Enhancing the competitiveness of organic crop breeding: focus on intercropping adapted varieties

Horizon Europe

PENDING

Code
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-09

Scope
International

Location
Europe

Curator
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FINANCIAL DETAILS

Support type
Non-Refundable

Maximum Funding Rate
100%

Budget
12M€

Eligible Project Value
Up to 6M€

DATES & DEADLINES

Publication Date
December 12, 2025

Opening Date
April 20, 2027

Deadline
September 22, 2027 at 05:00 PM GMT+2

DESCRIPTION

Objectives

This call aims to enhance the competitiveness and efficiency of the organic crop breeding sector by providing breeders with advanced tools and knowledge to develop crop varieties specifically adapted to intercropping systems and organic production. The initiative targets improved understanding of key plant traits for intercropping, benefiting both organic and conventional agricultural systems. The ultimate goal is to lay the foundation for future crop varieties that maximize the benefits of intercropping, such as better pest and weed management, increased nutrient and water use efficiency, improved pollination, enhanced soil fertility, reduced erosion and nutrient leaching, and higher productivity. Eligible applicants include consortia of legal entities from EU Member States and associated countries, encompassing research organizations, universities, SMEs, large companies, and public entities, as per Horizon Europe rules.

Funding

The support is provided as a non-refundable grant in the form of a lump sum, covering up to 100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA). The total budget for the topic is €12 million, with an expected EU contribution of €6 million per project and two projects to be funded. Beneficiaries may allocate financial support to third parties within the specified limits.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Personnel Costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Other goods, works and services costs
- Subcontracting
- Indirect Costs

BONUSES & MAJORATIONS

- Collaboration with ongoing Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects
- Use of European research infrastructures in environment, biological and food domains
- Advancement of pre-existing breeding material towards OHM/OVSOP

ELIGIBILITY

Application Mode
Consortium / Copromotion

Eligible Sectors

- Agro-Food
- Energy & Environment
- Other

Company Typologies

- Micro
- SME
- Small Mid-Cap
- Mid-Cap
- Large
- Private non-profit entities
- Public entities

Action Types

- Develop organic crop breeding approaches for intercropping systems
- Advance understanding of plant traits for intercropping
- Identify and test crop and variety combinations for intercropping
- Develop tools and methods for evaluating genotypes in intercropping
- Advance Organic Heterogeneous Material (OHM) and Organic Varieties Suitable for Organic Production (OVSOP)
- Provide financial support to third parties for testing and demonstration
- Research and Innovation Action

EU PROGRAMME DETAILS

Call ID
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-09

Cluster
Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Destination
D1. Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Submission Mode
single-stage

EU Contribution
€6,000,000.00 per project

Expected Projects
2

Funding Rate Rule
Up to 100% of eligible costs for Research and Innovation Actions (RIA)

OFFICIAL LINKS

Official Regulation
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV-09

Grantavia page
https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/enhancing-the-competitiveness-of-organic-crop-breeding-focus-on-intercropping-adapted-varieties

Schedule a meeting
https://calendly.com/filipa-silva-epsa/reuniao