

National Annex for U.S. Applicants to the 3rd ERA-CAPS Call for Proposals (2016)

PARTNER: The National Science Foundation (NSF) is an independent U.S. federal agency created in 1950 whose mission includes support for all fields of fundamental science and engineering, except for medical sciences. The Biological Sciences Directorate (BIO) supports new, innovative research in plant biology within four Divisions, including Integrative Organismal Systems (IOS), Molecular Cellular Biosciences (MCB), the Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) and the Division of Biological Infrastructure (DBI). Programs within these divisions support basic research and tool development in the broad area of plant molecular sciences.

NOTICE: The NSF and BIO announce its intention to support the third Call for Proposals of the ERA-CAPS "Europe-USA Call strengthening transnational research in the Molecular Plant Sciences." This call aims to facilitate international collaboration and to stimulate synergy in the area of molecular plant sciences by supporting outstanding basic research.

ELIGIBILITY, NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES AND ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES:

Applications to this call will be Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) as defined in the 3rd ERA-CAPS Call Notice (2016). NSF/BIO will provide funding to support project objectives carried out by scientists at U.S. academic and not-for-profit research institutions.

Research themes, application, evaluation and selection of research proposals will follow the procedure that is defined in the Call Notice, including the Data Challenges Sub-call therein. Once all evaluation steps have been completed, the final funding decisions for U.S. projects will rest with NSF/BIO. In the case of a positive funding decision, all U.S. applicants will be asked to submit a formal proposal through FastLane or Grants.gov. General NSF rules and conditions apply with regard to institutional eligibility and eligible costs as per the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG; [NSF 16-1](#)). BIO Program Directors will provide additional guidance for proposal submission and required documents should a positive funding decision be made.

Apart from the rules and procedures defined in the Call Notice, scientists seeking NSF/BIO funding need to consider the following points:

Eligibility of Participants:

General NSF rules and conditions apply with regard to institutional eligibility. As per the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG), only scientists at U.S. academic institutions accredited in and having a campus located in the U.S., U.S. non-profit research organizations including museums, research laboratories, professional societies and similar organizations in the U.S. that are directly associated with educational or research activities, and consortia of only the eligible organizations listed here, are eligible to apply.

Private industry has already made significant investments in molecular plant sciences. Innovative collaborations with industry are encouraged when they advance the goals of programs within BIO. However, NSF funds may not be used to support the industrial collaborators. Participation of a company as a provider of a service should be managed according to the submitting institution's procurement policy. When private industry is involved, the proposer is responsible for ensuring that any intellectual property issues are handled according to NSF Policy. Consortia involving U.S. applicants as well as partners from industry are requested to contact the NSF Program Officer prior to submission of the proposal.

In addition, there is a limit on the number of proposals in which an U.S. investigator can be included. An U.S investigator may submit only one proposal as a principal investigator, co-principal investigator, or senior personnel for whom funds are requested.

Participation eligibility also applies to any proposals submitted through the Data Challenges Sub-call.

Themes of Research:

Several programs in BIO provide support for basic research on themes articulated in the Call, including areas that emphasize basic research on a genome-wide scale in economically important plants, biotic and abiotic interactions with plants, responses of plants to climate change, and basic research with an end-use focused on bioenergy or the bioeconomy. The Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) takes the lead in partnering with the 3rd ERA-CAPS Call for Proposals (2016), including the Data Challenges Sub-call therein, and will serve as liaison with other Divisions In BIO in which research themes align with this call.

Project parts by researchers applying to the NSF/BIO can be funded to the extent that the science is relevant to the program of interest. Applicants must identify an NSF/BIO program of interest before applying and must submit proposals consistent with the research emphasis within the Division or Program. Programs of interest can be identified through BIO at <http://www.nsf.gov/dir/index.jsp?org=bio>.

For the PGRP, research must be on a genome-wide scale and clearly meet the goals of the PGRP, as articulated in the most current PGRP Program Solicitation found at <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2015/nsf15548/nsf15548.htm>.

There is no pre-defined NSF/BIO budget for the 3rd ERA CAPS Call for Proposals (2016). Applicants must contact the NSF/PGRP Program Directors to ensure appropriate fit with the NSF program and consistency with the 3rd ERA-CAPS Call for Proposals (2016).

For further information, please contact NSF/PGRP Program Director Anne Sylvester by email (asylvest@nsf.gov) or by telephone (703-292-4400).