Special Initiatives Information Session

October 11, 2022

Agenda

- Land acknowledgement – Stacy Favrin

- Welcome – Adam Meyer

- Roundtable introductions

- One Health Institute remarks – Jeff Wichtel

- Special Initiatives program overview – Stacy Favrin and Nicole Rabe

- Q&A – open discussion

Special Initiatives Program - Overview

- The Special Initiatives (SI) Research Program is a flexible program administered under the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance

- The 2022 SI program is issuing a research call focused on **climate change and food security**

- The program will support one or more large, collaborative project(s) that will bring a **One Health** approach to explore climate change impacts, opportunities and solutions related to human, animal, plant and environmental systems

- Projects are expected to be transdisciplinary and lead to multi-sector outcomes

SI Program Timelines

The 2022 SI call will be administered in a two-stage process – Expressions of Interest (EOI) and Full Proposals (by invitation only)

Process	Date
Call for Expressions of Interest	September 22, 2022
Expressions of Interest due	November 22, 2022 at 1:00 pm
Notification/Full Proposals invitations	Anticipated by end of December
Full Proposals due	Mid February 2023
Project start date	On or after May 1, 2023

Project Duration: Up to 3 years

Maximum Funding Request: Up to $1 million

Eligibility

- University of Guelph faculty members are eligible to be the lead applicant and/or a co-applicant on any Alliance Research Program project

- Adjunct faculty members may also apply if they are eligible to hold research funding at the University of Guelph and are not employed by or have a financial interest in any of the collaborating organizations or co-funders.

Prior to a new proposal being reviewed in any Alliance Research Program, the Lead Applicant and the Co-Applicant must be in "good standing" for all existing projects under the Alliance Research Programs (e.g., reports and DMPs)

Research Management System (RMS)

- All Alliance programming is administered in the RMS

- If you have never registered in the RMS select "Register" on the login page https://omafra2.smartsimple.ca

- Contact rescoord@uoguelph.ca for login assistance if needed

- To apply:
  - Log in to the RMS and find the Tier 1 open call
  - Click on Determine Eligibility button and answer the eligibility questions
  - Complete all tabs (Intent fields due October 14)
  - Append supporting documentation in PDF format (CVs, letters of support, Value Assessment Plan if applicable)

Recommended browsers: Chrome, Safari, Firefox

Research Questions

Applications must address one of the following research questions:

1. What are the effects of climate change on agricultural and natural systems that create risks and mitigations for food security, food safety and/or animal/plant disease and how are they interconnected?

2. What are the cascade effects of climate change driven events on biodiversity within agroecosystems: what are the risks, opportunities and solutions for the agri-food, food safety and health systems?

Project Scope

Projects are expected to:

- Build on past and current research, and leverage existing resources and data sources such as sentinel surveillance systems wherever possible

- Be highly collaborative and trans-disciplinary including, but not limited to, involvement from researchers in environmental science, veterinary science, agricultural science, and/or social science (policy, economics etc.)

- Be scoped to focus on multi-system responses to the intersection of multiple shocks/disasters, as they relate to climate change

- Focus on communities or populations with poor social determinants for health (including but not limited to geography, and/or poverty)

- Incorporate a community-driven solution

- Include aspects of the following topics: flooding, heat, drought, pollinators, recreation, connection to nature, green infrastructure, economics and provisions, wildlife health, food security, water quality/quantity, ecosystem services including protection from diseases (applicable to Research Question #2)

Project Outcomes

The desired outcome of this targeted research call is to:

- Understand and address the impacts of climate change on agricultural/natural systems or biodiversity within agroecosystems that directly impact food security, food safety and plant/animal disease

- Support larger scale projects that incorporate multi/transdisciplinary approaches and solutions that demonstrate the complex interconnectedness of the elements within the system in response to climate change

- Facilitate the development of multi-faceted solutions to a complex climate change problem with consideration of One Health outcomes, applications, methodologies, collaborations and solutions

- Develop and share diverse KTT products that are intended for a non-academic audiences that could inform government and/or industry/sector associations

- Support further refinement of best management practices, funding programs, policy development and legislation

EOI Template − General and Team Tab

General Tab

- General project information plus a project description

Team Tab

- Ensure that the appropriate research expertise is brought to bear on the research objectives to be achieved, including implementation of KTT

- Details of the **team member invitation process** are in the RMS. Become familiar with the process and allow sufficient time for team to confirm their participation in the project by EOI deadline

  - Confirmed Collaborators will have read-only access to the proposal; Co-Applicant and Delegate (both optional) with have ability to edit

- **HQP Trained** − estimate the of number of HQP anticipated to be trained

EOI Template – Proposal Details Tab

- **Fit with Priorities** - Alignment with one of the specific research questions identified for this call
- **Rationale and Benefits** - rationale for the research and key benefits to end user groups
- **Objectives -** The major outcomes expected from the research
- **Approach -** Briefly outline how the project will be scoped achieve project objectives, demonstrating a transdisciplinary, One Health approach
- **Deliverables -** Deliverables should be tangible and measurable and, when completed, will demonstrate that project objectives have been achieved
- **Budget -** An estimate of the total project funding requested, and an estimated breakdown by major funding category is required

Leverage / Partner Funding - Leverage and partner support is encouraged and can be identified in the Full Proposal.   **No OR-5 Form** is needed at the EOI stage.

Proposal Review Process

All proposals will be reviewed by subject matter experts from academia, and government against established review criteria including:

- Fit with OMAFRA priorities (research questions)

- Strength of the project lead(s) and research team – projects are expected to be transdisciplinary and highly collaborative

- Benefits to client groups and contribution to Ontario's agri-food sector and rural communities. End users should be engaged early on wherever possible

- Demonstration of the development of multi-faceted solutions to complex climate change problems with consideration of One Health outcomes, applications, methodologies, collaborations and solutions

- Objectives and deliverables that are clear, tangible, measurable and achievable

Program Contacts

University of Guelph

To help network and build a multidisciplinary research team

- One Health Institute: onehealth@uoguelph.ca

For support with intellectual property or leveraging opportunities

- Vanja Banks, Industry Liaison Officer, RIO: vbanks@uoguelph.ca

For support completing your application and help with the RMS

- Research Program Coordinators (RPCs): rescoord@uoguelph.ca

Office of Research, Agri-Food Partnership contacts

- Stacy Favrin, Sr. Manager, OMAFRA/UofG Agreement Research Programs: favrinst@uoguelph.ca
- Rye Telfer, Manager, Research Program Compliance: ryetelfer@uoguelph.ca

OMAFRA

For questions about the research priorities/expected project outcomes, or to connect with OMAFRA specialists

- Nicole Rabe, Senior Research Advisor: Nicole.rabe@ontario.ca

Questions?

https://www.uoguelph.ca/alliance/