CANADIAN IWYP ALIGNED CALL FOR 2019-2020

Purpose: To provide information on the development of an AAFC–IWYP Aligned Call

Summary

- AAFC has indicated its intention to launch a joint call for proposals aligned with IWYP. The call will provide an opportunity for Canadian wheat scientists to collaborate with other wheat scientists in Canada and around the world in research projects focused on IWYP priorities.
- Proposed projects will target funding over four years (2019-2023), through the AAFC A-Base Call.
- International collaboration will be required. BBSRC has expressed an intention to provide collaborative funding to researchers in the UK. Similarly USDA-NIFA & GRDC have expressed interest in exploring opportunities for funding researchers in the USA and Australia, respectively.
- AAFC funding will be up to $1 million Canadian per year and BBSRC has indicated a notional funding level of $1 million total. Funding levels for the USDA-NIFA and GRDC will be determined based on projects approved by the respective funding agencies, and have yet to be determined. In Canada, funding will also be sought from the provincial government and producer institutions such as the Agriculture Development Fund (Saskatchewan Agriculture) and the Western Grains Research Foundation.

Introduction

The International Wheat Yield Partnership (IWYP) is an Associated Program of the International Wheat Initiative. It is a partnership of public and private sector organizations with the goal of increasing the genetic yield potential of wheat by 50% in the next 20 years. IWYP provides a new funding approach to coordinate and link international research efforts, integrate research and development outputs, generate added value and actively drive delivery. Breeding discoveries from IWYP sponsored or aligned research projects are moved to a commissioned, central development platform at the IWYP Hub in the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT) and combined into elite germplasm for delivery to wheat breeding programs around the world.

AAFC–IWYP Call for Proposals

- AAFC has indicated its intention to launch a joint call for proposals with IWYP. The call will provide an opportunity to align AAFC research with IWYP priorities and collaborate with international partners.
The research scope areas for the competitive call are the same as those of IWYP with the exception of hybrid wheat development and they include:
- Increasing carbon capture before flowering
- Increasing biomass
- Optimizing harvest index
- Enhancing photosynthetic pathways
- Specific changes in plant architecture
- Modifying phenology, e.g., flowering time
- Increasing carbon flow into grains
- Root structure and growth
- Faster/alternative breeding methods
- Modelling to define the optimal traits/combinations per environment

Research projects that build on projects initiated in the first IWYP call will be encouraged and may receive particular consideration. Information on IWYP funded projects is provided at http://iwyp.org/funded-projects/

Proposed projects under the AAFC-IWYP call will target funding over four years (2019-2023) through the AAFC A-Base Call. The review process will be rigorous as is required of all AAFC projects and will include a review of the Letters of Intent to ensure alignment with AAFC and IWYP priorities. Full proposals will be peer reviewed by experts from around the world, including those suggested by the funders and the IWYP secretariat. Funding organizations may in addition conduct a review of projects submitted by researchers from their respective countries to meet specific requirements of their funding organizations. Projects will be reviewed by the IWYP Science Impact Executive Board (SIEB) which will make decisions on which projects are to be included in the IWYP research project portfolio.

Funding sources in Canada include AAFC, and may include provincial and producer institutions such as the Agricultural Development Fund (ADF) and Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF). Internationally, the Biotechnology and Biological Science Research Council of the United Kingdom (BBSRC) expressed an intention to provide funding. The United States Department of Agriculture – National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA-NIFA) and the Grains Research and Development Corporation of Australia (GRDC) also expressed interest in participating by funding collaborating researchers in the USA and Australia, respectively. Specific funding levels are still under discussion and subject to appropriate approvals.

The 2019-2020 call for AAFC A-Base research projects includes the following challenge statement related to the AAFC-IWYP collaboration: In collaboration with international partners, upstream trait discovery, trait development and fundamental science with the goal of increasing the genetic yield potential in wheat by 50% in the next 20 years.
Prior to applying, interested Scientists in Canada should contact Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa at Felicitas.Katepa-Mupondwa@canada.ca, to discuss their proposal. In the United Kingdom, Scientists should contact Evangelia Kougioumoutzi at evangelia.kougioumoutzi@bbsrc.ac.uk; in Australia, Juan Juttner at juan.juttner@grdc.com.au; and in the United States, Edward Kaleikau at ekaleikau@nifa.usda.gov.

AAFC funds will support AAFC researchers while funding partner institutions from the United Kingdom, United States and Australia would fund researchers in their respective countries.

Timelines for the proposed call follow the AAFC annual project call cycle:

- September 13, 2018 – Call for letters of Intent
- October 16, 2018 – Deadline for submission of Letters of Intent
- November 2018 – LOI results and invitation to submit full proposals
- January 2019 – Deadline for submission of full proposals
- March 2019 – Announcement of results for April 1 start date

Contact Information:
Felicitas Katepa-Mupondwa, Ph.D.
Director of Research, Development & Technology
Science & Technology Branch, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
felicitas.katepa-mupondwa@canada.ca
Tel: 306-385-9320