

Directed call for sustainable development of Swedish horticultural production

The Swedish Farmers' Foundation for Agricultural Research (SLF) in collaboration with Formas launches a call as a part of a wider strategic programme to support the horticultural sector. The call dedicates up to 12 million SEK to research projects during the period 2019–2021 and is co-financed by the sector. The aim is to fund high quality research of crucial relevance to the sector. Projects focused on integrated pest management (IPM) should apply from the up-coming IPM call which is the next step of the strategic programme.

The over-arching aim is to fund projects that will contribute to a competitive and sustainable development of the horticultural value chain. The call should strengthen different aspects of the horticultural sector by funding projects which address its current research needs. The projects may *for example* address research questions related to the production system and growing conditions, technological development, digitalisation and automatisisation or competitive and sustainable business models. The projects are expected to contribute to an increase in the Swedish level of self-sufficiency of berries, fruits, vegetables and ornamental plants and should consequently be clearly connected to the production of these crops. We encourage projects to integrate different research areas and economic aspects when possible.

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. An effort to coordinate the work on an international level is encouraged.

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 the 11 of October 2018 at 3 pm and follow the instructions for full scale applications in the handbook. The applications should be written in English and are expected to have a budget of up to approximately 1 million SEK per year for up to three years.