



UK Science and Innovation Network

BBSRC-Newton Fund Call for Virtual Joint Centres with Brazil, China and India in Agricultural Nitrogen.

Following a Town Meeting on 11 March 2015 BBSRC is excited to announce that along with partners in Brazil, China and India we will shortly be launching a call for bilateral working between the UK with either Brazil, China or India.

BBSRC, working with NERC, has Newton Funds to support the establishment of Virtual Joint Centres with Brazil, China and India in Agricultural Nitrogen. This funding will be matched by partner organisations' contributions in the three countries.

Scientific Scope

The three research themes that have been identified for this call are:

- **Agronomic nitrogen use efficiency:** optimising farm practices and soil management to make more effective use of fertilisers and reduce losses of reactive nitrogen to the environment;
- **Biological nitrogen use efficiency:** improving the efficiency of nitrogen uptake or metabolism by plants;
- **Biological nitrogen fixation (BNF):** enhancing nitrogen-fixation in legumes or exploiting the potential of BNF in non-leguminous plants

Integrative, multidisciplinary and multi-scale approaches are encouraged, and there is particular scope for interaction between plant, agricultural and environmental scientists, and N use in the context of the global nitrogen cycle at the interface between the remits of BBSRC and NERC.

The Virtual Joint Centre Approach

A Virtual Joint Centre is essentially a large research grant that has additional flexibility to enable support to deliver the partnership and to enable existing resources to be allocated to the project. Activities that could be included within a Joint Centre include:

- Joint research projects between researchers at the partner centres in agreed research areas
- Laboratory exchanges including short and longer term visits, exchange of graduate students, post-doctoral researchers or visiting fellows.
- Sharing of key resources across the partner centres
- Supporting wider activities to strengthen links, for example holding symposia, workshops, seminars, meetings etc.
- Equipment that will support the joint research

Further Details

The full call text will provide more information about the scientific scope, scale and instructions on how to construct and submit an application. It may also indicate specific priorities for the three countries.

A report detailing the main outcomes from the Town Meeting along with the presentations that were delivered can be found within the application download section of this page. We anticipate announcing the full call text on 27 April 2015.

Contact

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