

ASSAM AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES CALL FOR PROPOSALS FROM FACULTIES/ RESEARCH SCHOLARS

Announcement of Call for Research Proposals: April 11, 2022

Deadline for Submitting Research Proposals: May 31, 2022

I. ABOUT THE CALL

In the first phase of Assam Agricultural University's call for research proposals under the theme "Generation of Processes & Products for the benefit of farming community and agripreneurs" a total of 168 proposals were received from the young scientists (below 50 years of age) of which 21 proposals were approved and an amount of Rs. 96,49,018/ were sanctioned for carrying out the first-year activities of the approved projects.

In the second phase, Assam Agricultural University again invites research proposals under the theme "**Need-based technology for stakeholders**" from the faculties/research scholars up to the age of **60 years**.

II. OBJECTIVE

To promote need-based research for translating innovative ideas/ concepts into tangible products/ processes/ technologies to fulfill the requirements of the stakeholders.

III. THEMATIC AREAS

1. Application of AI/ Machine learning in agriculture and allied sectors
2. Mainstreaming of ITKs and indigenous crop/ animal/fish resources
3. Climate-resilient/ Biofortified crop varieties
4. Diversified Agriculture under an organic/natural management system
5. Nutraceutical/ Probiotics for human and animal including fish
6. Lowcost diagnostic kits for early detection of diseases in crops/ livestock & poultry/fishes and contaminants in fresh produce/foods
7. Generation of effective immunoprophylactics / vaccines for prevalent diseases of livestock and poultry
8. Bioremediation and value addition of agro-wastes
9. Development/ value addition of Ready to use/ eat cereals, fruits & vegetables, meat and fish products
10. Improvement of traditional food items for commercialization
11. Development/improvement of food packaging /material
12. Development/improvement of animal/ fish feed formulation with locally available bioresources
13. Total value chain development of perishable commodities
14. Reclamation of agricultural contaminated land/water bodies through bioremediation/phytoremediation.
15. Agri-business management, Market intelligence and Gender-related issues

16. Standardization of agri-techniques through drone application
17. Cropping system research
18. Biotic and abiotic stress management
19. Hi-tech horticulture
20. Bio-diversity management
21. Market-led impact analysis

IV. PROJECT DURATION

Concept notes may be planned for **three** years.

V. WHO CAN APPLY?

The concept note can be submitted by

1. Researchers/ faculty members working in a regular capacity at AAU
2. Applicants must be less than 60 years of age.
3. Interdisciplinary/Inter-Institutional collaboration is encouraged.
4. The Principal Investigator must have a proven record of expertise in the proposed project.

VI. HOW TO APPLY?

A Concept Note of 2-3 pages as per the following outline must be submitted:

- **Title:** The title of the proposed project
- **Proposed by:** Name, address and affiliation of the applicant
- **Rationale:** The set of reasons or the logical basis of the proposed concept
- **Objectives:** Specific goals of the proposed idea
- **Hypothesis:** Idea to be tested
- **Workplan with timeline (Three Years):** A systematically tabulated sequence of activities under the objectives with a proper timeline for three years.
- **Outputs:** Specific results expected from the project
- **Expected Outcome:** The overall product/process/technology
- **Budget Summary:** The concept note should be submitted with the budget summary as per the funding guidelines stated below.

VII. FUNDING

The funds will be released against the approved projects by AAU on annual basis after reviewing the progress report submitted by the Principal Investigator (PI):

1. Each project may be allocated a maximum of **15 lakhs INR for three years**.
2. **Equipment:** No provision for purchasing of equipment. However, minor repairing of existing equipment may be allowed

3. **Travel:** An amount not exceeding 30,000 INR per annum (if essential for the implementation of the project objectives) may be approved
4. **Personnel:** No provision of recruiting personnel like SRF/JRF/RA/Young professionals etc. Skilled/Semi-skilled/Unskilled workers as per university rules may be allowed
5. **Operational Cost:** Reasonable expenditure for executing the work plan will be allowed from the project budget. However, no fund shall be available for infrastructure development including Computers, furnisher etc.

VIII. SELECTION CRITERIA AND EVALUATION

Concept notes should be submitted online at aau.rnd@aau.ac.in. Submitted concept notes will be screened by an expert review committee based on

- Quality and originality of approach
- Significant/ potential impact or commercial potential and scalability
- Economic and environmental sustainability
- Expected results and outcomes
- Qualification and experience of the applicant
- Appropriateness of budget

Detailed proposals of selected concept notes will be invited. PIs may be called for a brief presentation before the selection committee for the final round of the selection of projects for funding.