;
- Policies (from conservation to exploitation, from local to international scales) on practices and territories: land tenure, use and access rights, protected areas, sustainable use/management, biodiversity offset, Payment for Ecosystem Services, etc.

**Axis 3: Responsible production and consumption**

Under this axis, the aim is to contribute in ensuring sustainable food systems by moving towards more responsible production and consumption. Among the key issues, the following themes may be the subject of research and training proposals:

- Food environments: food landscapes, food deserts, food swamps;
- Co-designing agro-ecosystems with stakeholders (e.g., farmers, policy-makers, experts, etc.);
- Governance of sustainable food systems (certification and quality of production, public regulations, role of companies, coordination of sectors);
- Bio-economy in circular economy in food and non-food systems, to include, among others efficient waste and resource management;
- Animal and vs plant-based proteins (food transition);
- Innovation and socio-ecological transition.

**IV- Eligibility**

1. A submitted proposal must tackle at least one of the crosscutting axes presented in Section III above.

2. A submitted proposal must (a) choose just one type of action under this Call; (b) tackle the thematic coverage of the type of action for which funding is being applied for; and (c) meet the conditions specified for a given type of action (Ref: Section V).

3. The lead proponent must be from one of the research units belonging to the Foundation’s scientific network (Labex Agro)\(^\text{11}\). The two “Summer/Winter/Thematic Schools” co-funded by Biovision Foundation must be co-submitted by an institution from Sub-Saharan Africa.

4. Scientists from research units or institutions outside of the Foundation’s scientific network can participate as partners.

5. A scientist can coordinate only one project funded under this specific CfP.

**V- Type of actions, conditions, costs and duration**

Up to \textbf{750k€} are available for this CfP, complemented by partial postdoc co-funding by FRB/Cesab (valued at 65k€) and by co-funding of two Summer/Winter/Thematic Schools by Biovision Foundation (valued at 20 k€).

It will support different categories of actions spread across two rounds (1\(^{\text{st}}\) deadline on 01 September 2020; 2\(^{\text{nd}}\) deadline on 01 March 2021, Ref: Section VIII, Item 7) as presented in the succeeding table.

\(^{11}\) For the list of the Foundation’s research units, please visit https://www.agropolis-fondation.fr/Research-units-in-the-network. Interested parties are highly encouraged to contact directly the concerned research unit(s) in writing.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of action, cost and duration</th>
<th>Funding conditions/specific remarks</th>
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</table>
| **Post-doctoral Fellowship**     | Request for minimum of 4 months of Postdoc funding and a maximum of 18 months can be considered under this type of action.  
| Overall funding available for the 2 rounds: 385k€ | - Support for Postdoc at 100% AF funding request should be for a minimum of 4 months (within the maximum funding of 68 k€);  
| Total number of Fellowships available for 2 rounds: 2 | - Support for an 18-month Postdoc is under 50% co-funding set-up; the complementary partial funding (50%) must be secured within 6 months after the selection of the project.  
| Maximum funding per project: 65k€ (equivalent to 50% of 18-month Postdoc funding) except for the Post-Doc co-funded with FRB/CESAB (full funding of 130 k€ approximatively) | - Proposal should involve at least 2 research units within the Foundation’s scientific network (except for the Postdoc co-funded by FRB/Cesab)  
| Project duration: 4 months to 18 months | - For the 1st round, one partial Postdoc (i.e., 50% funding to cover salary and research environment) will be carried out in partnership with FRB/Cesab.  
|                                                    | As such, it will be allocated towards the topic “Agro-ecological transition solutions to preserve biodiversity.” FRB/Cesab shall fund the other 50% of the Postdoc fellowship. Interested parties should apply via FRB/Cesab Systematics Call: https://www.fondationbiodiversite.fr/appel/appel-a-projets-frb-cesab-revues-systematiques/ |
| **Partial doctoral Fellowship (50%)** | Complementary partial funding (50%) must be secured within 6 months after the selection of the project;  
| Overall funding available for the 2 rounds: 270k€ | - Two supervisors from different but complementary disciplines or backgrounds.¹²  
| Total number of Fellowships available for 2 rounds: 4 |  
| Maximum funding per project: 68k€ (max) |  
| Project duration: 36 months |  
| **Young scientist-led project** | A Young scientist is an early career scientist, researcher or lecturer in a permanent position with a PhD obtained in the last 10 years and is under 40 years old)¹⁴ by the CIP deadline;  
| Overall funding available for the 2 rounds: 100k€ | - Proposed projects should be cross-disciplinary and explore the use of innovative tools and methods in its implementation.  
| Maximum number of projects to be funded for 2 rounds: 5 |  
| Funding per project: 20k€ (max) |  
| Project duration: 12-18 months |  
| **“Summer/Winter/Thematic School”** | For this action, 2 summer/winter/thematic schools will be carried out in partnership with Biovision Foundation. Specific conditions are as follows: (1) Proposal must be co-submitted by a Sub-Saharan African institution (research organization, university, civil society organization, …) ; (2) should have at least 60% participants from Sub-Saharan Africa;  
| Overall funding available for the 2 rounds: 80k€ | - For applications that do not involve Biovision Foundation, proposals should involve at least 2 units within the Agropolis Fondation network.  
| Maximum number of projects to be funded for 2 rounds: 4 | For both types of applications:  
| Funding per project: 20k€ (max) | - Proposed training sessions should gather scientists, education specialists, students, professionals from various disciplines, sectors and thematic domains around a common scientific topic, in order to facilitate training, learning of new concepts, methods and tools, ways of setting up transdisciplinary projects, knowledge sharing, as well as to stimulate interactions, exchanges and further collaborations;  
| Project duration: 12 months | - Exchanges across disciplines in tackling any of the crosscutting axes and in relation to the SDGs. |

¹² A Twin-Postdoc or a Full Postdoc Fellowship may be introduced in the 2nd round depending on how discussions with potential partners progress.  
¹³ But not necessarily a co-supervisor PhD.  
¹⁴ “Young scientists” currently represent ~20% of Agropolis Fondation’s research network workforce.
**VI- Eligible expenditures**

6. Eligible costs for each funding category are restricted to expenditures directly related to the project, such as:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of action, cost and duration</th>
<th>Eligible costs(^\d)</th>
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</table>
| Post-doctoral Fellowship          | For less than 18 months (min. of 4 months and within the 65k€ funding limit)  
                                    | • Postdoc salary with a minimum of 4 months  
                                    | • Research environment which can be used to partially cover publication and dissemination costs, limited consumable items, travel expenses  
                                    | • 8% overhead cost (max 6% of the grant amount shared among research units involved; 2% to be retained by Agropolis Fondation (AF) for grant management and monitoring)  |
|                                   | For partial Post-doctoral Fellowship (50%, within the 65k€ funding limit)  
                                    | • 50% of the Postdoc salary over 18 months (45k€)  
                                    | • 50% of research environment which can be used to partially cover publication and dissemination costs, limited consumable items, travel expenses (15k€)  
                                    | • 8% overhead cost (max 6% of the grant amount shared among research units involved; 2% to be retained by AF for grant management and monitoring)  |
| Partial doctoral Fellowship (50%) | • 50% of the PhD salary over 18 months (52,5k€)  
                                    | • 50% of research environment which can be used to partially cover publication and dissemination costs, limited consumable items, travel expenses (10k€)  
                                    | • 8% overhead cost (max 6% of the grant amount shared among research units involved; 2% to be retained by AF for grant management and monitoring)  |
| Young scientist-led project        | • Consultancies and services subcontracted specifically for the project  
                                    | • Limited consumable items  
                                    | • Publication and dissemination costs, including cost related to organization of events  
                                    | • Travel expenses  
                                    | • 8% overhead cost (max 6% of the grant amount shared among research units involved; 2% to be retained by AF for grant management and monitoring)  |
| “Summer/Winter/Thematic School”   | • Consultancies and services subcontracted specifically for the project  
                                    | • Publication and dissemination costs, including cost related to organization of events  
                                    | • Travel expenses  
                                    | • 8% overhead cost (max 6% of the grant amount shared among research units involved; 2% to be retained by AF for grant management and monitoring)  |

All the expenses must comply with ANR Financial Regulation (IDEX).  

\(^\d\) 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.
7. 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.

8. 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

9. The project’s full cost must be presented including counterparts from the applicants and their partners in the Financial Annex.

10. 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 (acquired, submitted, and/or planned funding request). Funding under this Call is conditional; subject to the proponents’ success in mobilizing the necessary funding required to complete the overall project.

11. 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., acquired, submitted, and/or planned funding request).

VII- Evaluation process and criteria

12. Eligible proposals for Postdoc and Partial Doctoral Fellowships shall be evaluated\(^{16}\) by the Foundation's Science Council (SC), potentially with the support of external reviewers, on the basis of the following criteria:
   - Adequacy with the Call
   - Scientific quality, overall coherence and feasibility (i.e., clarity of objectives and expected outputs, robust methodology, proposed timetable, project management and structure, etc.)
   - Co-learning aspects (i.e. degree of interaction and exchange among scientists from various disciplines and actors from different sectors)
   - Originality and innovativeness
   - Quality of partnership and collaboration (i.e., role of partners in the project conception, implementation and management; potential involvement of actors from the South; potential collaborations with other Labexes in Montpellier or elsewhere; clarity and fairness of data and knowledge sharing, exchange and management mechanism across partners)
   - Visibility and international dimension and potential benefits for developing countries (e.g., accessibility, relevance of the topic, etc.)
   - 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)
   - Strong justification as to why the Foundation, through its Labex Agro programme, should fund the proposed project
   - Profile of the Postdoc/PhD candidate and potential professional trajectory

13. Eligible proposals for small Young scientist-led projects shall be evaluated by the Foundation’s Science Council (SC) on the basis of the following criteria:
   - Adequacy with the Call
   - Scientific quality, overall coherence and feasibility (i.e., clarity of objectives and expected outputs, robust methodology, proposed timetable, project management and structure, etc.)
   - Co-learning aspects (i.e. degree of interaction and exchange among scientists from various disciplines and actors from different sectors)
   - Originality and innovativeness

\(^{16}\) In the case of Postdoc co-funded with FRB/Cesab, an adhoc committee composed of representatives from their respective Science Councils will be in-charge of reviewing eligible proposals.
- Quality of partnership and collaboration (i.e., role of partners in the project conception, implementation and management; potential involvement of actors from the South; potential collaborations with other Labexes in Montpellier or elsewhere; clarity and fairness of data and knowledge sharing, exchange and management mechanism across partners)
- Project’s potential leverage effect
- Visibility and international dimension
- Young scientist’s profile and potential professional trajectory
- 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)
- Strong justification as to why the Foundation, through its Labex Agro programme, should fund the proposed project
- Budget adequacy

14. Eligible proposals for the organization of “Summer/winter/thematic Schools” shall be evaluated by the Foundation’s Science Council on the basis of the following criteria:

- Strategic nature of the training course (e.g., transformative and systemic character of the methods and topics covered, target participants, partnership, etc.)
- Originality and innovativeness of the training course (i.e., topic, approach, etc.)
- Co-learning aspects (i.e., degree of interaction and exchange among scientists from various disciplines and actors from different sectors)
- Potential structuring effect and complementarities with other training courses
- Potential to attract international participants
- Partnership with other training and higher education institutions
- Sustainability (i.e., How will the proposed training be sustained beyond project funding? What actions shall be taken to make sure that this will not be a one-time operation?)
- Strong justification as to why the Foundation, through its Labex Agro programme, should fund the proposed project, potential leverage effect
- Project management and structure
- Budget adequacy

VIII. Submitting proposals, timetable and requirements

15. All submitted proposals must be written in English. Proponents should submit a duly completed Application Form, including applicable annexes.

16. All proposals must be submitted electronically, by the specified deadline, via the link [https://agropolisfondation.optimytool.com/en/](https://agropolisfondation.optimytool.com/en/). However, Postdoc proposals for cofunding with FRB/Cesab must be submitted via the FRB platform: [https://www.fondationbiodiversite.fr/appel/appel-a-projets-frb-cesab-revues-systematiques/](https://www.fondationbiodiversite.fr/appel/appel-a-projets-frb-cesab-revues-systematiques/)

17. Agropolis Fondation shall not be held responsible for submissions not received due to technical problems preventing the transfer of proposals electronically.

18. 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).

19. 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.

20. 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) Cite the support of Agropolis Fondation through Labex Agro in any communication coming from the project.

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17 In the case of applications with Biovision Foundation co-funding, an ad hoc committee composed of representatives from their respective Science Councils will be in charge of reviewing eligible proposals.
21. This Call offers two deadlines in order to cater to project proposals of different levels of development by the time this Call is launched. The first deadline is 01 September 2020 for projects to be implemented by the end of the year. The second deadline is 01 March 2021 for projects to be implemented in the second half of 2021.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>04 June 2020</td>
<td>Opening of the Call for Proposals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 09 September 2020, 11.59 PM | Deadline for the submission of proposal for the first round  
|                        | Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.            |
| November 2020         | Publication of results (selected proposals)                          |
| 01 March 2021         | Deadline for the submission of proposal for the second round  
|                        | Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.            |
| May 2021              | Publication of results (selected proposals)                          |

22. 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://agropolisfondation.optimytool.com/en/

18 « 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.