

National Annex for U.S. Applicants to the Second ERA-CAPS Call for Proposals

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 Plant Genome Research Program (PGRP) is a program within the Biological Sciences Directorate and the Division of Integrative Organismal Systems that supports new, innovative ideas in the form of basic research and tool development projects that will advance the whole field of plant biology and accelerate basic discovery and innovation in economically important crop plants to meet societal needs.

NOTICE: The NSF and the PGRP announces its intention to support the second Call for Proposals of the ERA-CAPS "Expanding the European Research Area in Molecular Plant Sciences" which aims to facilitate international collaboration and to stimulate synergy in the area of molecular plant sciences on the basis of excellent research.

ELIGIBILITY, NATIONAL FUNDING MODALITIES AND ADDITIONAL

GUIDELINES: Applications to this call will be Collaborative Research Projects (CRPs) as defined in the ERA-CAPS Call Notice for the Second Call. NSF/PGRP 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. Once all evaluation steps have been completed, the final funding decisions for U.S. projects will rest with the NSF/PGRP. In the case of a positive funding decision all U.S. applicants will be asked to submit a formal proposal through FastLane or Research.gov. General NSF rules and conditions apply with regard to institutional eligibility and eligible costs as per the Grant Proposal Guide (GPG) (NSF 13-1). PGRP 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/PGRP 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 plant genomic research. Innovative collaborations with industry are encouraged when they advance the goals of the PGRP. 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.

Themes of Research

PGRP provides support for basic research focused on the elucidation of genome structure and organization, functional genomics, the identification of functions of a pathway or a cluster of co-regulated genes at a genomic scale, and the application of genomics tools to understanding fundamental biological processes in economically important plants.

Project parts by researchers applying to the NSF/PGRP can be funded to the extent that the science is on a genome-wide scale and clearly meets the goals of the PGRP, as articulated in the current PGRP Program Solicitation found at http://www.nsf.gov/publications/pub_summ.jsp?WT.z_pims_id=5338&ods_key=nsf13522. Proposed projects may include a broad range of activities, from basic research to technology development, on a genome-wide scale. Project parts that are of a purely applied nature and focus on delivery of current technologies are outside the scope of the Plant Genome Research program. Project parts that focus on individual genes or gene families, on plant-associated systems (microbes or insects, for instance), or based solely on Arabidopsis genomics are more appropriate for funding by other programs at NSF and would be a lower priority for funding by PGRP. There is no pre-defined NSF/PGRP budget for the Second Call of ERA-CAPS.

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