Call for proposals on pre-breeding projects

The Nordic Council of Ministers (NMR) has decided to set up a Public Private Partnership (PPP) for Pre-breeding in 2011. The purpose of the PPP is to support the development of Nordic plant breeding satisfying the long-term needs of the agricultural and horticultural industries, specifically regarding adaptation to Climate Change; targets for environmental policies; and demands from consumers, markets, etc.

Twelve Nordic plant breeding companies and entities have joined the PPP and are thus entitled to participate in the projects of the PPP. Terms for the PPP projects have been established in the agreement regulating the establishment of the PPP. (see attached document “Avtal”)

In addition the Steering Committee of the PPP has decided that the possibility to propose and participate in PPP projects for plant breeding companies and entities that have joined the PPP shall be restricted to crop species in which the respective companies or entities are actively pursuing plant breeding programs with the ambition to register and make available new varieties.

The Steering Committee will have ca 11 MDKR of public funding in 2011-13 from the five Nordic countries available for the NMR part of the funding of PPP-project activities. Projects are foreseen to be funded with 50 % public funding and 50 % from the plant breeding entities participating in a specific project. The plant breeding entities can participate in the funding in cash and/or in kind. Contributions in kind can be calculated at cost max 600 DKK per hour, cost level properly verified.

The Steering Committee has decided to maintain the timeframe for the pilot phase of the PPP up through 2013 with up to three projects established.

In view of the ambition to allow for participation in the PPP for as many as possible of the breeding companies and entities that have joined the PPP the Steering Committee has decided to target this Call to the following crop groups:

- Barley
- Forage crops
- Fruits and berries

The Call is only open for plant breeding entities that have joined the PPP and with the restrictions mentioned above. Proposals shall be delivered to NordGen latest November 4, 2011. Proposals will, after scientific evaluation of independent experts, be evaluated for relevance by the Steering committee of the PPP. A decision on which projects to fund is foreseen to be taken in December 2011 for project start as of Jan 1, 2012.

Projects should preferably be conducted with a considerable involvement of universities or public institutions. Projects can now be funded up to December 31, 2013. The pre-competitive nature of the proposals is an important part of the evaluation. Proposals can include participation by partners from non-Nordic countries, but with their own public-private funding. A prolongation of the PPP is foreseen, if evaluation of its initial phase will indicate positive experiences in support of this.