

Faculty global seed grants

Spring 2022

Purpose and scope

The Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture requests UTIA-led faculty **teams** to submit proposals for global seed grants.

The primary purpose of this seed grant opportunity is to assist interdisciplinary faculty teams to build strong international collaborations that will seek sustainable solutions, and lead to future global programming, including the development of expanded proposals to be submitted to donor agencies for extramural funding.

Teams **must** include faculty whose primary appointments are held in **at least two** different UTIA departments, centers or units. 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 integrating 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

Lead (PI) members for international seed grants **must** be faculty with UTIA appointments in teaching, research and/or extension (across Herbert College of Agriculture, AgResearch, UT Extension, and 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 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 cross 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. other colleges at UTK); however, team members from outside of UTIA are ineligible to receive funding from this program and should instead seek 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

- Preference will be given to teams that include at least one early career faculty member (equivalent to rank of Assistant Professor).
- Preference will be given to teams that include activities in sub-Saharan Africa or that include collaborators from sub-Saharan Africa.

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 Dr. Tom Gill, Smith Chair in International Sustainable Agriculture at 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 on the Smith Center website). Abstracts are limited to **300 words**.
- 3) Project descriptions to include sections A-G (below). Sections A-G 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.

Proposal sections/Evaluation criteria for proposals - 4 pages maximum (points in parentheses)

- A. **Background**. Describe the international context of the issue your team seeks to address (10 points).
- B. **Goals and objectives**. Identify the goal(s) and specific objectives of your proposed project (10 points).
- C. **Approach**. 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. (20 points).
- D. **Team roles and responsibilities**. 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. Identify the partners with whom

you will collaborate, and state why these collaborations will be important for the success of the seed grant. (10 points).

- E. **Outcomes and impact.** Describe the overall impact of your project, identifying two to four specific measurable expected outcomes (in a bullet-point list) of your proposed project (15 points).
- F. **Sustainability.** 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 of teaching, research and/or extension elements that will be pursued as a result of this seed grant (35 points).
- G. References (not scored).

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

Budget

The maximum award for seed grants will be \$8,000 per team. Less may be 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 global 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 April 22, 2022.**

Period of award

Awardees will have up to 18 months to spend their seed grant funds. Grant periods are expected to run May 16, 2022 – November 15, 2023. Requests for no-cost extensions may be considered but are not encouraged. 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 Smith Center website by no later than May 16, 2022. Number of awards is contingent upon quality of proposals received. Activity on funded proposals can begin on May 16, 2022.

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 the Smith Chair, tomgill@utk.edu.

Notes

- Examples 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.
- 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-universitytravel>.
- All UT personnel traveling internationally on a travel award must complete the UTK travel registration: <https://cge.utk.edu/travel/>

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 institutions to establish partnerships or memorandums of agreement without substantive and specific programmatic ties or limited prospects for extramural funding.