



International Agri & Food and Horticulture & Starting Materials Seed Money Projects (SMPs) 2019

Seed Money Projects serve to initiate (or act as the 'seed' for) international partnerships for Dutch companies and SMEs in the Agri & Food and Horticulture & Starting Materials sectors. The main focus is on forming a consortium and exploring the possibilities for international activities. More specifically, consortia which are already active in the top sectors are encouraged to expand their activities internationally. In addition, the agricultural councils will be asked to identify opportunities for the Dutch business community and to provide further contacts by applying for a Seed Money Project.

The result of a Seed Money Project is a plan for the feasibility of international cooperation. This involves the development of new knowledge or the application of existing knowledge under other circumstances. This could be a research proposal at Wageningen Research or another knowledge institute, but also a plan for another arrangement via RVO, BuZa or an international organisation, for example. A follow-up project should contribute to international system solutions in the Agri&Food and Horticulture & Starting Materials sector in partnership with Dutch companies.

Remuneration and available budget

A Seed Money Project is a tool used by top sectors A&F and H&SM. The tool allows an applicant from the business community or an agricultural council to call in experts from Wageningen University and Research for an indicative value of €25k but not more than €40k including VAT. A budget of €25k is suitable mainly for desk research and activities in the Netherlands, while a budget of €40k would be appropriate if a visit to another country is also required.

For 2019 there is a joint budget (for A&F and H&SM) of € 600k (*including VAT*) for Wageningen Research capacity (€400k for A&F and €200k for H&SM). (Note: this budget can therefore not be spent freely). This means that approximately 15 to 20 SMPs can be paid.

The contribution from businesses in the project consists of their own travel expenses and the hours that businesses devote to the project. This is treated as a contribution 'in kind'. There are no requirements attached to the level of private contribution. However, businesses are asked to be actively involved.

The top sectors want to foster cooperation with agricultural educational institutions in the Netherlands (AOC, HAO). Educational institutions can provide added value by such things as facilitating and spreading international innovations. This allows new concepts to gain value more quickly. Inclusion of an educational institution in the consortium is an advantage in the review procedure. There is no separate budget available for educational institutions.

When does your application qualify for an SMP?

- Your proposal fits in with one of the themes of the innovation agendas of the top sectors Agri&Food or Horticulture & Starting Materials. See the Knowledge and Innovation agendas of A&F and H&SM;
- Your proposal is innovative and focused on knowledge development in a local context and promotes new market opportunities for Dutch companies;

- Your proposal contributes to the sustainable development of a local agricultural and/or horticultural system. This will be reflected through the participation of a local problem owner (company and/or government) who can demonstrate a demand and necessity for the project;
- It will involve more than one Dutch business.

Conditions

- The proposal must be requested by a business and/or the agricultural council together with a project manager of Wageningen Research;
- The business/company must invest its own time in the project and fund its own travel expenses;
- In the event of the proposal's acceptance, a final presentation must be given in December 2019. The exact date will be decided later.

Assessment and criteria

The application will be assessed by an independent committee. This committee will rank the proposals according to the following criteria:

1. Innovative solution in the following combinations of market demand and Dutch supply (2,3, 4 where there is a big change):

	Demand	Existing	New
Supply			
Existing		–	2 (R&D, adaptation)
New		3 (R&D, co-creation)	4 (R&D, co-creation)

2. Contribution to the innovation agendas of the top sectors or contribution to the United Nations Social Development Goals (specifically food security);
3. Quality of the consortium: involvement of the business community and local problem owner (through own input in terms of time & money), involvement in green education (through own input in terms of time & money), involvement of an PPP-consortium;
4. Quality of the proposal: description of the problem and the activities, justification of the budget

Each criterium can earn up to 10 points. The average will be calculated of the total score of all the criteria. Projects will be funded according to the order of their score ranking.

Applications and explanatory notes

Do not use more than four A4 sheets for your application. To view the format, please visit the Top sector Agri & Food website, www.topsectoragrifood.nl, and the Top sector Horticulture & Starting Materials website, www.topsectortu.nl.

The application will be submitted with a digital form through this [link](#).

The latest possible date and time for submitting an application is 1 March 2019 at midday.

For queries and further information please contact:

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