University of Memphis and University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture CORNET Award (Collaborative Research Network)

Purpose: To stimulate innovative, interdisciplinary, team-based agriculture research, that involves investigators from University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture (UTIA) and University of Memphis (UofM). The Award is designed to promote new lines of research in a wide range of disciplines and topics that intersect with the agricultural sector. The awards provide seed money to give rise to future external funding. This is not intended as bridging funds or a mechanism to extend ongoing funded research.

Topics of focus may include, but are not limited to:

- supporting food, fiber, and energy systems;
- climate and environmental impact;
- enhancing biodiversity and environmental quality;
- enriching rural economy;
- developing a future ready workforce;
- strengthening our health;
- urban-rural equity and opportunity improvement.

Eligibility: To be considered for a UTIA/UofM Agriculture Research CORNET Award, each proposal must include, **at a minimum,** _one faculty member from each participating campus_ (UTIA and UofM). Adjunct and visiting faculty can participate but are not eligible to be PIs.

How to Locate Collaborators: If you are looking for a collaborator for this project, please fill out the attached Excel sheet and return it to researchdev@memphis.edu. The data received will be compiled into a secure, online GoogleSheet database, to which access will be limited to only those who have participated. Once your completed Excel sheet is received, you will be sent a link to gain access to the list of investigators interested in collaborating on a Agriculture CORNET Award. Once you have access, check the database often to view newly added investigators. _You do not have to use the database in order to participate._

Award Level: Resources are available for a number of awards based on the quality of the proposals. Award values are dependent on the quality of the proposals and are not necessarily equal. Projects are for one year. No-cost-extension requests will be evaluated by the Leadership Team at year-end if requested.

Required Application Materials: Proposals must be submitted to the University of Memphis Office of Research Development (researchdev@memphis.edu) See submission guidance below.

- Face Sheet[1] Enter all required information for **each** PI on the research team. Be sure to include a description of each PI's duties/contributions to the project. You may also add other members of your research team.

- Abstract[1] (200-word limit)

- Research Proposal (2 pages only - include Specific Aims, Background and Significance, Preliminary Data and a brief description of Methods). 11-point font minimum.

- References[1]

- Planned Extramural Grant Applications[1] (one paragraph) Description and timeframe of specific extramural grant proposals that will be submitted as a result of this seed money. Please include funding agency and submission due date.

- Budget and Justification[1] (one budget page/justification for each campus)
  Budget Restrictions:
  - Budget maximum is nominally $25,000 for each campus ($50,000 total)
  - Faculty salaries are not allowed
  - Limited salaries at a small % effort for technicians, students, post docs or other professionals are allowed. For all personnel, provide: position title, % effort, and name (if known). If personnel costs make up more

than 50% of the budget, you must provide a justification.
- Limited travel money is permitted to enable in person collaboration between institutions
- Large equipment (>$10K) must be justified in the proposal

o Other Support[1] Information regarding current and pending support (intramural and extramural) for each PI. Please include grant title, funding agency, grant type, project period, annual direct costs. If a PI has no Other Support, enter "*None*" on the template provided.

o Curriculum Vitae for each PI (5-page limit/PI)

[1] Not included in 2-page limit

Institutional Compliance Approvals: Approvals for research involving human subjects, animals, biohazards, etc. must be received prior to release of CORNET funding. Compliance approvals are not required to apply for a CORNET Award.

Timeline: Submissions are Friday April 29th at 5:00pm CT.

Expression of Interest: Personnel interested in finding collaborative partners can attend a hosted on-line event to present their ideas and discuss their areas of interest. The event will occur on March 31th.

Review: Submitted proposals will be reviewed by a committee chosen by the UTIA/UofM leadership.

Selection:
- Proposals will be screened and submitters of proposals that do not make it to the next round will be informed within two weeks after the submittal period expires (NLT May 13th)
- Submitters of proposals that pass the initial screening will present a short lighting talk one week after notification (NLT May 20th).
- Multiple successful proposals may be selected and teams will be informed one week after the lighting talks (NLT May 27th).

Progress Report: Awardees will be expected to participate in a CORNET symposium at year-end, where the PIs share progress and results of the CORNET-sponsored work.

Submission Guidance and Instructions: Applications should be submitted as a single PDF to researchdev@memphis.edu.
1. Review RFA for required application materials, and to ensure eligibility.

2. Submit your application with all required material to the email listed above.

3. Upon submission of your application, you will receive confirmation of receipt within 48 hours. If you do not receive this confirmation email, please contact Cody Behles at the email below.

More Information:
For administrative questions related to this RFA, contact:

Dr. Cody Behles, Director- Innovation and Research Support, cbehles@memphis.edu (UofM - faculty)
Dr. Tim Rials, Associate Dean and Director, UT AgResearch, trials@utk.edu (UTIA - faculty)