

IWYP 2nd Competitive Call for Research Proposals



FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions)

Q: Who is Eligible to Submit a Pre-Proposal?

A: Research projects must be academic led, therefore any professional researcher or group associated with a university, government or public institute is welcome to apply. Participation by private industry is strongly encouraged, but since IWYP cannot fund a private entity their participation is limited to contributions of cash or in-kind to the project.

Q: Can I resubmit a project that was not selected in previous IWYP Calls (1st IWYP Competitive Call in 2015, NIFA-IWYP RFA in 2016)?

A: Yes, but when submitting an application for a research project that was previously submitted to an IWYP Call for Proposals but not selected for either an invitation to submit a Full Proposal or ultimately funded, you must provide a separate letter detailing how the project has changed due to new discoveries; response to reviewer comments; new ideas, approaches or techniques, etc.

Q: Can I submit more than one Pre-Proposal as a Project Lead or be involved in more than one Pre-Proposal as either a Project Lead or Principle Investigator?

A: Yes. You can submit as many Pre-Proposals as you see fit or be a Principal Investigator in more than one Pre-Proposal. However, ensure all the project proposals are in scope and of the scientific quality that IWYP seeks.

Q: Will this be the last Call for Proposals for IWYP?

A: We anticipate there could be more to augment our research portfolio. Timing will depend on available funds. Further, some Funding Partners may conduct Calls that are aligned with IWYP in the future.

Q: Can projects involve more than one principal investigator or institution? What if they are in a different country?

A: As stated, national and international consortia for projects are strongly encouraged. Care must be taken that any necessary agreements are put in place amongst the consortia partners at the time of any funding award.

Q: What would give my project the best chance for getting funded?

A: Most importantly, the fit to the research areas described, the potential impact of the science, the soundness of the approach, research resources available and the quality of the scientific team. Also, projects that involve national or international consortia and/or private industry participation would be more favorably viewed on the assumption that the science will be stronger.

Q: Am I required to include private industry partners?

A: No, however as IWYP is keen to build and leverage public-private partnerships, it is a desirable component and could enhance your proposal.

Q: If I choose to include a private industry partner in my project, does it have to be one that is a Private Member of IWYP as shown on your website?

A: No, you can include any private industry party that is interested in your research and could provide valuable in-kind support or expertise. However, including an IWYP Private Member could also enhance your proposal.

Q: CIMMYT is mentioned several times in the instructions. Do I need to include them in my project?

A: No, this is not a requirement. However, if you wish to have CIMMYT researchers in your project in the discovery and research phase you most certainly can. Their participation and costs should be included.

Q: Then what is the IWYP Hub at CIMMYT and how does that affect my project?

A: The IWYP Hub is a common / central downstream technical development platform commissioned by IWYP to facilitate validation and delivery. Research projects are expected to transfer important discoveries (tools, traits, germplasm, etc.) to the IWYP Hub at CIMMYT for deployment. This is an important step in that it enables IWYP to combine research outputs to generate added value, maximize impact and deliver innovations to breeding programs worldwide.

Q: Should I include costs for the IWYP Hub in my proposal and if so how would I calculate them?

A: No, the IWYP Hub is supported by a separate mechanism. However, keep in mind that this is a more terminal aspect of the IWYP Science Program applicable after discoveries have been made in the research projects and passed proof of concept phase. If CIMMYT is involved in the discovery and research phase, that cost should be included in your project as for any other collaborator.

Q: How will I know the status of my submission? Should I check via email regularly?

A: No. IWYP will notify the Project Lead with an official correspondence via email when decisions are made, likely early June 2017 for Pre-Proposals and December 2017 for Full Proposals.

Q: I would like to submit my Pre-Proposal in a different format from that described. Is that OK?

A: No. All Pre-Proposals will be evaluated individually and relative to others. The prescribed format indicates the specific information and amount necessary for IWYP Reviewers to complete their task at Pre-Proposal stage. Deviation from the format and guidelines given will disqualify your application.

Q: I want to submit more information than instructions or the form calls for. Can I do that?

A: No, this is strongly discouraged and could cause the Pre-Proposal to not be considered. As we expect a large number of Pre-Proposals, in order to efficiently score and rank them comparatively we desire equivalence in format and length. We will require more details where this is appropriate at the Full Proposal stage, if invited.

Q: If I submit my Pre-Proposal after 24:00 GMT 3 March 2017 will it still be considered?

- A: It is unlikely. IWYP strives to provide ample time to develop project ideas and a Pre-Proposal, and we are on a very tight timeline for the next steps.
- Q: Can I discuss my proposal with the Program Director or others in IWYP before submitting it, to make sure I am including relevant science or other sought after components?
- A: It is not preferable. Discuss with other scientists on your team or colleagues. If you feel that the research is in scope, feel free to submit.
- Q: Does the \$2M include overheads (indirect costs), as they are very high in my institution. This could substantially limit the funds available to conduct the research.
- A: Yes, that is part of the total cost and cash request that has to be accounted for as per instructions. Most institutions have policies for the amount and types of overhead that must be claimed, and some allow for some negotiation or have alternate mechanisms. Please work within your institution and any consortium partners so that this is calculated correctly.
- Q: What indirect costs will be allowed and at what amount?
- A: Indirect costs vary nationally and often per institution. IWYP will generally follow institutional or national norms/rules. The basis of these cost calculations for the application should be clearly footnoted. IWYP may wish to discuss or negotiate if the proportion of indirect costs is considered too high.
- Q: Can I include capital equipment or facility improvements in my application?
- A: Only critical equipment of small cost will be considered. No large equipment costs or capital improvements to land or structures will be considered.
- Q: Can I submit a proposal involving only other crops such as rice or corn?
- A: Yes, if it can be shown how it will be directly relevant and transferable to wheat. See Research Scope in the Proposal and Application Guidelines.
- Q: This sounds very applied with short term objectives. Is a de novo discovery program within scope?
- A: Yes, if relevant to wheat. We are looking for breakthroughs with large impacts so discovery will usually be necessary. See Research Scope in the Proposal and Application Guidelines.
- Q: You recommend using a Gantt chart. What is that?
- A: A Gantt chart is a graphical way to present a project that indicates events along a timeline. This can be done with specific software such as MS Project or more easily with MS Excel. See http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gantt_chart
- Q: Do I have to have CIMMYT do my field trials?
- A: No. You can do them at any institution with the appropriate resources and environment in a research and discovery context. You will need to include these costs if necessary. However, as explained, there could still be final work done at CIMMYT in a development context for validation, breeding and germplasm distribution that will be covered by a different funding mechanism.

Q: Can I agree to make my genes/lines available to my private sector partner with some exclusivity as they are giving cash/in kind?

A: No. See Terms and Conditions. However, they could have the advantage of lead time.

Q: Can I submit work that has been ongoing and partially funded by other agencies who have not agreed to these terms and conditions?

A: Possibly. IWYP endeavors to be as inclusive as possible and be flexible in order to access the best science possible to attain our goals. For IWYP funding *per se* all parties must agree to the Terms and Conditions. However, you might also apply to be an Aligned Project (see <http://iwyp.org/aligned-projects/>) but similar terms and conditions could apply.

Q: What if my institution or others in the consortium cannot agree to one or more of the Terms and Conditions?

A: This could likely prevent a project from receiving IWYP funding. Certain terms might be negotiated. However the spirit of IWYP and its mission must be maintained.

Q: Can I employ students or Postdocs on the grant?

A: Absolutely. IWYP and its funding partners believe that training the next generation of scientists is very important.