



## **AGROPOLIS FONDATION –CAPES – EMBRAPA**

### **Tripartite Call for Proposals 2014**

[Ref. AF-Brazil CfP 2014-02]

#### **GUIDELINES**

##### **Background**

Historically, France and Brazil have strong scientific links in the field of agriculture and food, particularly between the Montpellier scientific cluster and the Brazilian scientists and organizations. Such privileged relationship is further reinforced by various collective actions carried out with the framework of partnership arrangements signed between French and Brazilian institutions.

For instance, Agropolis Foundation<sup>1</sup> signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CAPES (*Coordenação de Aperfeiçoamento de Pessoal de Nível Superior*), the Brazilian Federal Agency for Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education (CAPES)<sup>2</sup> in July 2010. This MOU aims to strengthen the ties between the two organizations in the area of research and training through the exchange of researchers in a reciprocal way. This led to the issuance of three successive Calls for Proposals (CfP) in 2010, 2011 and 2012, which resulted in the funding of 12 joint projects.

Agropolis Fondation also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Embrapa (*Empresa Brasileira de Pesquisa Agropecuária*)<sup>3</sup>, the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation, in May 2013 in order to further strengthen scientific cooperation involving scientists from their respective networks through research and capacity building, given their common objective of knowledge sharing and human capacity building. In addition to this, Embrapa and the Agropolis scientific community have jointly initiated an international consortium on advanced biology (CIBA Consortium International en Biologie Avancée) which aims to promote varietal improvement for South by facilitating scientific collaboration between Embrapa and its Brazilian partners (e.g., research institutes and universities) and French institutions (i.e., Cirad, IRD, Inra, Montpellier SupAgro, Université de Montpellier 2 and coordinated by Agropolis International).

Recognizing the importance and relevance of joining forces and resources to achieve a shared objective of supporting research and scientific mobility in the domain of agriculture and food, Agropolis Fondation, CAPES and Embrapa decided to issue this Tripartite Call for Proposals (CfP). The details of this Call are specified in these Guidelines.

---

<sup>1</sup> Agropolis Fondation is a French foundation for scientific organization established in 2007 to promote and support high-level research and higher education (training-through-research) as well as to broaden international partnerships in agricultural sciences and sustainable development research. It supports a research network with scientists working on continuum of multidisciplinary knowledge - from the study of genetics to agro-ecosystems to final use of agricultural products; and with recognized expertise over numerous plant species from temperate, Mediterranean and tropical areas.

<sup>2</sup> CAPES is the Brazilian Federal Agency for the Support and Evaluation of Graduate Education. Founded in 1951, it assists the Brazilian Ministry of Education in the formulation of national policies related to postgraduate study. It serves as the Brazilian government's arm in providing support to the country's academic and educational community such as enabling the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge and skills.

<sup>3</sup> Created in 1973, Embrapa's mandate is to provide feasible solutions for the sustainable development of Brazilian agriculture through knowledge and technology generation and transfer. It has generated and recommended technologies for Brazilian agriculture, reduced production costs and helped Brazil to increase the offer of food while, at the same time, conserving natural resources and the environment and diminishing external dependence on technologies, basic products and genetic materials.

## **Thematic coverage**

1. The present CfP targets interdisciplinary and integrated approach to plant biology, ecology, products and uses that address development issues concerning the North and the South, especially:
  - Increasing demand for plants and plant by-products both for food and non-food applications;
  - Interaction between climate change and crops;
  - Prevention and management of risks related to crop and food systems.
2. This CfP will fund both research and/or scientific mobility projects focusing on any of the following thematic areas:
  - Genetics and genomics, plant breeding, eco-physiology;
  - Plant pests and diseases, integrated crop protection, population ecology;
  - Agri-environmental innovations, agri-ecosystems and resources management;
  - Agri-food innovations, food and non-food uses of crops;
  - Innovation processes, social management of innovations.
3. For this specific CfP, a particular **but not exclusive** interest shall be accorded to the following:
  - The exploration of adaptive diversity in tropical and sub-tropical crops for genetic improvement initiatives aimed at climate change adaptation and mitigation. This theme is the global scientific objective of the International Consortium on Advanced Biology (CIBA).

It entails research and training activities that aim at meeting the conditions for this global objective in a range of crops with common methodological approaches, in particular:

    - Concerted development of germplasm sets for genetic analysis of adaptive traits;
    - Development and implementation of methodologies for comprehensive analysis of traits across germplasm sets;
    - In relation with the above, development of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) applications for managing and using germplasm-related data during pre-breeding
  - Beyond the above approaches, other scientific topics related to this theme of interest include genetic and genomic analysis of biotic and abiotic stresses; diversity studies using genetic and genomic tools and approaches; climate change adaptation of agro -ecosystems (e.g., crops and forests); carbon sequestration; biological nitrogen fixation and biological control (ecology-diversity- evolution linkage); and biodiversity and ecosystem services in cropping systems.
4. Under the present CfP, **collaborative research and mobility projects** to be funded are expected to create a strong leverage effect on the promotion or strengthening of strategic scientific themes and international visibility.
5. Integrated and interdisciplinary approaches involving biological, engineering as well as social & human sciences (SHS) are encouraged.
6. Opening to new partnerships, in particular to partners from third countries, is welcome.

## **Eligibility**

7. Only proposals that clearly contribute to reinforcing Franco-Brazilian scientific cooperation are eligible. A Brazilian and a French scientist should thus submit a proposal jointly.
  - The lead scientist of the Brazilian side should be an Embrapa researcher on active duty, or a scientist from universities or research institutions in Brazil. Brazilian team members must have updated their CVs on the CNPq CVs Platform Lattes (<http://lattes.cnpq.br>) less than six (6) months prior to the date of publication of this Guideline.
  - The lead French scientist should be part of the Foundation's scientific network<sup>4</sup>. French scientists from research institutions outside of the Foundation's scientific network can participate as collaborators.

---

<sup>4</sup> For the list of the Foundation's research units, please visit <http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr/uk/about-us/research-unit-leaders.html>. Interested parties are highly encouraged to contact directly the concerned research unit(s) in writing.

- Scientists and research teams from third countries can participate as collaborators. Scientists and research teams from third countries are eligible to receive funding only from the Foundation, through the French coordinator.
  - Private entities may be associated in the project provided that (i) their involvement received the explicit agreement of the two co-project leaders, i.e., the French and Brazilian scientists (and their research unit and institutions, respectively); and (ii) the management of intellectual property rights shall be consistent with the institutional policy of the French public partners and the Brazilian institutions.
8. A scientist can coordinate only one project at a time, taking into account on-going Agropolis Fondation - CAPES projects.
9. The scientific focus of the proposals must be within the thematic axes identified in item 2 above.

### **Project duration and cost**

10. The overall budget for this CFP is presented below:

	<b>Euros</b>	<b>Brazilian Reais (R\$)</b>
Agropolis Fondation (For research and scientific mobility)	€ 300K	R\$ 960K <sup>5</sup>
CAPES (For research and scientific mobility)	€ 200K <sup>6</sup>	R\$ 640K
Embrapa (For research)	€ 150K <sup>7</sup>	R\$ 480K
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€ 650K</b>	<b>R\$ 2.080K</b>

11. Funding request for each project (research and mobility) should be for a minimum of **€30K** and should not exceed **€100K** over two years.
12. To the extent possible, funding request should be balanced between Agropolis Fondation on one side and Embrapa-CAPES, on the other side. Eligible expenditures are presented in item 16 below.
13. Projects interested to be considered for extension for another year will have to apply for renewal after 18 months and shall be evaluated for decision. If approved, additional funds of up to 50% of the initial amount shall be granted. For this purpose, a budget of **€150K** (€100k from AF, R\$ 160K (**€50K<sup>8</sup>**) from Embrapa) may be made available in addition to the initial over-all budget.
14. Once a project is completed, the teams can submit another project for funding in a subsequent Call for Proposals.
15. In addition to the above, CAPES is making available funding up to **R\$ 2.977K (€ 930K<sup>9</sup>)** to support Brazilian PhD students or Brazilian post-docs (Fellowships) in the project. Such requests should be made explicit in the proposal and are subject to CAPES rules and regulations concerning support to PhD and post-docs.

### **Categories of funding and eligible expenditures**

16. Under this CFP, proponents may request for any (or a combination) of the following (Brazilian PhD and post-doc scholarships are to be funded by CAPES, see §15 above):
- Research
    - Support for small exploratory, risky and innovative projects (proof-of-concept studies, new frontier research) including training by research projects
    - Support for the organization of high-level scientific events (conferences, seminars, workshops, etc.) in Montpellier or in Brazil
    - Support for publication and dissemination of research results

<sup>5</sup> Exchange rate of 27/02/2014: 1 € = R\$ 3,20. Source: Central Bank of Brazil.

<sup>6</sup> Exchange rate of 27/02/2014: 1 € = R\$ 3,20. Source: Central Bank of Brazil.

<sup>7</sup> Exchange rate of 27/02/2014: 1 € = R\$ 3,20. Source: Central Bank of Brazil.

<sup>8</sup> Exchange rate of 27/02/2014: 1 € = R\$ 3,20. Source: Central Bank of Brazil.

<sup>9</sup> Exchange rate of 27/02/2014: 1 € = R\$ 3,20. Source: Central Bank of Brazil.

- Support for the organization of new platforms or reinforcement, integration, networking of existing platforms
  - Support for the preparation of applications for national or international Calls for proposals
  - Support for PhD and Post-doc
- Mobility
    - Work mission of professors, faculty members, scientists and/or researchers
    - Study Missions for PhD students
    - Study Missions for Post-doc
- Support for education- and training-oriented initiatives (e.g., Training courses organized in one or several sessions)
17. Eligible costs are restricted to the following expenditures directly related to the project, such as:
    - Personnel recruitment costs (temporary scientific personnel to be specifically involved in the project)
    - PhD and Post-doc Fellowship for Brazilians (CAPES)
    - Consultancies and services subcontracted specifically for the project
    - Consumables
    - Laboratory equipment costs
    - Publication and dissemination costs, including cost related to organization of events
    - Travel expenses
    - Overheads (max 4% of the overall requested amount for Agropolis Fondation funding; max 15% for Embrapa)
  18. Non-eligible items 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
  19. The project's full cost must be presented including counterparts from the applicants and their partners in the Financial Table.
  20. 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 CFP is conditional, subject to the proponents' success in mobilizing the necessary funding required to complete the overall project.
  21. In the case of a proposal that is a standalone project contributing to a larger project or program, the proponents should provide all elements concerning the scientific objectives, organization and overall funding of the larger project (i.e., acquired, submitted, and/or planned funding request).

### ***Evaluation process and criteria***

22. Eligible proposals shall undergo a parallel peer review process put up on one side by Agropolis Fondation and on the other side by Embrapa and CAPES. The results of these parallel reviews will be compared under the authority of the Joint Committee composed of representatives of the three institutions in order to reach a consensus on project selection and funding.
23. Submitted proposals shall be evaluated on the basis of the criteria below:
  - Scientific quality (i.e., originality, innovativeness, feasibility, relevance, over-all project coherence- clear objectives and expected outputs, robust scientific methodology, etc.)
  - Level of interdisciplinary and integrated approach to plant (i.e., from its genes to its environments to its final uses)
  - Quality of partnership and international visibility (e.g., shared interest to contribute to strengthening Franco-Brazilian collaboration; qualification and experience of teams involved and their collaborators; mobility between teams)
  - Relevance to socio-economic and sustainable development issues
  - Added value of the financial support from Agropolis Fondation, Embrapa and CAPES as compared to other sources of funding
  - Level of accordance with the thematic coverage of this CFP

24. In addition to the above, the review of proposals submitted under the present CfP shall also consider the following:
- Strong scientific leadership
  - Strategic nature of the proposed project
  - Clarity of project management and coordination
  - Adequacy of project budget
  - Adequacy of regulatory measures (e.g., Access to genetic resources, transfer agreements, etc) and intellectual property rights management, in strict compliance with the Brazilian and French legislations
  - Network projects that demonstrate diversity in its composition and potential for the formation of national groups of excellence and that meet the priorities in the field of education, science and technology of Brazil
25. Projects selected for funding shall be subject to the signature of all Grant Agreements between research teams and funding organizations prior to transfer of funds.

### **Submitting proposals and provisional Calendar**

26. All submitted proposal must be written in English.
27. Proponents should submit a duly completed Application Form with its Financial Table and Logical Framework and CV of key scientists/researchers/students involved in the project.
28. Incomplete submissions, late submissions and submissions exceeding the maximum number of pages allowed (application form and annexes) and which do not respect the required font will be automatically disqualified.
29. French co-leader and Brazilian co-leader should submit the same proposal. French co-leader should submit the proposal electronically to Agropolis Fondation at [cfp2014-02@agropolis.fr](mailto:cfp2014-02@agropolis.fr) on or before the deadline specified below. Brazilian co-leader should submit the proposal electronically to both Embrapa (at <https://sistemas.sede.embrapa.br/ideare/>) and CAPES (at <http://inscricoes-cqci.capes.gov.br/index.php/roteiroprojeto/init/CodigoProjeto/1033>) by the same deadline indicated below.
30. Agropolis Fondation, Embrapa and CAPES shall not be held responsible for submissions not received due to technical problems preventing the transfer of proposals electronically.
31. By submitting a proposal, the project coordinators assure that they have obtained the approval of their managing authorities and of all the participants involved in the project.
32. Calendar of actions:

<b>14 March 2014</b>	Opening of the Call for Proposals
<b>28 April 2014</b> <i>*12 noon French time for French partners; 12 noon Brazilian time for Brazilian partners</i>	Deadline for submission of proposals <i>Late and/or incomplete submissions will not be accepted.</i>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> week of August</b>	Announcement of the results

### **Documents available online**

All documents related to the present CfP are available online at the following websites:  
<http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr/uk/supporting-science/call-for-proposals/cfp-2014-tripartite-call-for-proposals-2014-agropolis-fondation-capes-embrapa.html>  
<https://sistemas.sede.embrapa.br/ideare>  
<http://www.capes.gov.br>

### **Contacts**

For Agropolis Fondation: [poulaert@agropolis.fr](mailto:poulaert@agropolis.fr)  
 For Embrapa: [dpd.programacao@embrapa.br](mailto:dpd.programacao@embrapa.br)  
 For CAPES: [embrapa.agropolis.projetos@capes.gov.br](mailto:embrapa.agropolis.projetos@capes.gov.br)