

PPP Call proposals on Plant pre-breeding projects for environmental and climate change adaptation

Deadline for proposals is 15th September 2020

The Nordic Public Private Partnership on Pre-breeding (PPP) is opening a call for proposals to fund plant pre-breeding projects that focus on environmental and climate resilient crops through utilization of plant genetic resources. Funding for projects depends on approval by the Nordic Council of Ministers for Fisheries, Aquaculture, Agriculture, Food and Forestry (MR-FJLS).

PPP was established by the Nordic Council of Ministers in 2011. The purpose of PPP is to support the development of Nordic plant breeding to satisfy the long-term needs of the agricultural and horticultural industries, especially regarding adaptation to climate change, targets for environmental policies, and demands from consumers and markets. For more information about PPP see the NordGen homepage: www.nordgen.org

Objective of the call

Plant production in the Nordic countries is already affecting environmental and global climatic changes. The increased variation in weather conditions within and between years is challenging the stress resilience in our crop plants. The objective with this call is to facilitate utilization of genetic resources to improve resistance to environmental and biological stresses in crops, relevant for the Nordic region now and in the future.

Who can apply?

The call is open for project proposals from:

- Nordic plant breeding entities that have joined the PPP, or are eligible to join, provided that the funding from the Nordic countries will be in line with given indications.
- Nordic research organizations.
- Associated partners can participate as partners in project proposals under the condition that these partners can provide their share of the public-private funding. This also includes potential partners from the Baltic countries.

Eligible projects and activities

The funding opportunities provide support for pre-breeding projects in relation to climate change and/or environmental stresses. Projects may focus on one or more main crops that are important in the Nordic region today, or on new or upcoming crops, e.g. protein crops.

Projects could address one or more of the following topics:

- Drought and/or heat tolerance
- Water logging resistance
- Winter hardiness
- Diseases and/or pest resistance

Funding

Approximately 24 mill SEK is available under this call for the funding period starting March 2021 and ending December 2023. The funding is expected to provide a frame of maximum 16 mill SEK in total per project, including 8 mill SEK of public funding/year and minimum of 8 mill SEK/year of corresponding funding from project partners. This could be in cash or in-kind contribution.

General application requirements

Project application

The project description should be limited to maximum 25.000 characters and 4 illustrations (e.g. figures, tables, etc.) and contain:

1. title of the project.
2. name and affiliation of the project leader.
3. a list of the participating partners and a short description of the consortium.
4. a detailed description of the proposed project; including objective, background (if relevant, include previous PPP project results), methods, collaborations, and the significance of the project in relation to future development of climate resilient crops for Nordic agriculture.
5. a project plan; including a description of work plan, a time schedule, a description of the practical framework, e.g. experimental facilities and an assessment of the feasibility of the project.
6. a plan for dissemination and ownership of results.
7. a Gantt Chart summarizing activities, including tasks, milestones and deliverables.
8. CV of the project leader and key persons.
9. Letters of commitment from consortium partners.
10. a short summary (200 words) of the project in English for the public.

It is important that the application explains how the project and the project outcome can add value to the participating Nordic plant breeding entities, Nordic agriculture and food production as well as to the Nordic societies.

Budget

Public participants (universities and institutes)

- Own contributions (in kind) from the respective public project partner can be calculated at cost with max 840 SEK per hour, cost level properly verified.
- Overhead calculation - According to the accounting principles of the respective public participant as accepted by national funding agencies, properly justified and verified.

Private participants (companies)

- Own contributions (in kind) from the respective private project partner can be calculated at cost with max 840 SEK per hour, cost level properly verified.
- Overhead calculation – As agreed between all project partners in the consortium agreement, properly justified and verified or with a max level of 25% of the direct project costs (personnel costs, consumables and travels).

Assessment and assessment criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by two independent scientific experts and prioritized by the PPP Steering Committee. Applicant notification is expected to be communicated by end January 2021. Funding decisions will be communicated to the project leader by e-mail. The Steering Committee does not provide feedback to non-successful applications.

The assessment will focus on the quality, potential impact, structure and feasibility of the project. In addition, the ability and commitment of the project consortium will be assessed. Other assessment criteria are:

- For new PPP projects priority will be given to projects that include:
 - other crops than addressed in ongoing projects
 - implementation of new breeding methods or technologies
 - introduction of genetic variation for specific traits relevant for Nordic countries
- Continuation of established PPP projects will also be evaluated on previously obtained project results and the long-term nature of the project in question.
- Level of involvement by the Nordic plant breeding entities in a specific crop together with universities or public research institutions.
- Level of financial commitment from participating plant breeding entities or other private companies.
- Impact on the competitiveness of Nordic crop production related to environmental issues and adaptation to climate change.
- Potential Nordic value and synergy
- Use of genetic resources

How to apply for funding?

Project application shall be sent by e-mail to the PPP Secretariat at NordGen no later than 15th September 2020 to e-mail: PPP-Secretariat@nordgen.org