Directed call for sustainable development of Swedish horticultural production

The Swedish Farmers’ Foundation for Agricultural Research in collaboration with Formas hereby announces funds for research and development within integrated production systems in horticultural production. This call is part of a wider strategic programme to support the horticultural sector. The call dedicates up to SEK 14 million for interdisciplinary projects with direct and high relevance for Swedish horticultural production during the period 2020-2023. The projects are expected to start in 2020. Funds can be applied for a maximum of three years.

We welcome applications for interdisciplinary project with a focus on integrated production system in horticultural production which coordinate studies on integrated plant protection with at least one other aspect of production (e.g., soil production capacity, integrated plant nutrient management, integrated irrigation and energy consumption, working environment profitability and social conditions, product quality and food safety).

The overarching goal is that approved projects will contribute to a competitive and sustainable development of Swedish horticultural production and reduce dependence on plant protection products in the horticultural sector. The project applications must be of the highest scientific quality. Horticulture refers to the cultivation of vegetables, potatoes, berries, fruit, as well as ornamental and nursery plants.

Applicants and collaboration

The main applicant should have a PhD or an equivalent well-documented research competence. The call is directed to researchers within all disciplines. Each project should be composed of applicants from at least two organisations (or university faculties) and preferably include a wider collaboration between researchers, advisors, growers and other actors to increase the relevance of the research questions and implementation. Projects including PhD students and post-docs are welcomed. The main applicant must coordinate the project. An effort to coordinate the work on an international level is encouraged.

Budget

Interdisciplinary project (at least 2 production aspects) can apply for a budget from the Foundation of up to 4MSEK for 3 years. In addition, up to 1MSEK can be budgeted for each extra production aspect studied in the project. The project's total budget requires a co-financing of at least 25% (including in-kind from the university and/or industry), which must be clearly stated in the application.

Publication of research results

The main applicant should guarantee that the research results are available through Open Access within six months after publication. Open Access publication costs may be included as a direct cost in the application.

Applications

The application deadline is on June 17, 2019 at 3 pm. Applications should follow the instructions for full scale applications in the handbook. The applications should be written in English. A description of the project's coordination work must be included in the application.