2nd PPP Call for proposals on pre-breeding projects:

2nd Call part a: Call for continued established projects, open for all Nordic countries

2nd Call part b: Call for further development of the PPP collaboration, open for stakeholders from countries Denmark, Iceland and Sweden

The Nordic Council of Ministers (NMR) has established the Nordic 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 as partners in the projects of the PPP. 3 PPP projects have been initiated during the pilot phase of the collaboration from 2011-2014, based on a targeted call during 2011, and are well established. An external evaluation and a mid-term audit have been carried out during 2013, which have formed the basis for a continuation of the collaboration, and hence the 2nd PPP call. Terms for the PPP projects have been established in the agreement regulating the continuation of the PPP. (see "Agreement between the Nordic Council of Ministers and Nordic plant breeding companies/ Nordic public plant breeding entities concerning continuation of the Nordic Public-Private Partnership for Pre-Breeding in Plants for 2015-2017").

In addition the Steering Committee of the PPP has decided that its funding of projects shall be restricted to crop species in which a participating company or entity is actively pursuing plant breeding with the ambition to register and make available new varieties for the Nordic markets.

Due to national differences on how to prioritize the development of the Partnership and its activities, the continuation of the PPP collaboration will happen as a two string model:

2nd Call part a) Continuation of the current PPP collaboration, including a renewed call for projects. This part of the collaboration will continue with a level of funding frame of 3,5 + 3,5 mill. DKK annually; minimum 3,5 mill DKK of public funding and minimum 3,5 mill DKK from participating project partners. It is foreseen that this part of the collaboration mainly will concern the already established PPP-projects, however the call is open for new proposals as well. This part of the call is open for plant breeding entities and partners from all Nordic countries.

2nd Call part b) Further development of PPP-collaboration in the form of a call for new PPP-projects. This part of the collaboration is funded by individual Nordic countries, and the call is open only for stakeholders from participating countries, and for PPP-project activities only in the participating countries. The funding provides a frame of (3) + (3) mill DKK annually; (3) mill DKK of public funding and minimum (3) mill DKK of corresponding funding from project participants, provided that the funding from participating countries will be in line with given indications. Projects funded by this part of the PPP collaboration must – if funding from further Nordic countries become available in the future – be able to open up for participation from relevant project partners from the funding country/countries.

The PPP-Steering Committee calls for project proposals for the years 2015-2017. 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 with max 600 DKK per hour, cost level properly verified. Overheads and indirect costs can for all participants be calculated by 2 models: 1) According to the accounting principles of the respective participants as accepted by national funding agencies, properly justified and verified, and with a max level of 25% of the direct costs for participating companies; or 2) as agreed by the project partners, properly justified and verified. Overhead calculation model chosen for a project proposal is decided by the project participants. The chosen accounting principles must be clearly described in the proposal.
Projects can now be funded for a period of up to 3 years. However, funded projects can have a longer foreseen extension. Proper milestones should be described for the applied period, as well as major future work packages. Projects can now be funded up to 31\textsuperscript{st} of December 2017. A prolongation of the PPP is foreseen, if subsequent evaluation will continue to indicate positive experiences in support of this.

The call - part a) and part b) - is open for project proposals from as well plant breeding entities as Nordic research organizations, however a majority of the breeders from the funding countries for Part a) and Part b) respectively, in a specific crop must participate as partners. Proposals will, after scientific evaluation of independent expert, be evaluated for relevance by the Steering Committee of the PPP.

Projects should preferably be conducted with a considerable involvement of universities or public research institutions. The pre-competitive nature of the proposals is an important part of the evaluation. Proposals can include - if decided by the Nordic project partners - participation by partners from non-Nordic countries, but with their own public-private funding; and/or - concerning part b) - include participation by partners from non-funding Nordic countries, under the condition that these partners can provide their share of public-private funding. The level of cash contribution from participating plant breeding entities will be a parameter of decision. Proposals must provide clear and structured budgets for the applied project period.

The project proposals will be evaluated for scientific level and for relevance to Nordic agriculture. The evaluation of project proposals will take into account Nordic priorities concerning competitiveness of Nordic crop production and contributions to the development of a Nordic bio-economy, as well as goals related to environmental issues and adaptation to climate change. It is important that the application explains how the outcome of the applied project will contribute to the above mentioned Nordic priorities and agendas; how the project and the project outcome can add value to the Nordic entities, Nordic agriculture and food production, and the Nordic societies. Quantification of this added value of the project results should be estimated.

Continued funding of already established projects will be evaluated in parallel to proposals on new projects.

Proposals shall be delivered to the PPP Secretariat at NordGen latest 1\textsuperscript{st} of December 2014, at: PPP Secretariat, NordGen, Smedievägen 3, Box 41, SE-230 53 Alnarp, Sweden, or by e-mail to: morten.rasmussen@nordgen.org.

A decision on which projects to fund is foreseen to be taken in January 2015.

As soon as possible after funding decision is taken and informed the project coordinators, consortia agreements between project participants must be made and forwarded to the PPP Secretariat. Consortia agreements must clearly show how all intellectual property rights associated to the project and its outcome will be handled.

PPP Secretariat on behalf of the PPP Steering Committee