

Doug and Maria Bayer New Initiatives Fund for Sustainable Agriculture 2024 Request for Proposals

Introduction

As a result of a generous endowment from Doug and Maria Bayer to Michigan State University (MSU), the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) is able to provide seed funding to support collaborative research projects in sustainable agriculture and food systems. More specifically, projects funded with this 2024 seed funding are intended to initiate research in sustainable agriculture by bringing faculty together from MSU and other institutions to plan and coordinate grants from the largest institutions that fund agricultural research, federal and state agencies, and large national foundations, thus leveraging seed funding into major external grant opportunities.

Areas Targeted for Funding

Proposed projects should directly and strongly support new discoveries and practical applications in sustainable agriculture and food systems. Possible focus areas include projects that support food security, promote sustainability, and/or minimize environmental degradation with changing climate.

Eligibility

Tenure-stream or fixed-term faculty who have an affiliation with CANR and holding a position of Assistant Professor or higher at MSU are eligible to apply as lead Principal Investigator (PI). Employment status is not restricted for other team members from MSU and other institutions.

Program Funding and Budgetary Information

Projects may be proposed for a one to two-year duration with a maximum project budget of \$50,000 total. Funding may be proposed to cover project-related costs. PI salaries, subawards, and indirect costs are not allowable under this program. Professional services/contracts/consultants are allowable, if necessary.

In 2024, one project will be funded through this RFP with funding provided by the Doug and Maria Bayer New Initiatives Fund for Sustainable Agriculture. One additional project may be funded through this competition with funding provided from CANR.

Timeline

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| ▪ February 5, 2024 | Request for proposals released |
| ▪ March 29, 2024 | Proposals due by 5:00 PM |
| ▪ April 22, 2024 | Notification of awards |
| ▪ May 1, 2024 | Funding available (initiation of projects) |
| ▪ April 30, 2025 | Termination date for one-year projects |
| ▪ April 30, 2026 | Termination date for two-year projects |

The annual RFP process will be coordinated through AgBioResearch on behalf of CANR. A panel of faculty reviewers (inclusive of the AgBioResearch Associate Director) will be responsible for selecting grant recipients. Before decisions are finalized, the lead PI may be asked to present the proposed project to the panel.

Progress reports will be required as a condition of funding with details being outlined in award notices. All funds are to be spent by termination date.

Proposal Structure and Submission Guidelines

Proposals must be submitted to Tammy Deppong (deppong1@msu.edu) by 5:00PM on March 29, 2024.

Additionally, a Proposal Development (PD) document must be routed through the MSU Research Administration/Kuali Research (KR) system.

All proposals should be submitted using Arial 11 pt. font, single spaced, 0.5-inch margins, with double spacing between paragraphs. Proposal content must adhere to length limitations as described below. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in the proposal being rejected without review. Proposals should be submitted in a single PDF document and contain the following components:

- 1) Cover Page – 1 page (extract and use template cover page on page 3 of RFP)
 - a. Project Title
 - b. Principal Investigator and Team Members, including title(s), institutional affiliation(s), academic unit(s), and e-mail address(es) for each individual
 - c. Total Duration of Project
 - d. Total Funds Requested
 - e. Project Summary (limited to 250 words)
- 2) Problem Statement and Need for the Project (limited to 300 words)
- 3) Goals and Objectives of Project
- 4) Summary of Methodology
- 5) Anticipated Results and Impacts
- 6) Project Timeline
- 7) Proposed Funding Agencies, including program titles for targeted external grant opportunities and timeline for seeking proposed funding
- 8) Budget and Justification – (extract and use template budget form on page 4 of RFP)
- 9) Description of Team Qualifications (limited to 250 words) and a 2-page CV from each Team Member
- 10) Literature Cited

*Note – Items 2-7 cannot exceed four pages in length.

Cover Page

Project Title: Click here to enter text.
Principal Investigator: Click here to enter text.
Campus Mailing Address: Click here to enter text.
Email Address: Click here to enter text.
Team Member(s), Title(s), and E-mail Address(es): Click here to enter text.
Academic Units Involved: Click here to enter text.
Total Duration of Project: Click here to enter text.
Total Funds Requested: Click here to enter text.

Proposal Summary (limit to 250 words):

Project Budget Form

	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	TOTAL REQUEST
A. PERSONNEL - SALARIES, WAGES, AND FRINGE BENEFITS			
Research Associates/Post-Docs/On-Call/Technical			
Fringe Benefits			
Graduate Students			
Fringe Benefits			
Undergraduate Students			
Fringe Benefits			
B. EQUIPMENT			
C. TRAVEL			
D. MATERIALS & SUPPLIES			
E. PUBLICATIONS			
F. OTHER COSTS (include itemized justification)			
TOTAL PROJECT COSTS:			

**Budget Justification required to be submitted within proposal.*