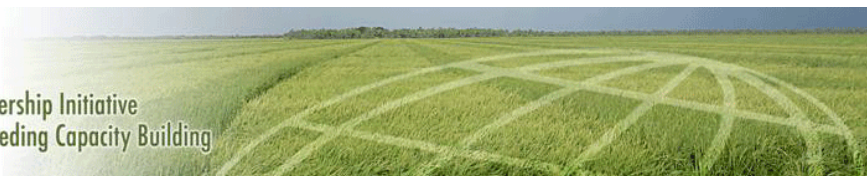




GIPB
Global Partnership Initiative
for Plant Breeding Capacity Building



The Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building in coordination with the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Generation Challenge Programme

Launches the Award Scheme

Promoting the Use of Crop Diversity to Help Address Environmental and Climate Challenges

Call for Proposals for the 2009 Awards

Food and energy prices are soaring, changes in environmental and climatic conditions are bringing new challenges to food production, and crops for bio-energy generation are conveying new opportunities as well as challenges to the agricultural sector. This new scenario being faced by today's world is calling the attention to crop diversity management and use, areas of applied science that have been neglected in the recent decades. Better use of genetic diversity through pre-breeding and breeding, in association with improved production systems are being highlighted as the best ways to tackle the huge challenge of widening the genetic and adaptability base of cropping systems, especially in developing countries.

Aware of the above challenges, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has been assessing national plant breeding and associated biotechnology capacity world-wide to determine the needs and opportunities for defining development policies and strategies to strengthen plant breeding in developing countries, complementing and adding value to genetic resources conservation efforts. Based on the needs identified in this assessment, a **Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building (GIPB)** was launched in a multi-stakeholder meeting in Madrid, in June 2006, at the time of the First Governing Body Meeting of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (IT). In the discussion, design and launching of the GIPB, representatives of the CGIAR Centers, National Agricultural Research Centers, regional centres of excellence in agricultural research, universities and other academic institutions, professional agricultural societies and NGOs participated.

GIPB is an internationally facilitated platform dedicated to enhancing the capacity of developing countries to improve crops for food security and sustainable development through better plant breeding and delivery systems. GIPB has received support from the United Nations Foundation, to work in partnership with the Global Crop Diversity Trust in the project "Securing the Biological Basis of Agriculture and Promoting New and Fuller Use of Crop Genetic Resources". These resources help GIPB operate this awards programme to support plant breeders dedicated to widening the genetic and adaptability base of improved cultivars in developing countries.

This is the first call under this Award Scheme, which is being made in coordination with complementary calls of the Global Crop Diversity Trust and the Generation Challenge Programme. All interested parties are hereby invited to submit proposals, which are going to be considered, based on their synergy and complementarity for award in early 2009.

Recognizing the bottleneck to the use of collections the **Global Crop Diversity Trust** initiated in 2007 a competitive grants scheme to support the evaluation of crop genetic resources. The grants will enable breeders and others to screen germplasm collections for important phenotypic characteristics and to make the information generated publicly available. This is the second call under this Award

Scheme. All interested parties are hereby invited to submit proposals for consideration by the Trust for an award in early 2009. The current call for proposals and further information are available at <http://www.croptrust.org/main/trust.php?itemid=84>.

The **Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research's (CGIAR) Generation Challenge Programme: Genotyping Support Services (GSS)** promotes the use of molecular markers to assess the potential value of germplasm by linking grantees with genotyping facilities they may not otherwise have access to. The call for proposals by GSS targets breeding programmes and/or germplasm collections in national agricultural research systems (NARS), academia, and civil society organisations in developing countries. The current call for proposals and further information are available at <http://www.generationcp.org/latestnews.php?i=1279>.

The following terms and conditions will apply to the GIPB Call for Proposals:

Priorities for support under the Evaluation Awards Scheme:

Grants will be awarded based on the following criteria and priorities:

Pre-breeding

The Award Scheme will fund pre-breeding or germplasm enhancement efforts, with priority to activities that include: a) gene transfer via sexual or asexual means from germplasm accessions to breeding/elite lines, and b) increasing the frequencies of desirable genes in crop pools that will be used for developing breeding lines, parents or cultivars.

Crops

Priority will be given to crops that are included in Annex I, or that are covered by Article 15, of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture¹.

Collections

Priority will be given to supporting the use of collections identified in the relevant crop and regional strategies or other expert opinion as being of greatest importance within the total global gene pool². The Trust, GSS and GIPB particularly encourage applicants to prepare proposals for the three calls which address in a coordinated manner the phenotyping, genotyping and pre-breeding, respectively, of the same collection(s).

Traits

Priority will be given to proposals intending to screen collections for multiple characters of particular importance in the context of climate change. This would include productivity under abiotic stresses such as high temperatures and low water availability, and resistance to those pests and diseases whose ravages are expected to intensify under climate change. Screening for nutritional or product quality characteristics will be considered when these attributes are important to the health, safety or income of the poorest people. Where specific traits have been identified as important in the crop strategies, or other expert consultations and opinion, these will also be considered.

Deliverables

Projects supported under this program shall be designed, among other things, to promote the introgression of new traits into relevant crop species and the increase of breeding lines available to plant breeding programmes in developing countries. Therefore, proposals must indicate clear outputs related to these objectives.

Partnerships

Collaborative proposals involving multiple countries (for example under the aegis of a regional PGRFA network), as well as regional and international research centres, will be especially welcome.

¹ For the text of the International Treaty see <http://www.fao.org/ag/cgrfa/itpgr.htm>

² For information on the strategies see <http://www.croptrust.org/main/strategies.php?itemid=82>

Data

Provision must be made for all data generated by the project to be entered into an appropriate, publicly available, electronic database, within one year of its generation. Recipients are also encouraged to publish the results in appropriate scientific journals.

Eligibility of grantees

Any individual or group of individuals working in recognized governmental, public non-governmental and/or private institution are eligible to apply for a grant provided the application receives official endorsement from the institution(s) concerned. In the event the applicant is not the legal owner of the breeding materials and collection or collections to be used, permission of the owner must be obtained prior to application.

Size and duration of grant

Grants will be awarded in the range of USD 5,000-30,000, to be spent over a period not to exceed 3 years. All work must be completed no later than 31 December 2011. Applicants will be expected to show a budgetary or in-kind contribution to the project.

Allowable expenses

Funds provided by this Award Scheme can be applied to field or laboratory supplies, equipments, services, casual labour, and local travel. Scientific and technical staff salaries and benefits, student tuition fees and/or living expenses, and international travel will not be supported. No overhead will be payable.

Reporting

An annual technical and certified financial report is required, as well as a final report upon completion of the project. An electronic copy, and if appropriate, a hard copy of each of any reports, other publications and software resulting from or relating to the project must also accompany the final report.

Intellectual Property Rights

The grant recipient will be required to certify that all materials evaluated will be made available under the terms and conditions of the Standard Material Transfer Agreement (SMTA) of the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, whether or not the material was acquired under the SMTA.

Where the Grant Recipient takes out intellectual property protection in respect of any new processes, traits, uses or like development resulting from the Project, the grant recipient shall grant an irrevocable and non-exclusive licence to GIPB in respect of such new processes, traits, uses or like development, under which GIPB may make them freely available without royalty in the developing world.

Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers shall take into account the following factors:

- (a) Statement of objectives, goals and milestones and utility of the resulting genetic variability to address biotic and abiotic constraints, enhance yield, quality and adaptability in crops of strategic importance in the developing world;
- (b) Novelty, innovation, and originality;
- (c) Suitability and feasibility of the proposed methodology;
- (d) Qualifications of the applicant to conduct the proposed project;
- (e) Institutional experience and competence in the subject area;
- (f) Adequacy of the documentation indicating applicant's institutional affiliation and support;
- (g) Adequacy of the information regarding data availability and Intellectual Property provisions;

- (h) Synergy with proposals that qualify for any of the other two simultaneous and complementary calls by the Trust and GSS;
- (i) Probability of success.

The Process

Submission of applications:

All applications must be made in English on an official proposal form, which can be downloaded from http://km.fao.org/gipb/index.php?option=com_content&task=section&id=33&Itemid.

Applications can be sent electronically (either scanned or in PDF format with signature) to: gipb-awards@fao.org

or by hard copy or fax to:

The Global Partnership Initiative for Plant Breeding Capacity Building - GIPB
Plant Production and Protection Division - AGPC
FAO Office C-784/778
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla
00153 Rome
Italy

FAX +39 06 57056347

Deadline for submission of applications:

All applications must be received by 1st September 2008.

Review of applications

All applications will be reviewed by the GIPB Secretariat, who may enter into correspondence with the applicant in order to seek any necessary clarification. In addition, all applications will be reviewed by at least one independent external reviewer. A Selection Panel, comprising staff of the GIPB, the Trust, and GSS as well as external members, will then select the successful applications. The decision of the Selection Panel shall be final.

Notification of grant award

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by the end of December 2008. Successful applicants will be sent a Grant Agreement for signature by the competent authority.

Disbursement of the grant

Disbursement of funds will normally be made annually, with the first payment at the beginning of the project, in accordance with the approved budget. In general, 30% of the grant will be withheld, to be paid upon satisfactory completion of the project.

