

Agropolis Fondation 2022 Call for Proposals (CfP)
[Ref. CfP 2201]

"International Mobility"

TERMS OF REFERENCE

I- Context and background

In 2019, Agropolis Fondation launched the call "Agriculture-based solutions" with the overall objective of promoting agro-ecological transition for tomorrow's agricultures, notably through its 3 crosscutting axes, namely:

- Axis 1: Agriculture and climate change: adaptation and mitigation;
- Axis 2: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;
- Axis 3: Responsible production and consumption.

Since then, the COVID-19 crisis and the recent events in Ukraine have further emphasised the need to review agricultural models. The COVID-19 crisis has indeed highlighted the consequences of biodiversity loss¹, environment degradation and accelerated urbanisation². Therefore, there is a need to jointly consider human, animal and environmental health³. More recently, the war in Ukraine has underlined the deep dependence of some Southern populations on cereals and other inputs produced in Europe. In this context, agriculture, forestry and other land-use activities are seen as both the main drivers of climate change⁴ and biodiversity loss⁵ and the basis for solutions based on the relocation of production and the development of agroecology⁶ at many levels on spatial, temporal and jurisdictional scales⁷.

Thus, global agriculture policies are now facing major challenges: nourishing and ensuring a good health to an increasingly urbanized world population that is expected to grow by nearly 2 billion by 2050, while responding to the major challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. The most vulnerable populations are paying the highest price for these global transformations (climate change, strong dependence on globalisation). At the same time, there is a growing consensus on the importance of using the "food system" approach to address various segments of food production,

¹ Lajaunie, C., & Morand, S., 2021, Biodiversity targets, SDGs and health: a new turn after the coronavirus pandemic? *Sustainability*, 13(8), 4353.

² Thoradeniya, T., & Jayasinghe, S., 2021, COVID-19 and future pandemics: a global systems approach and relevance to SDGs. *Globalization and Health*, 17(1), 1-10.

³ The "One Health" concept summarises an idea that has been known for more than a century: animal health, human health, and environmental health are intrinsically intertwined and interdependent. The health of one affects the health of all. We envisage and implement One Health as a collaborative global approach to understanding and managing risks for planetary health and encouraging a more sustainable ecosystem balance (<https://www.oie.int/en/what-we-do/global-initiatives/one-health/>)

Caron, A., Morand, S., Pedrono, M., Garine-Wichatitsky, M. D., Chevalier, V., ... & Binot, A., 2016, One Health and EcoHealth: the same wine in different bottles? *Infection Ecology & Epidemiology*, 6(1), 30978.

⁴ The latest Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report (<https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srccl/>) showed that agricultural, forestry and other land-use activities accounted for about 23% of total net anthropogenic GHG emissions.

⁵ The last Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report explained that more than a third of the world's land surface and nearly 75% of freshwater resources are now devoted to crop or livestock production (<https://ipbes.net/news/Media-Release-Global-Assessment>).

⁶ Altieri M.A., Nicholls C.I., 2020, Agroecology and the reconstruction of a post-COVID-19 agriculture, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, vol 47(5), 881-898

⁷ Cash, D. W., W. Adger, F. Berkes, P. Garden, L. Lebel, P. Olsson, L. Pritchard, and O. Young, 2006, Scale and cross-scale dynamics: governance and information in a multilevel world. *Ecology and Society* 11(2): 8. [online] URL: <http://www.ecologyandsociety.org/vol11/iss2/art8/>

transformation and consumption⁸. Food systems also face increasing societal demand to become more responsible by reducing negative externalities on the environment and human health, among others. In particular, it is a way to better understand how the aforementioned crises are challenging the notions of food democracy, food insecurity and food systems inter-dependence in a globalised world.

Scientists play a key role in various reflections, discussions and actions which contribute to addressing the challenge of agro-ecological transition by promoting practices and solutions which preserve natural renewable resources and lead to more desirable socio-ecosystems. One way of achieving this is mobilizing research, higher education and training towards addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aim is not only to show and study the ongoing transformations, but also to develop agriculture-based solutions to address the SDGs and the positive and negative nexuses between them:

- 1) veer away from conventional or high-input agriculture towards a more sustainable-oriented model, for a stronger contribution to the agro-ecological transition;
- 2) support scientific excellence and training to fill Knowledge-Action Gaps and co-design desirable solutions with stakeholders in agriculture;
- 3) address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a more holistic way and not in silos⁹;
- 4) promote new and/or scale up good practices (nature-based solutions, ecological intensification) and approaches for addressing the complex interactions of SDGs (e.g. sustainability science¹⁰, transformative science¹¹, integrated, interdisciplinarity or participatory science, problems-oriented approach and solutions-driven approach).

II- Objectives of the call

The present CfP aims to:

- consolidate the international recognition of the network's scientific excellence;
- grow and/or capitalise on strategic themes for the Fondation;
- strengthen or initiate partnerships of scientific excellence for the Fondation's charter members in hosting senior foreign researchers;
- encourage the international mobility of young French researchers (Masters, PhD students, post-docs & young scientists) from the Fondation's network.

III- Thematic coverage

The scope is designed to generate proposals addressing the various themes identified under each of the three crosscutting axes, which are fully aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDGs 12, 13 and 15.

Axis 1: Agriculture and climate change: adaptation and mitigation

Under this axis, the aim is to understand the effects of climate change on agricultural systems (from genes to landscapes, from local to international levels, and from short-term to long-term) and to explore/propose adaptation strategies and mitigation measures. Among the key issues, the following themes may be the subject of research and training proposals:

⁸ Mbow, C., C. Rosenzweig, L.G. Barioni, T.G. Benton, M. Herrero, M. Krishnapillai, E. Liwenga, P. Pradhan, M.G. Rivera-Ferre, T. Sapkota, F.N. Tubiello, Y. Xu, 2019, Food Security. In: *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems*.

⁹ Wang, C., Guan, D., & Cai, W., 2019, Grand Challenges Cannot Be Treated in Isolation. *One Earth*, 1(1), 24-26. doi:10.1016/j.oneear.2019.08.005

¹⁰ « Sustainability science is problem-driven, interdisciplinary scholarship that seeks to facilitate the design, implementation, and evaluation of effective interventions that foster shared prosperity and reduced poverty while protecting the environment. It is defined by the problems it addresses rather than the disciplines it employs. It thus draws as needed from multiple disciplines of the natural, social, medical and engineering sciences, from the professions, and from the knowledge of practice ». (*Harvard Univ., 2008*)

¹¹ "A specific type of science that does not only observe and describe societal transformation processes, but rather initiates and catalyses them. Transformative science aims to improve our understanding of transformation processes and to simultaneously increase societal capacity to reflect on them" in: Schneidewind U., M. Singer-Brodowski, K. Augenstein, F. Stelzer, 2016, *Pledge for a Transformative Science: A Conceptual Framework*. Wuppertal Papers No. 191. Wuppertal Institut, p. 6.

- interactive biotic and abiotic stresses on plants, animals and other living organisms, and risks associated with political, social and economic factors;
- socio and agro-ecosystem co-viability and co-benefits, synergies, tensions, trade-offs;
- vulnerability and resilience of territories: tools, practices, strategies, policies;
- enhanced crop-livestock integration.

Axis 2: Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

Under this axis, the aim is to document and analyse the measures and policies that support the conservation, and promote sustainable use of biodiversity in various agroecosystems. Among the key issues, the following themes may be the subject of research and training proposals:

- the links between biophysical functions and biodiversity: study of the microbiota, crop associations, wild, domestic, improved and hybrid biodiversity, etc.;
- agrobiodiversity through its ecological, economic and sociocultural functions;
- studies including controlled conditions, field experiments and real agrosystems;
- interactions between biodiversity, food security and plant health;
- policies (from conservation to exploitation, from local to international scales) on practices and territories: land tenure, use and access rights, protected areas, sustainable use/management, biodiversity offset, Payment for Ecosystem Services, etc.

Axis 3: Responsible production and consumption

Under this axis, the aim is to contribute in ensuring sustainable food systems by moving towards more responsible production and consumption. Among the key issues, the following themes may be the subject of research and training proposals:

- food environments: food landscapes, food deserts, food swamps;
- co-designing agro-ecosystems with stakeholders (e.g., farmers, policy-makers, experts, etc.);
- governance of sustainable food systems (certification and quality of production, public regulations, role of companies, coordination of sectors);
- bio-economy in circular economy in food and non-food systems, to include, among others efficient waste and resource management;
- animal and/vs plant-based proteins (food transformation);
- innovation and socio-ecological transformation.

IV- Project types, cost and duration

1. Up to **€450k** are available for this CfP which will fund two types of projects presented below. **A maximum of €30k** can be requested for each mobility.

a. Category 1: Incoming mobility

This category aims to give scientists and researchers from international, regional or national public research institutions **around the world (North and South)** the opportunity to work with their counterparts in the Fondation's scientific network (preference will be given to new mobilities and to scientists who have never been to Montpellier).

Two potential types of support are envisaged:

- o **1.a. Long-term incoming mobility:** foreign post-doc or young scientist coming to France for a minimum of 4 months within a unit of the Fondation's network;
- o **1.b Medium-term incoming mobility:** hosting of a senior researcher within a unit of the Fondation's network for between 1 and 3 months;

These two types of support can be combined within the same proposal.

b. Category 2: Outgoing mobility

This category aims to help young scientists from the Fondation's network research units to establish links and work with their international counterparts; or to enable PhD and/or Master students

supervised by scientists from the network research units to spend part of their training in international research centres. One potential type of support is envisaged:

- Outgoing mobility of young scientists and PhD or MSc students (6 months maximum).

V- Eligibility

2. A submitted proposal should tackle at least one of the crosscutting axes presented in Section III.
3. The lead proponent should be from one of the research units belonging to the Fondation's scientific network (Labex Agro)¹².
4. Scientists from research units or institutions outside of the Fondation's scientific network can participate as partners.
5. The table below presents the conditions and criteria for each category of actions covered under this call.

CATEGORY	CONDITIONS/REMARKS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE CANDIDATE	FUNDING LEVEL
1. International Incoming Mobility			
1.a. Long-term incoming mobility: foreign post-doc or young scientist coming to France for a minimum of 4 months within a unit of the network.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incoming mobility must be exclusively towards a research unit from the Fondation's scientific network, under the responsibility of the lead proponent, located in France. • Clearly defined objective of the scientific visit such as (1) carrying out part of or a specific research project; (2) conducting an exploratory project to be carried out jointly; (3) co-publishing articles, etc.; (4) training... • Host research unit and counterpart scientist are already identified. • This category can be combined with 1.b below. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only foreign (non-French) candidates administratively linked to a foreign public scientific institution (research and/or higher education) and who do not live in France, can apply for inbound mobility. • Foreign candidates from the private sector are not eligible to apply under this CfP • Young scientist candidate should be an early career scientist or lecturer in a permanent position with a PhD and is under 40 years old, by the CfP deadline • The visiting scientist commits himself/herself to deliver seminars/conferences during his/her stay 	Up to €30k
1.b Medium-term incoming mobility: hosting of a senior researcher within the network for between 1 and 3 months.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incoming mobility must be exclusively towards a research unit from the Fondation's scientific network, under the responsibility of the lead proponent, located in France. • Clearly defined objective of the scientific visit such as (1) carrying out part of or a specific research project; (2) conducting an exploratory project to be carried out jointly; (3) co-publishing articles, etc.; (4) teaching... • Host research unit and counterpart scientist are already identified. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only foreign (non-French) candidates administratively linked to a foreign public scientific institution (research and/or higher education) and who do not live in France, can apply for inbound mobility. • IMPORTANT: Note that proposals submitted under this category are expected to promote long-term scientific partnerships between the scientists/researchers and institutions involved. Any proposal submitted will be analyzed with regard to this objective. • Foreign candidates from the private sector are not eligible to apply under this CfP. The visiting scientist commits himself/herself to deliver 	Up to €30k

¹² For the list of the Fondation's research units, please visit <http://www.agropolis-fondation.fr/Unites-de-recherche>. Interested parties are highly encouraged to contact directly the concerned research unit(s) in writing.

CATEGORY	CONDITIONS/REMARKS	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA OF THE CANDIDATE	FUNDING LEVEL
		seminars/conferences during his/her stay.	
2. International Outgoing Mobility			
Outgoing Mobility of young scientists, PhD and MSc students for a duration of up to 6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants should present (1) a research project (or PhD thesis or MSc research); (2) an exploratory project to be carried out jointly with counterpart scientist(s) in the host institution; or (3) trajectory of the visit (e.g., scientific networking, prospecting for potential research collaboration, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young scientist, Engineer, Post-doc, PhD and MSc students should be no more than 40 years old by the time of application. They can be permanent or non-permanent staff but must be administratively related to a research unit from the Fondation's scientific network. For MSc level, a single application may cover for up to two students provided that they work as a team, with complementary expertises/approaches, the mobility is carried out in the same field, and they have the same supervisor. 	Up to €30k

VI- Eligible expenditures

11. Eligible costs for each support action presented in the table above are restricted to those that are directly related to mobility, such as:
 - Travel expenses/air tickets, travel insurance
 - Complementary salary or allowance and associated social costs or social security contributions
 - Housing allowance
 - Consultancies and services subcontracted specifically for the project (e.g., in case of proposal development)
 - Limited consumable items
 - Publication and dissemination costs, including cost related to organization of events
 - Overheads (max 8% of the grant amount for each partner).
12. Other related expenditures that could not be covered by the funds provided under this call should either be mobilized by the proponent or negotiated by the proponent to be covered by the host institution or other partners.
13. No more than 30% of the total grant should be transferred to partners outside of the Fondation's scientific network (Labex Agro), to external service providers or to consultants.
14. Non-eligible costs include items such as:
 - Expenditures linked to internal services
 - Salaries of staff that are not specifically recruited for the project
 - Expenditures linked to existing infrastructure
 - Expenditures already funded through other sources
15. The project's full cost must be presented including counterparts from the applicants and their partners in the Financial Annex.

VII- Evaluation process and criteria

16. The Fondation's Science Council (SC) shall review all eligible proposals.
17. The main following criteria will be assessed:

- Scientific quality and overall coherence (i.e., clarity of objectives and expected outputs, robust methodology, publication plan (if applicable), etc.)
- Relevance and strategic nature of the scientific content of the proposal
- Originality and innovativeness of the scientific topic to be addressed/explored
- Overall feasibility and potential project trajectory (i.e., strategic positioning and ambition)
- Quality of partnership and collaboration (e.g., role repartition...)
- Strategic nature of the partnership
- Budget adequacy

18. Funding under this CfP is conditional, subject to confirmation by both the mother institution and the host institution of the applicant.

VIII- Submitting proposals and timetable

19. The present CfP will be organized in three waves that will be evaluated by the Science Council in October 2022, April 2023 and October 2023.

Wave	Dates of the call	Date of projects selection
Wave 1	June to September 2022	October 2022
Wave 2	January to March 2023	April 2023
Wave 3	June to September 2023	October 2023

20. The deadline for the ongoing first wave is 15 September 2022, 11.59 PM CET

21. **All the projects must be submitted online here:**

<https://agropolis.jotform.com/assign/221602208966960/210936356109052>

22. All the selected projects must end before 30 June 2024.

23. All the submitted proposals must be written in English.

24. Proponents should submit a duly completed Application Form online, including applicable annexes.

25. Incomplete submissions, late submissions and submissions exceeding the maximum number of pages allowed and which do not respect the required font will not be considered eligible. The proposal will not be evaluated.

26. Agropolis Fondation shall not be held responsible for submissions not received due to technical problems preventing the transfer of proposals electronically.

27. By submitting a proposal, the project coordinators assure that they have obtained the approval of their managing authorities and of all the parties involved in the project. Written confirmation of these approvals will be required prior to the implementation of selected projects.

Please note that all proposals received under this CfP shall be archived and could be used by Agropolis Fondation for analysis in the context of its activities. A proposal shall not be shared with a Third Party without prior consent of its lead proponent.

For further information, you can contact: Pierre Péré, Programme Officer: pere@agropolis.fr