

# Faculty global seed grants

Spring 2021

## Purpose and scope

UTIA's Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture requests proposals from UTIA faculty teams for global seed grants. Teams must include faculty whose primary appointments are held in at least two different UTIA departments, centers or units. There is no theme for this year's seed grant call. Please note the geographic restrictions in the eligibility section below.

This seed grant opportunity is intended to assist interdisciplinary faculty teams to build strong global collaborations that will seek sustainable real life solutions, and lead to additional impacts, including the development of expanded proposals to be submitted to donor agencies for extramural funding. Teams are highly encouraged to establish or strengthen national and international collaboration with scientists at various institutions including universities, international research centers, private, non-profit, federal or global agencies. Teams should develop proposals that have significant potential for bridging the tripartite education-research-extension mission of UTIA. Although proposals *may* include domestic partners and propose activities within Tennessee or the United States, proposals should primarily focus on global dimensions of issues of relevance to UTIA, developing collaborations with international partners.

## Eligibility

With generous gifts to support UTIA international seed grants from the Milam and Smith families, proposals must request funding to work in, or for work with partners linked to the following countries:

- i) Guatemala
- ii) Any country (or countries) in sub-Saharan Africa

Lead (PI) faculty members for international seed grants must be faculty with UTIA appointments in teaching, research and/or extension (including the College of Veterinary Medicine). Faculty without UTIA appointments, faculty with adjunct appointments at UTIA, visiting faculty on sabbatical, visiting faculty on one-year appointments, post-doctoral research associates, staff and graduate students may be included as team members, but are ineligible to serve as PI. However, the majority of team members are expected to be UTIA faculty.

Teams must include faculty members whose primary appointments are held in at least two different UTIA departments, centers or units. A primary goal of this program is to encourage faculty to collaborate across disciplines in order to address challenges that also cut across

traditional disciplinary lines. Teams may include personnel from other entities under the UT system (e.g. UTK); however, team members from outside of UTIA are ineligible to receive funding from this program and should instead provide their own financial support from other sources in order to participate.

Teams must articulate in their proposal how they intend to address at least two of: i) education, ii) research, iii) extension/outreach. Proposals that only address one of these three aspects of the land-grant tripartite mission will not be considered for seed grant funding.

#### Application preference

- Teams that include at least one early career faculty member (equivalent to rank of Assistant Professor).
- Teams that include work with a partner institution under the [Global Challenges University Alliance \(GCUA\)](#), of which UT is a member<sup>1</sup>.

## Application instructions

### Proposal preparation

Proposals should be prepared in 12-point font, with 1 inch margins, and single-spaced. The proposal should be submitted as a single PDF packet to the Smith International Center at [tomgill@utk.edu](mailto:tomgill@utk.edu) and contain the following items, in this order:

- 1) Cover page, to include title, list of team members, email address of PI, project start date, and total budget request.
- 2) Abstract, explaining the scope of the proposed work to be accomplished in terms that can be understood by an “intelligent non-expert” (Abstracts of funded seed grants will be posted at <https://smithcenter.tennessee.edu>). Abstracts are limited to 300 words.
- 3) Project descriptions to include sections A-H (below). These descriptions are limited to a maximum of four (4) pages in length.
- 4) Budget and budget justification (no page limit; this should not be more than 1-2 pages).
- 5) 1-page CVs of all team members on the proposed project.

Note: Proposals should be written in a manner appropriate for an interdisciplinary review panel.

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<sup>1</sup> Other GCUA members include Lincoln University (New Zealand), Michigan State University (U.S.), Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences SLU (Sweden), University of Chile (Chile), University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong), University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, BOKU (Austria), University of Rwanda (Rwanda), The National University of Ireland Galway (Ireland), Makerere University (Uganda), Scotland's Rural College (Scotland), Beijing Forestry University (China), Nelson Mandela University (South Africa), Örebro University (Sweden), The Pennsylvania State University (U.S.)

### Proposal sections/Evaluation criteria for proposals (points in parentheses)

- A. Describe the **international context of the issue** your team seeks to address (10 points).
- B. Identify the **goal(s) and specific objectives** of your proposed project (10 points).
- C. Describe the **approach and methods** your team will take to accomplish these objectives, explaining **how your project will address at least two** of i) education, ii) research, and iii) extension/outreach. (25 points).
- D. Identify the national and/or international **partners** with whom you will collaborate, and why these collaborations will be important for the success of the seed grant. (10 points).
- E. Describe the overall **impact** of your project, identifying **two to four specific measurable expected outcomes** (in a bullet-point list) of your proposed project (10 points).
- F. Describe the **sustainability** of your proposed project beyond the life of the seed grant. This should include identification of specific potential sources of external support for sustainability and scale-up/out of teaching, research and/or extension elements that will be pursued as a result of this seed grant (25 points).
- G. Highlight the **specific roles of each team member** on this grant – who will be responsible for what aspects of the project, and how their expertise lines up with their proposed role on the project. (10 points).
- H. References (not scored).

### Budget

The maximum award for seed grants will be \$8,000 per team. Lesser amounts may be requested and/or awarded. As this funding is internal, F&A will not be charged, and therefore should not be included in the budget. Awards will be made directly to the PI's department. Funds may be used for faculty international travel, to bring potential collaborators to the US, or for other creative ideas to build teams to address international issues relevant to UTIA. Please also note the "what is not funded" section at the end of this document.

### Deadline

The deadline for receipt of applications is **5:00pm EDT, Friday, July 9, 2021**.

### Period of award

Awardees will have up to 18 months to expend their seed grant. Grant periods are expected to run August 1, 2021 – January 31, 2023. Requests for no-cost extensions may be considered in exceptional circumstances only. We anticipate continuing to offer this opportunity annually.

### Review process

Proposals will be reviewed by faculty who have been awarded international seed grants in previous rounds, and by faculty members of the UTIA International Advisory Council. Reviewers will make recommendations to the Smith Chair and funding decisions will be finalized.

### Award notification

Awardees will be notified by email and listed on the UTIA Smith Center website by no later than August 1, 2021. Number of awards is contingent upon the quality of proposals received. Activity on funded proposals can begin on August 1, 2021.

### Deliverable

Within 30 days of the end of the funded period, a final report will be completed by the PI describing the measurable outcomes and impact of the seed grant, as well as future plans for the funded team. A template for this report will be provided by the Smith Center.

### Questions

Questions about this opportunity should be directed to Tom Gill, [tomgill@utk.edu](mailto:tomgill@utk.edu).

### Notes

- All applicants should remain aware and up-to-date with changing travel requirements due to COVID-19. <https://www.utk.edu/coronavirus/faq/#what-is-the-status-of-university-travel>
- All UT personnel travelling internationally on a seed grant must complete the UTK travel registration: <https://cge.utk.edu/travel/>
- Abstracts of previously funded seed grants can be found at: <https://smithcenter.tennessee.edu/faculty-seed-grants/>
- Grants are competitive and awarded based on the information provided in the application.
- Confirmation will be sent to applicants via email acknowledging receipt of application.
- A faculty member may apply as part of more than one team, but can only be PI on one proposal submission per year.
- Previous recipients of seed grants are eligible to be PI or co-PI on proposals submitted under this call.

### What is not funded

- Travel to attend/participate at international conferences and/or present papers at international meetings.
- Sabbatical travel.
- Proposals from individual faculty members (i.e. “teams of one”).
- Proposals to make one-time visits to other universities to establish partnerships or memorandums of agreement without substantive and specific programmatic ties or limited prospects for extramural funding.
- Proposals that request funding for collaborations solely outside of the geographic target regions or countries identified in the eligibility section.