3rd PPP Call part b for proposals on pre-breeding projects:

Open for stakeholders from 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.

The 2nd PPP call, part a, resulted in support for 4 projects:

1. 2nd Step in Pre-breeding for Future Challenges in Nordic Apples; integrating resistance breeding in Apple.
2. Combining Knowledge from Field and from Laboratory for Pre-breeding in Barley II: Providing breeders tools for efficient disease resistance breeding and breeding for climate related traits.
3. PPP for pre-breeding in perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne* L.) Phase II 2015-2017; Adaptation of perennial ryegrass to Northern conditions - initiating the breeding process.
4. Nordic Public Private Partnership Plant Phenotyping Project (6P); Developing efficient high throughput phenotyping methods for future breeding

Terms for the PPP projects have been established in the agreement regulating the continuation of 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 and this is a Call for part b.

3rd Call part b)

Further development of PPP-collaboration is in the form of a Call for new PPP-projects. This part of the collaboration is funded by Denmark, Sweden and Iceland, and the Call is open only for stakeholders from these countries, and for PPP-project activities only in the participating countries.

The funding provides a frame of 8,2 mill DKK; 4,1 mill DKK of public funding and minimum 4,1 mill DKK of corresponding funding in cash and/or in kind from project partners (Nordic plant breeding
entities that have joined the PPP, or are eligible to join, are entitled to be project partners), provided that the funding from participating countries will be in line with given indications, which includes use of EIP funding for part of the Swedish contribution. Public funding of approved projects in this Call will, thus, mainly come from such Swedish EIP funding. 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.

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, i.e. up to 31st of December 2018. However, funded projects can have a longer foreseen extension. Detailed milestones should be described for the applied period, as well as major future work packages.

A prolongation of the PPP beyond the presently agreed funding from the Nordic countries up through 2017 is foreseen, if subsequent evaluation will continue to indicate positive experiences in support of this.

The Call is open for project proposals from plant breeding entities as well as Nordic research organizations; however a majority of the breeders from the funding countries for Part b) in a specific crop must participate as partners. Proposals will, after scientific evaluation of independent expert, be valued 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 project partners, participation from non-funding Nordic countries or non-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.

Proposals shall be delivered to the PPP Secretariat at NordGen latest 16th of October 2015, at: PPP Secretariat, NordGen, Smedjevägen 3, Box 41, SE-230 53 Alnarp, Sweden, or by e-mail to: annette.hagnefelt@nordgen.org.

Pending on support of Swedish EIP funds, a decision on which projects to fund is expected to be taken in December 2015.

As soon as possible after funding decision is taken and informed to 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.

Alnarp, August 31 2015.

PPP Secretariat on behalf of the PPP Steering Committee