BIOAg Program: Request For Proposals

The Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) Biologically-Intensive Agriculture and Organic Farming (BIOAg) program builds sustainable agriculture for healthy farms, communities, & ecosystems by fostering the development, understanding, and use of biologically-intensive & organic strategies.

Sustainable agriculture is economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible.

Goal:

The goal of this proposal solicitation is to engage a broad, interdisciplinary spectrum of WSU faculty in projects that further the development, understanding, and use of biologically intensive and/or organic principles, practices, and technologies to improve the sustainability of agriculture and food systems in Washington State. Addressing critical issues and producing meaningful change will require both interdisciplinarity that crosses departments, colleges, natural/social/economic sciences; and integration of WSU’s mission areas of research, extension, and education. Collaboration between research, extension, and teaching faculty, and non-WSU entities (producers, agencies, non-profit organizations) is encouraged in both project development and in translating results into impacts.

Context:

The challenges and demands for sustainable agriculture and food systems are ever increasing. Rising input costs, climate change, environmental consequences of farming and transportation, and socioeconomic effects of farm policy are just a few of the pressures on our natural resources, infrastructure, and people engaged in agriculture and the larger food system. The BIOAg Program was established through a collaborative effort of WSU CSANR and concerned Washington stakeholders with the goal of meeting these challenges and building sustainable agriculture and food systems by developing, verifying, and furthering the use of effective biologically intensive or organic strategies on all types of farms and all aspects of Washington’s agriculture and food systems.
Examples of BIOAg:

BIOAg practices can be useful to the full spectrum of farming operations in Washington-conventional and organic, small and large, eastside and westside. The following examples have been cited by stakeholders as topics of interest and importance:

- Biological soil fertility
- Crop breeding for BIOAg systems
- Sustainable weed management
- Biological pest and disease control
- Organic veterinary medicine
- Ag and organic waste management
- Health benefits of organic, local, and pasture-raised foods
- Farm-to-school programs for BIOAg products
- Sustainable livestock management
- Holistic management
- Biodynamics
- On-farm ecosystem monitoring
- Value-added processing or marketing
- Sustainable livestock management
- Holistic management
- Biodynamics
- On-farm ecosystem monitoring
- Value-added processing or marketing

CSANR solicits grant proposals of 3 types. Funding is available for use during May 2010 – June 2011. Limited funds may be made available prior to or after this period for field activities. Funding decisions will be finalized by May 1. Funding will be awarded for one year. Potential may exist for renewal funding, depending on review and the availability of future funding. Excellent progress and efforts at leveraging funding will be expected.

1. BIOAg Projects:

Description: Projects that develop, investigate, or demonstrate sustainability on farms or in food systems using BIOAg principles. These project grants are intended to seed exploration of new research ideas, overcome remaining technical / economic / social barriers to the use of existing BIOAg practices, and ensure that existing research is utilized.

Project Grant Budgets: $1,000 – $40,000 (as appropriate)

2. BIOAg Outreach Mini-Grants:

Description: Tours, workshops, and other outreach that demonstrate or provide learning opportunities on sustainability and working BIOAg approaches on farms or in food systems.

Project Budgets: $100 – $2,000 (as appropriate)

3. BIOAg Learning Site Project Grants:

Description: Tours, workshops, projects, improvements at BIOAg Learning Sites (see below) that demonstrate BIOAg in action and/or increase the quality of outreach at the Learning Site. Learning Site proposals must be discussed and planned with one or both liaisons to the site (listed below).

Project Budgets: $100 – $3,000 (as appropriate)
Priority areas for 2010:

Priority consideration will be given to projects that address at least one of the following areas. Investigators are encouraged to discuss potential proposal ideas with CSANR faculty (contact info. below).

- Biologically intensive and organic approaches to sustainable management of weeds, pests, diseases, fertility, plant nutrition, and organic wastes.
- Innovation and diversification to increase the resiliency and sustainability of farming and food systems in the face of climate change, volatile energy markets and challenging economic conditions.
- Sustainable farming, processing, or marketing practices to increase food quality, nutrition, safety or access.
- Building assessment tools to measure the environmental, economic, and/or social impacts of sustainable agriculture & food systems.

BIOAg Grants Criteria (100 pts total)
1. Uses or addresses bio-intensive and/or organic approaches (Pass/Fail) (100 pts)
2. Scientific Merit (30)
3. Increases likelihood of use of sustainable methods (20)
4. Improves understanding of sustainability of a method or system(20)
5. Impact potential (ie. critical audience/acreage base, significant toxic reduction, etc.) (10)
6. Builds interdisciplinary partnerships (10)
7. Evaluation plan (10)
8. Appropriate cost – assessed and negotiated after proposal review.

Details
- All proposals are due by 5pm on Monday, April 5, 2010. Applicants will be notified of results by early May.
  - At least one PI must be WSU faculty.
  - Proposals are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED to integrate research, extension, and education wherever this would improve project value.
  - Projects that are leveraged with other grant or gift support are encouraged.
  - Mini-grant and Learning Site proposals should be no more than 3 pages long, including budget; Project grant proposals should be no more than 4 pages, including budget; 1 pg of references or pictures may be added as an appendix.
  - Use the proposal outline above, with 11-12 pt font, single spacing, and 1” margins.
  - All proposal materials must fit in a single Word file of <1.0 MB.
  - Send completed and signed Rex Lite form (below or at http://www.ogrd.wsu.edu/documents/REX/REXlite/REX_Lite_060130.rtf) to Cindy Armstrong, CSANR
  2606 W. Pioneer, Puyallup, WA 98371-4998
  FAX = (253) 445-4579
  - Send proposal as Word file to armstrongc@wsu.edu
Application Process

Letter of Intent -Due March 15, 2010
The notice of intent will be used to identify appropriate reviewers and potential additional collaborators.

Proposal Type (Project, Outreach, Learning Site):
Project Title:
Principal Investigator(s):
Cooperator(s) and/or BIOAg Learning Site(s):

Abstract (150 word max, how the project addresses Priority area(s), and what will be done):

Proposal -Due April 5, 2010

Proposal Type (Project, Outreach, Learning Site):
Title:
Principal Investigator(s):
Cooperator(s) and/or BIOAg Learning Site(s) if any:

1-yr Funding:
Funding Requested:
Matching Funds (only for assessing project leveraging, do not include WSU salaries):
Project Duration (current year and expected project duration ex. yr 1 of 2):
Leverage Plan (list other funding programs you expect to apply for – specifically USDA NIFA program area. Pursuit of leverage funding will be required for continued BIOAg funding. If this is a continuation proposal, where has funding been pursued?)

Abstract (250 word max, how the project addresses Priority area(s), and what will be done):

Introduction (justify using relevant literature why this project is important and is the next logical step in development or use)

1-yr Objectives:
 Procedures (Work to be completed):

Expected Outputs
Publications, Handouts, Other Text & Web Products:
Outreach & Education Activities:
Other:

Expected Impacts
Short-Term (knowledge gained and shared):
Intermediate-Term (current & expected change in behaviors, and when these may be expected):
LONG-TERM (POTENTIAL CHANGE IN ECONOMIC/ENVIRONMENTAL/SOCIAL SITUATIONS, AND WHEN THESE MAY BE EXPECTED):

EVALUATION PLAN: (HOW WILL YOU DETERMINE IF OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT COMPLETION, DISSEMINATION, AND ADOPTION WERE MET)

BUDGET (THIS PROGRAM ALLOWS NO INDIRECT OR F&A CHARGES):
- SALARY/WAGES/BENEFITS
- MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES
- TRAVEL
  *Please note budgeted amounts that would be used prior to and after June 30, 2010.

**REX Lite Form will be required for funded projects.**

**BIOAg Learning Sites**

*Learning Site Projects and proposals must be discussed and planned with one or both of the site liaisons listed below.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Site</th>
<th>Liaisons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quillisascut Farm, Rice</td>
<td>Marcy Ostrom, Chad Kruger</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Circle Farm, Carnation</td>
<td>Doug Collins, Clayton Burrows, Marcy Ostrom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maple K Farm, Colfax</td>
<td>Steve VanVleet</td>
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<tr>
<td>G &amp; L Farm, Benge</td>
<td>Don Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thundering Hooves, Touchet</td>
<td>Lynne Carpenter-Boggs, Don Nelson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Selection Farms, Sunnyside</td>
<td>Chad Kruger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dennis Nicholson Orchard, Peshastin</td>
<td>David Granatstein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S &amp; S Homestead Farm, Lopez</td>
<td>Lynne Carpenter-Boggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Aeschliman Farm, Colfax</td>
<td>Steve VanVleet, Hans Kok</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Acres, Woodinville</td>
<td>Marcy Ostrom</td>
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<tr>
<td>WSU-Puyallup R&amp;E Station</td>
<td>Craig Cogger, Marcy Ostrom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSU-Pullman Organic CSA</td>
<td>Lynne Carpenter-Boggs, Marcy Ostrom</td>
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<tr>
<th>Learning site liaison</th>
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<th>phone #</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lynne Carpenter-Boggs</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcboggs@wsu.edu">lcboggs@wsu.edu</a></td>
<td>509-335-1553</td>
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<td>509-663-8181 x242</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:mrostrom@wsu.edu">mrostrom@wsu.edu</a></td>
<td>509-663-8181 x263</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:svanvleet@wsu.edu">svanvleet@wsu.edu</a></td>
<td>509-397-6290</td>
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