



January 2017

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: NEW INNOVATOR IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE RESEARCH AWARD

The Foundation for Food and Agricultural Research (FFAR) seeks nominations for its New Innovator in Food and Agriculture Research Award. With this program, FFAR intends to support and promote the future generation of exceptionally talented and creative new faculty who are conducting critical research and establishing research programs that will lead to expanded availability of food and facilitate the global practice of sustainable agriculture as the world's population grows to more than 9 billion people by the year 2050. With this award, FFAR seeks to promote career advancement of highly creative and promising new scientists who intend to make a long-term career commitment to research in food and agriculture and bring innovative, ground-breaking research initiatives and thinking to bear on problems facing food and agriculture.

U.S. institutions of higher education, U.S. nonprofit institutions other than institutions of higher education, and the US Department of Agriculture **are invited to nominate up to two applicants for the 2017 New Innovator in Food and Agriculture Research Award.**

Within the scope of the New Innovator program, investigators will have the freedom to explore new avenues of inquiry that arise during the course of their research. **Therefore, FFAR is interested in the program of research to be explored and its impact as opposed to a list of very specific aims.** It is expected that through this program investigators will have the ability to pursue highly creative ideas, to firmly establish their early lines of research into important food and agriculture scientific areas and provide stability in funding during their critical early career years by reducing the time spent on writing applications.

FFAR anticipates funding no more than a total of **ten awards** within the following Target Areas of Research:

- **Optimizing Agricultural Water Use**
- **Transforming Soil Health**
- **Enhancing Sustainable Farm Animal Productivity, Resilience, and Health**
- Improving Plant Efficiency
- Achieving a Deeper Understanding of Nutrition and Healthful Food Choices
- Managing Food Production Systems to Enhance Nutritional Outcomes

- Spurring Food System Innovation

APPLICATION INFORMATION

1) Eligible Institutions

- U.S. Institutions of Higher Education
 - Public/state controlled institutions of higher education
 - Private institutions of higher education
- U.S. Nonprofit Research Institutions other than Institutions of Higher Education
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

In keeping with FFAR goals to reach a diverse and broad range of institutions and individuals who participate in its programs, the following types of higher education institutions are always encouraged to apply for FFAR programs:

- Hispanic-serving Institutions
- 1890s Land Grant Institutions and other Historically Black Colleges and Universities
- Tribal Colleges and Universities
- Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions
- Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions

2) Eligible Individuals

Faculty members at eligible institutions with the creative ideas, skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research program as Principal Investigator are invited to work with his/her organization to develop an application for support. **Faculty member must have been hired on or after August 1, 2013**, for his or her tenure-track or equivalent position and may work in any discipline or any department within the organization. Preference will be given to individuals near the onset of their independent research career and who are within eight years of receiving a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Individuals with significant research experience prior to obtaining their faculty position will not be considered.

Institutions may submit up to two nominees to the 2017 New Innovator Award program. To facilitate institutional submission(s), **FFAR recommends that the nomination(s) be submitted through the organization's Office of Sponsored Programs or a similar central office.**

3) Application Requirements

To prepare an excellent New Innovator application, nominees can access FFAR Program Guidelines and Application Instructions [link]. Nominees may submit applications only after they receive an invitation through the online application process, which will open in March 2017.

4) Nomination Process and Timeline

To submit a nomination, visit <https://proposalcentral.altum.com> and log in as an applicant. If you don't already have an account, please set one by clicking the orange "Create One Now!" button.

Please be prepared to submit the name of nominee(s), department, institution, title, start date for current position, and FFAR Target Area of Research in which the individual(s) will be working. Once nominations are reviewed by FFAR, only applications listing these nominated individuals as principal investigator will be accepted.

Timeline

- Nominations due: **11:59 pm EST on February 28, 2017**
- Nominees invited to submit online application: **by March 10, 2017**
- Application due: **11:59 pm EST on April 21, 2017**

5) Review Criteria

Each application will reviewed for:

- Novelty, innovation, and originality.
- Potential to advance food and agriculture science within the FFAR target areas and impact agricultural production, products, health, and/or sustainability.
- Adequacy of the description of the undertaking and suitability and feasibility.
- Potential for research results/outcomes to be implemented in practice.
- Qualifications of project personnel and adequacy of facilities:
 - The PI has the proper background, skills and/or experience to conduct the research.
 - The PI has the potential for future accomplishments and this research forms the foundation for a successful career in agricultural sciences.
 - The PI is committed and able to be an excellent mentor and supports diversity within his or her program.
 - The facilities and institutional support are appropriate to conduct the research.

6) Potential for Collaboration

FFAR recognizes that agriculture and food sciences are highly complex, requiring individuals from a variety of disciplines to realize the potential in a given field or research area. Particularly for early stage investigators, collaborators are often essential for success. While this award is made to an outstanding early career investigator, applicants should include information regarding essential collaborators and also include letters of support from those collaborators. In these letters, the collaborators should comment on the potential of the individual to achieve success.

7) Budget

FFAR will award each applicant up to \$100,000 per year for three years with an additional \$100,000 required cash match from non-federal sources for a total award of up to \$600,000. Applicants may ask for a longer duration award provided total funds do not exceed \$600,000 and FFAR's allocation does not exceed 50 percent of the total award amount.

To receive an award, the match must be secured by the nominating institution. Matching must be either from non-federal source and may not come from funds already designated for other purposes. For example, a faculty member's start-up package that was developed through employment negotiations may not be redirected to cover the match. In-kind matching is not permissible. Indirect costs are limited to 10 percent of the total award. Construction and renovation costs are not allowed. Salaries of principal investigators are allowed for time not covered by institutional or other grant funds and effort should be commensurate with the research proposed.