



Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas
Research Mini-Grant Program
Call for Proposals
November 20, 2022

Background

Founded in 2016, the Association of Nepalese Agricultural Professionals of Americas (NAPA) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental, non-religious, and non-political professional organization aspired to contribute to agricultural transformation for food security. The Research and Capacity Building Committee (RCBC) of NAPA has been launching a competitive Research Mini-Grant (RMG) program since 2019 to support applied research projects pertaining to Agricultural and Allied Sciences (AAS) in Nepal. Please visit <http://napaamericas.org/research-mini-grants.php> for details.

Objective(s)

The intent of the RMG program is to provide funding and advisory support to post-secondary students in Nepal to conduct high-impact research in the fields of AAS. The studies are expected to address knowledge gaps and contribute to innovations toward the development of economically viable, socially just, and environmentally sustainable plant and animal-based agricultural systems and natural resource management.

Funding Amount and Areas

NAPA plans to support quality proposals of up to NRs 40,000 each as a sole or matching fund. In this call, RCBC considers proposals in diverse, specialized, and interdisciplinary areas of agriculture and allied sciences contributing to enhancing the knowledge base, defining challenges, and identifying opportunities for technological, socio-economic, and policy interventions. Studies that focus on prospective under-utilized resources (e.g., plant and animal species, local landraces/breeds), agrobiodiversity, sustainability, climate change, food safety, value-addition, and niche-based opportunities may get priorities.

Eligibility

This call for proposals is specifically for students of post-secondary academic and vocational institutions. All undergraduate/vocational school students' research projects that require monetary and advisory support are eligible. Students must have at least one year remaining before graduation to complete the proposed study. However, undergraduate seniors can be eligible if this project is adopted as their Intern project and is certified by the University/Institution.



How to apply

- Follow the given online proposal form for each section including Project Title, Background, Research Hypothesis and Objectives, Methodology, Deliverables and Expected Outcomes, Timeline, and Budget. (**Online form is available at: <https://forms.gle/B3YkEY39rNUrDLHUA>).**
- Proposals must be accompanied by a recommendation letter from the student's advisor(s) explaining his/her academic standing and ability to conduct the proposed study.
- The recommendation letter shall also provide the advisor's full commitment to serve as the resident advisor to the student for the duration of the project.
- Investigators proposing collaboration/partnership with other eligible institutions/entities should include letter(s) of support from the collaborating institution(s).
- An advisor can submit a recommendation letter for only one student or group of students working on the same proposal.

Limitations

- Proposals not adhering to the Call for Proposal guidelines will not be considered.
- Project duration shall be 12 months including the submission of the summary report to NAPA.
- The selected projects may be extended for the second year on a case-by-case basis (at no additional cost to NAPA) if unforeseen situations like natural disasters and/or institutional shutdowns hindered the research progress.
- RCBC must be notified in advance if such situations arise.
- No grant money can be spent on Indirect Costs (institutional administration and other fees).
- Grant money shall not be used to renovate or refurbish research, education, or extension/outreach space; to purchase or install fixed equipment in such a place; or to plan, repair, rehabilitate, acquire, or construct buildings or facilities.

Timeline

- Proposal Submission Deadline: **December 31, 2022; 11:59 pm US Eastern Standard Time (New York Time)**
- Awardees will be notified: **February 15, 2023**
- Contracts with awardees and research initiation: **March 1, 2023**



Proposal evaluation criteria

- Statement of the problem, the rationale of the study, and the expected outcome of the proposed research **(10 points)**
- Literature review and conceptual framework upon which the research builds **(10 points)**
- Clarity in research question/hypothesis which should be built logically from the problem statement **(10 points)**
- Methodology appropriate to address the research question(s) **(20 points)**
- Realistic timeline of the proposed project **(10 points)**
- Budget is appropriate, realistic, and justified, and matching fund is available **(10 points)**
- Research has the scientific rigor and potential to make an impact or serve as a model for future research initiatives **(15 points)**
- Innovativeness: originality in terms of new ideas and/or subject area **(15 points)**

Feel free to contact us if you have any questions.

Contact information

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