Project GREEEN

Request for Proposals 2020

INTRODUCTION

Project GREEEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs) is a cooperative effort by plant-based commodities and businesses with AgBioResearch, Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD). The Michigan Legislature created Project GREEEN to advance Michigan's economy through its plant-based agriculture. Its mission is to:

- Develop research and educational programs in response to industry needs;
- Ensure and improve food safety; and
- Protect and preserve the quality of the environment.

Funding for competitive grants to meet this mission is available during the upcoming fiscal year. New proposals for FY20 and continuation of multi-year projects funding in FY18 and FY19 will be considered for funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Principal Investigators (P.I.) must be employed by Michigan State University or the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. There are no restrictions on employment status of other team members.

TIMELINE FOR FY20 PROJECTS

- **October 14, 2020**   Call for proposals
- **January 13, 2020**   Proposals due
- **April 1-7, 2020**   Notification of awards
- **May 4-8, 2020**   Project funds available*
- **June 30, 2021**   Termination date for FY20 funding

*Please note that technically the funding cycle runs from July 1st – June 30th. Project GREEEN awards are allocated in May to assist with the planting season. Our target is early May; however, allocations may result at a later time.

INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

Project GREEEN has been meeting plant agriculture industry challenges since 1998. Current research and extension priorities have been submitted to Project GREEEN by commodity groups and other partners. They are available by visiting agbioresearch.msu.edu.

All proposals must clearly state how the proposed activities will enhance Michigan's plant-based agriculture. Projects must deliver clearly defined results within a realistic time frame. All proposals will be evaluated by peer review panels composed of researchers, educators, and industry/government professionals.

Project GREEEN proposals are due Monday, January 13,2020.

**View research priorities and submit grant proposals thru
https://competingforgreeen.agbioresearch.msu.edu/.**

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PROGRAM AREAS

All proposals should focus on priorities identified by plant industry groups and other commodity partners.

Applied Research proposals must:
- Enhance industry profitability
- Provide long-term benefits to Michigan's plant agriculture
- Contain a plan to disseminate information to the plant industries
- Be environmentally and socially responsible
- Address issues through single or multi-disciplinary approaches

Basic Research proposals must:
- Generate knowledge that can be used to:
  - Address contemporary problems and/or
  - Enable future development of improved techniques
- Link to plant commodity priorities
- Include a vision and plans for the improvement of Michigan crops or other industry segments
- Position investigators to be competitive for national/international grants

Extension/Demonstration proposals must:
- Have regional or statewide orientation
- Utilize a team of campus and field-based personnel
- Be supported by and use results from Project GREEEN or other relevant MSU research projects

Seed Grant proposals must:
- Support the development of highly competitive proposals for submission to federal agencies that support research aligned with the Project GREEEN mission
- Proposed expenditures clearly focus on data generation and other specific activities needed for preparation of a highly competitive grant proposal
- Include a specific plan (including timeline and target funding agency) for the submission of a grant proposal
- The major outcome of the project is the successful submission of a proposal to the target program

FUNDING SCOPE

To maintain the flexibility of Project GREEEN funding, there are established guidelines for funding amount and multi-year proposals. All multi-year requests must clearly justify the proposed time span and provide a progressive linkage among the activities in subsequent years. Multi-year funding is not guaranteed but is contingent on satisfactory progress and available Project GREEEN funding. If year one activities are considered preliminary, submit as a single-year proposal.

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MULTI-YEAR FUNDING GUIDELINES New

fiscal year 2020 projects-time limits:
- Applied Research – two year maximum
- Basic Research – two year maximum
- Extension/Demonstration – two year maximum
- Seed Funding – one year

New fiscal year 2020 projects-funding limits. There is no formal cap on the amount of funding requested. However, strong justification is required for requests in excess of:
- Applied Research - $40,000 per year
- Basic Research - $40,000 per year
- Extension/Demonstration - $25,000 per year
- Seed Funding - $40,000 total

PROPOSAL REVIEW

All proposals are subjected to scientific review and ranking by panels composed of current and emeritus MSU faculty, academic staff, MSUE educators, MDARD employees and industry professionals. Each panel is selected by Project GREEEN leadership to meet the needs of the individual funding panels. The identity of panel members is confidential.

The chair of each review panel reports the recommendations of the panel to the Directors' Action Team. The DAT reviews these rankings and makes final decisions on funded proposals and appropriate allocations. The following criteria are used by all panel members.

Evaluation Criteria	Applied	Basic	Extension	Seed Funding
Alignment with specific programmatic priorities of the industries and/or commodities served by Project GREEEN. Letters of support from industry and commitment with matching funds.	20	20	20	15
Extent of partnering with and potential impact on Michigan plant agriculture industries.	10	5	15	10
Mechanism to deliver information to Michigan plant agriculture industries.	15	-	30	-
Scientific soundness; appropriateness of methodology; feasibility of completion. How does the scope fit into this? Does it connect to previous research? How does this stimulate future opportunities?	35	40	25	35
Team composition and investigator qualifications are aligned with project objectives.	10	10	5	10
Leverage of external and other funding sources.	10	25	5	30
Total	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

^ Use this as a guideline for determining the strengths and weaknesses of your proposal. Panel reviewers utilize this evaluation criteria when reviewing proposals.

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