Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Special Initiatives Program Town Hall

April 7, 2020

Special Initiatives – Program Overview

There are provisions under the new OMAFRA-University of Guelph Agreement to support research and science needs that have historically not been well addressed through the annual call for proposals process.

Breeding Research	Medium Term Trials	Long Term Trials	Modelling	Synthesis

Each Special Initiative project has a clear description and outcomes which researchers must address in their Full Proposals.

Unlike Tier I, they also have a designated budget amount and duration, which have been approved by the Ministry.

Special Initiatives – Program Overview

- Single stage call (Full Proposal only)
- Development and submission of applications in the 'Next Generation' Research Management System
- Research team member invitation process
- No signed OR-5 forms needed

Process	Dates
Call for Full Proposals	March 31
Full Proposals due	May 1 at noon
Award notification	May 29

Project Duration and **Maximum Funding Request** for each project are outlined in the Appendix of the Program Guide

Research Priorities

- Proposals submitted to the Special Initiatives (SI) Program **must specially align** with one of the 13 project descriptions outlined in the appendix of the Program Guide

- Applicants can reach out to OMAFRA staff identified on the projects for more information

Program Guide:

https://www.uoguelph.ca/alliance/system/files/Special_Initiatives_Program_Guide-Ontario-Agri-Food-Innovation-Alliance-April-2020-access.pdf

Special Initiatives - Projects for 2020

1. Investigating Noise Impacts of Grain Dryers on Neighboring Land Uses
2. Removing Zinc from Greenhouse Stormwater
3. Market Conditions for Small Scale On-Farm Anaerobic Digestion
4. Ontario Topsoil Sampling Program
5. Assessment of the State of Rural Drainage Infrastructure in Ontario
6. Garlic Germplasm and Clean Seed Production
7. Potential for Re-Introduction and Commercial Wild-Simulated Production of Ginseng in Ontario Forests
8. Requirements for an Advanced Pasture-based Ruminant (Beef & Sheep) Benchmarked Production System for Ontario
9. Assessing Cover Crop Herbicide Tolerance for Adverse Weather Response
10. Building a Comprehensive Approach to Evaluate the Productivity and Sustainability of Ontario's Agri-Food System
11. Investigation of Light Abatement Practices for Year-round Greenhouse Production
12. Examining Barriers to Accessing Food Animal Veterinarians in Underserviced Areas of Ontario
13. Swine Smallholder Post-mortem Project

How to Apply

- Apply for funding in the 'Next Generation' Research Management System (NG-RMS): https://omafra2.smartsimple.ca

- Full log-in instructions available on the SI program webpage: https://www.uoguelph.ca/alliance/funding-programs/special-initiatives

Ideally, one strong submission will be received for each SI Project.

Collaborative submissions are highly encouraged so that the best expertise at UofG is brought to bear to address OMAFRA's Special Initiatives research needs.

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

Please Note: Prior to being awarded any new project under the Alliance, lead applicants and co-applicants must be **fully compliant with all reporting requirements** for existing projects under the OMAFRA-UofG/Alliance Research Program

Supports for Applicants

- **Special Initiatives Program Guide**
- **Tip sheets** on the NG-RMS Researcher Workbench home page
- **Instructions and tool tips** within the NG-RMS Application
- **KTT Manual** and sample KTT plans

Questions about the application process?

- Contact our Research Program Coordinator, Kat Tisshaw, at rescoord@uoguelph.ca

Technical difficulties in NG-RMS?

- Contact Kelly Jackson at rms@ontario.ca or 226-979-0557

Team Members & Invitation Process

- Ensure that the appropriate research expertise is brought to bear on the research objectives to be achieved

- A new **team member invitation process** has been implemented in NG-RMS

- All team members should <u>confirm their participation</u> in the project by the Full Proposal submission date

  - Details of the team member invitation process are in the NG-RMS. Become familiar with the process and allow sufficient time

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

- The involvement of all team members (including their estimated actual FTE contributions to the project) will be reported on in annual and final reports

Note: Ensure that all UofG technical staff (Alliance and non-Alliance supported) involved in the project are identified in the team member <u>table</u>.

Highly Qualified Personnel

- Highly qualified personnel (HQP) are captured separately from team members in the NG-RMS (graduate students, Post-Docs and undergraduates/summer students)

- Provide details on <u>all</u> HQP that will be involved in the project, regardless of their stipend funding source and whether they have been specifically identified

- Highly Qualified Personnel do not need to be invited

Note: The training and development of HQP is an important objective of the Alliance and an Agreement performance indicator

Effort should be made wherever possible to engage HQP in Alliance-funded research projects

Leverage, Research Stations & Budget

- Third party support (leverage) is **not a requirement** for the Special Initiatives Program

- Identify all research station services to be used (if applicable). **Research station use is subsidized at 100%** for the SI Program

- Refer to Program Guide for budget details, including eligibility of expenses

- Fully explain/justify expenditures in the text boxes provided

Knowledge Translation & Transfer

- Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) is an information exchange process aimed at getting science "off the shelf" and into the hands of the people who need it

- All projects must include a KTT plan

- New KTT resources for researchers:

    - Manual of Best Practices

    - Toolkits, Checklists and Sample KTT Plans

- https://www.uoguelph.ca/alliance/KTT-services-and-resources

- Contact kttadmin@uoguelph.ca with questions

Intellectual Property

- Details on IP expected to be developed from the proposed research is required for the full proposal

- Concerns about disclosing sensitive IP? Contact [The Research Innovation Office](#) to assist with info to be included in the proposal to allow adequate committee review

Supporting Documentation

Team Member Supporting Documentation:
- Lead Applicant and Co-Applicant CVs

Proposal Details Supporting Documentation (if applicable):
- Literature review references
- Methodology information

Other Supporting Documentation (if applicable)
- Letters of support (if applicable)

- **No paper OR-5 form** or signatures required. Fill in fields online. Approvals will happen after submission.

Proposal Review Process

All proposals will be reviewed by OMAFRA staff and a UofG Research Program Director. Proposals will be reviewed against established criteria including:

- Alignment of the proposal with a SI Project (see Program Guide)
- Strength of the project lead(s) and research team in carrying out the experimental plan
- Quality, level of detail, and clarity of the objectives, milestones, and experimental design
- Deliverables that are clear, tangible, measurable, and achievable
- Strength of the Knowledge Translation and Transfer (KTT) plan

Funding recommendations will be provided to the Ontario Agri-Food Innovation Alliance Research Program Management Committee.

Final funding decisions are at the discretion of OMAFRA.

Award Phase and Progress Reporting

Award Phase:

- Conditions of funding need to be met prior to award

- Completion of Award Agreement

- Data Management Plans (DMPs) are a post-award requirement. Details at: https://www.uoguelph.ca/alliance/dmp

Progress Reporting and Accountability:

- Annual reports due 30 days past anniversary of start date

- Final reports due 60 days after project end date

Please ensure reports are as complete and comprehensive as possible to avoid revision workflows

Questions?