

ISRAEL



Participating organisation(s):

Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (250,000 €)

National Contact Person(s):

Dr. Orit Shmueli,

Chief Scientist Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

P.O.Box 30, Bet Dagan 50250

Phone: +972-3-9485430; Fax: +972-3-9697193

Mail: orits@moag.gov.il

website: www.science.moag.gov.il

Name of & link to the funding programmes:

<http://www.science.moag.gov.il/forms/kkmadan2014.pdf>

Minimum and/or maximum project duration:

Proposed projects may last from 12 to 36 months

Minimum and/or maximum funding per project:

One project can require up to 125,000 € in country for the entire project duration to all Israel participants.

Please note that extensions for the research period will not be possible due to agricultural seasons or any other as such and research projects must be planned accordingly within the fixed duration of the call and its predetermined timeline.

Who can be eligible for funding

Applications to this call will be based/established/designed on Collaborative Research Projects as defined in FACCE-JPI ERA-NET plus Call Documents. MOARD funding will be exclusively available for supporting the Israeli part of any successful transnational collaboration as research project grants, according to MOARD regulations and criteria as published in "MOARD 2013-14 Chief Scientist Call for Proposals", a summary of which appears below. Commercial companies / entities may participate under MOARD regulations and conditions but will not be eligible for grant reward from MOARD funds assigned for this call. MOARD financial support will be closely related to its funding activities and priorities within the "MOARD Chief Scientist National Fund".

Additional national regulations and guidelines:

Research themes, application and evaluation of research proposals will follow the procedure as defined in the FACCE-JPI-ERA-NET plus Call notice and annexes. Kindly note that **prior to submission** of the proposal to FACCE-JPI-ERA-NET, **approval of the Israeli part of the proposal should be made by the Chief Scientist of MOARD**, according to MOARD objectives and regulations, which will be published as a specific call announcement for FACCE-JPI-ERA-NET plus in MOARD Chief Scientist website: <http://www.science.moag.gov.il>. In the current FACCE-JPI-ERA-NET plus Call, MOARD objectives are limited as described below. Applicants are strongly advised to contact their National Contact Person before starting to prepare proposals for application.

MOARD terms and conditions are specific for Israeli applicants within the FACCE-JPI-ERA-NET plus Collaborative Research consortia and are specified in this National Annex and in the "MOARD Chief Scientist Call for Proposals for 2013-14" which may be downloaded from our website: www.science.moag.gov.il. Final approval of the funds will be made by MOARD Chief Scientist's board. MOARD grant holders shall follow the MOARD application, reporting, IPR and general rules of funding procedures. According to MOARD general policy, applicants must be aware that all information, resources and results obtained from the research projects will be publically published. In general, projects funded by MOARD are made publicly available within a reasonable period of time after their termination.

MOARD regulations for financial contribution to research projects

Funding contribution for national participants of the selected projects will be as follows:

- Governmental and other public Institutions and private non - profit bodies can be financed for the total amount of the approved eligible project costs.
- SMEs and organizations with other statutory nature are welcome as participants if an added value to the project is proven and if their costs are covered by their own resources or by other external sources.
- Final decision of the approved research budget is pending upon approval of the MOARD Chief Scientist International Annual Budget by the Israel Ministry of Finance, for the Fiscal year in which the project is due to begin.

Distribution of annual payments:

First year:

- 1) 50% of the approved costs immediately following the approval by all partners of a signed contract between MOARD and the beneficiary organization, and receiving a declaration of initiation of the project by the project leader.
- 2) 50% of the approved costs once the annual scientific and financial reports has been obtained and approved.

The following years:

- 1) 50% of the approved costs immediately following receiving a declaration of initiation of the project by the project leader.
- 2) 50% of the approved costs once the annual or final scientific and financial reports have been obtained and approved.

Eligible costs to be refunded:

A) Personnel

- 1) **Salaries** – Only for non-permanent scientific staff (including foreign visiting scientists, post docs, PhD students and fellowships). Technical administrative staff can be included in the coordination
- 2) **Travel expenses** – for permanent and non-permanent staff.

B) Consumables

C) External activity costs – expenditures for activity carried out externally (Consultancy services, agreements, maintenance, repairs, materials and transportation when needed for the project implementation).

D) Equipment – Only essential scientific equipment purchased specifically for the project will be reimbursed.

E) Overhead – no more than 15% of the approved grant.

Subthemes Eligible for the Israeli researchers

1. Genetics & Breeding of plants to increase resilience with respect to climate change:
Adaptation of only commercial crop plants through conventional breeding and biotechnology¹ to new combinations of environment and management, while preserving their productivity potential. Breeding for heat tolerance, drought and salinity.
2. Pests & diseases linked to climate and posing significant risks:
Improved monitoring and epidemiological surveillance for emerging and re-emerging pests and diseases, to enhance climate-informed crop and animal protection strategies. Impact of climate change on spreading of pests and diseases, including zoonoses. Epidemiological modeling taking into account changes in the vectors and reservoir species for animal diseases. Climate envelope modeling of weeds, of commercial crop pests and diseases, including interactions with wild hosts, with auxiliaries and with parasites. Novel vaccination strategies for animals and deployment of resistance genes and elicitors for plants. Research undertaken should target simultaneously the reduced use of pesticides in cropping systems and of antibiotics in livestock systems.
3. Adaptive management of water and soil resources
Strengthening the strategies for sustainable water and soil management in agriculture, taking into account differences across regions and across agricultural systems. Water capture, storage, advanced irrigation and drainage methods, flood management based e.g. on crop and soil water status monitoring, to sustain production while controlling GHG emissions. Increased efficiency in crop water use and in drought. Water re-use, including possible impacts on soil quality and on pollution loads in the food chain. Options to increase the duration of soil cover (as a protection against erosion and to minimize nitrate leaching), while limiting water losses.
4. Options for increasing agricultural systems resilience:
Adaptation of the feed supply chain, including grazing systems, forage crops and forage conservation, use of crop residues and by-products. Design of coping strategies in response to severe droughts. Adapting cropping systems (annual and perennial crops) and mixed systems (e.g. crop-livestock, agroforestry, food and non-food use, etc...), preserving their productivity and their quality and increasing their resilience to climatic variability, also taking into account the interrelations between ecological and social systems. Changes in crop rotations, in farming systems, in agricultural landscapes. Use of crop diversification, and adjustments in inputs and machinery to altered climatic conditions.

Consortia, if appropriate, are encouraged to include SMEs in the transnational projects to enhance innovation. Further, consortia are encouraged to establish a network of research activities carried out at national and regional level, including a mutual opening of national and regional research programs.

¹Biotechnology here is used in the sense of only marker-assisted selection and genomic selection.