Faculty global seed grants
Spring 2019

Purpose and scope
UTIA’s Smith Center for International Sustainable Agriculture requests UTIA faculty teams submit proposals for global seed grants. Teams must include faculty whose primary appointments are held in at least two different UTIA departments, centers or units.

There will be no theme for this year’s seed grant call. Please note the geographic restrictions this year in the eligibility section below.

This seed grant opportunity is intended to assist interdisciplinary faculty teams to build strong international collaborations that will seek sustainable real life solutions, and lead to additional impacts, including the development of expanded proposals to be submitted to donor agencies for extramural funding. Teams are highly encouraged to establish or strengthen national and international collaboration with scientists at various institutions including universities, international research centers, private, non-profit, federal or global agencies. Teams should develop proposals that have significant potential for bridging the tripartite education-research-extension mission of UTIA. Although proposals may include domestic partners and propose activities within Tennessee or the United States, proposals should primarily focus on global dimensions of issues of relevance to UTIA, developing collaborations with international partners.

Eligibility
With generous gifts to support UTIA international seed grants from the Milam and Smith families in 2018, proposals this year must request funding to work in, or for work with partners from, the following countries:

i) Guatemala

ii) Any country (or countries) in sub-Saharan Africa, with a preference for the following countries in East Africa: Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda

Lead (PI) faculty members for international seed grants must be faculty with UTIA appointments in teaching, research and/or extension. Faculty without UTIA appointments, faculty with adjunct appointments at UTIA, visiting faculty on sabbatical, visiting faculty on one-year appointments, post-doctoral research associates, staff and graduate students may be included as team members, but are ineligible to serve as PI. However, the majority of team members are expected to be UTIA faculty.
Teams must include faculty whose primary appointments are held in at least two different UTIA departments, centers or units. A primary goal of this program is to encourage faculty to cross disciplines in order to address challenges that also cut across traditional disciplinary lines. Teams may include personnel from other entities under the UT system (e.g. UTK); however, team members from outside of UTIA are ineligible to receive funding from this program and should instead seek financial support from other sources in order to participate.

Teams must articulate in their proposal how they intend to address at least two of: i) education, ii) research, iii) extension. Proposals that only address one of these three aspects of the land-grant tripartite mission will not be considered for seed grant funding.

Application preference
- Preference will be given to teams that include at least one early career faculty member (equivalent to rank of Assistant Professor).

Application instructions
Proposal preparation
Proposals should be prepared in 12-point font, with 1 inch margins, and single-spaced. The proposal should be submitted as a single PDF packet to the Smith International Center at tomgill@tennessee.edu and contain the following items, in this order:

1) Cover page, to include title, list of team members, email address of PI, project start date, and total budget request.
2) Abstract, explaining the scope of the proposed work to be accomplished in terms that can be understood by an “intelligent non-expert” (Abstracts of funded seed grants will be posted on the UTIA International Programs website). Abstracts are limited to 300 words.
3) Project descriptions to include sections A-H (below). These descriptions are limited to a maximum of four (4) pages in length.
4) Budget and budget justification (no page limit; this should not be more than 1-2 pages).
5) 1-page CVs of all team members on the proposed project.

Proposals should be written in a manner appropriate for an interdisciplinary review panel.
Proposal sections/Evaluation criteria for proposals (points in parentheses)

A. Describe the international context of the issue your team seeks to address (15 points).
B. Identify the goal(s) and specific objectives of your proposed project (10 points).
C. Describe the approach and methods your team will take to accomplish these objectives, explaining how your project will address at least two of i) education, ii) research, and iii) extension. (25 points).
D. Identify the national and/or international partners with whom you will collaborate, and why these collaborations will be important for the success of the seed grant. (10 points).
E. Describe the overall impact of your project, identifying two to four specific measurable expected outcomes (in a bullet-point list) of your proposed project (10 points).
F. Describe the sustainability of your proposed project beyond the life of the seed grant. This should include identification of specific potential sources of external support that will be pursued following this seed grant (15 points).
G. Highlight the specific roles of all team members on this grant and why your team is particularly qualified to conduct this project (15 points).
H. References (not scored).

Budget
The maximum award for seed grants will be $8,000 per team. Less may be awarded. As this funding is internal, F&A will not be charged, and therefore should not be included in the budget. Awards will be made directly to the PI’s department. Funds may be used for faculty international travel, to bring potential collaborators to the US, or for other creative ideas to build teams to address international issues relevant to UTIA. Please also note the “what is not funded” section at the end of this document.

Deadline
The deadline for receipt of applications is 5:00pm EDT, April 2, 2019.

Period of award
Awardees will have up to 18 months to spend their seed grant funds. Grant periods are expected to run May 1, 2019 – October 31, 2020. Requests for no-cost extensions may be considered in exceptional circumstances only. We anticipate continuing to offer this opportunity annually.

Review process
Proposals will be reviewed by faculty who have been awarded international seed grants in previous rounds, and by faculty members of the UTIA International Advisory Council. Reviewers will make recommendations to the Smith Chair and funding decisions will be finalized.
Award notification
Awardees will be notified by email and listed on the UTIA Smith Center website by no later than May 1, 2019. Number of awards is contingent upon quality of proposals received. Activity on funded proposals can begin on May 1, 2019.

Deliverable
Within 30 days of the end of the funded period, a final report will be completed by the PI describing the measurable outcomes and impact of the seed grant, as well as future plans for the funded team. A template for this report will be provided by the Smith Center.

Questions
Questions about this opportunity should be directed to the Smith Chair, tomgill@tennessee.edu.

Notes
- Abstracts of previously funded seed grants (from 2016, 2017 and 2018) can be found at: https://ag.tennessee.edu/international/Pages/SeedGrants.aspx
- Grants are competitive and awarded based on the information provided in the application.
- Confirmation will be sent to applicants via email acknowledging receipt of application.
- A faculty member may apply as part of more than one team, but can only be PI on one proposal submission per year.
- Previous recipients of seed grants are eligible to be PI or co-PI on proposals submitted under this call.

What is not funded
- Travel to attend/participate at international conferences and/or present papers at international meetings.
- Sabbatical travel.
- Proposals from individual faculty members (i.e. “teams of one”).
- Proposals to make one-time visits to other universities to establish partnerships or memorandums of agreement without substantive and specific programmatic ties or limited prospects for extramural funding.
- Proposals that request funding for collaborations outside of the geographic target countries identified in the eligibility section.