2012

Misr El-Kheir foundation

Human Development is .. Our Mission

AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY CALL FOR PROPOSALS]

This call for proposal is one of a series of call for proposals that will be announced by Misr Elkheir Foundation with the aim of developing Innovative Sustainable Communities

Deadline for Proposal's Submission:
١٥/١٠/2012

1. Introduction:

Misr El Kheir (MEK) is an Egyptian Non Governmental Organization registered with number 555 in May 2007 under the law 84 for year 2002. MEK aims at developing and empowering the Egyptian Communities to reach a favorable level of quality of life through a self sustainable development model. In order to reach its goals, MEK seeks national and international cooperation and collaboration with active players in the society through strong and true partnerships.

In general, NGOs, play a key role in the development process, and as Science and Technology (S&T) are fundamental for social and economic progress, NGOs should utilize them as an important tool for achieving a better quality of life. MEK is taking the initiative to utilize S&T for community development. This will help in satisfying the basic needs of the Egyptian people using sustainable models.

The Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Program, at MEK, was launched back in 2008 by funding research projects of prominent scientists in the medical field of science. By 2010, the number of research projects increased to four projects; and other capacity building projects were launched. By the beginning of 2011 various projects were considered by MEK covering the whole cycle of innovation.

The vision of the program is “Scientific Research for Living” and its main objectives are to:

1. Develop and Promote World Class Scientific Research;
2. Capacity Building;
3. Promote a Culture of Scientific Research and Innovation; and
4. Encouraging NGOs to support Science and Technology

2. Call Rationale:

Egypt, like many countries, is facing the challenges of food security. With a population reaching 90 millions and available cultivated land of only 8-9 million feddans, and climatic changes start to leave marks on the sector efficiencies, the agriculture sector needs to look and boost new innovative tools to increase the efficiencies of resources utilization (land, water and animal). Such dilemma has mandates the developing and utilization of modern approaches to protect livestock against endemic, exotic, and zoonotic diseases in order to improve the meat and milk production (red or white) as well as milk quality. New vaccines and biologics need to be developed against local pathogens using biotechnology and nanotechnology for fast efficient action. Currently, industry have been developing new technologies for better utilization of agriculture field yield of both commodity crops and its by-products in order to create new biomass industries with sustainable future, create jobs, improve farmers' income, and added value to farm products. Egyptian agriculture sector is producing between 25-30 million tones annually of biomass which could be a base for sustainable industries to produce animal feeds, biochar, alternative chemicals and biofuels. Back to nature and traditional knowledge is the new theme for industry. Synthetic chemicals have been replaced by natural products based on common practices of local communities. Agriculture could be a source of natural materials from Egyptian indigenous aromatic and medicinal plants. New innovations for agronomic modification, active ingredients extraction techniques, and formulation and application scope will be a source of value-add to both national economy and industry

3. Objectives of the Call

This call for proposals is one of a series of calls that aim at developing "Innovative Sustainable Communities". This particular call is focusing on the following topics:

1. Utilization of modern techniques for production of veterinary vaccines and biologics.
2. Production of active ingredients from aromatic and medicinal plants

3. Utilizing industrial biotechnology to improve the value-add of agricultural by-products.

4. Eligible applicants:

- Egyptians and non-Egyptian residents affiliated to an Egyptian institution may apply.
- International collaboration is welcomed; however the cost of foreign researchers will not be covered by MEK.

5. Application Format

Provided by MEK's Guide for Applicants, Scientific Research Grant, available at www.misrlkheir.org/ApplicantGuide

6. Budget

Up to L.E. One Million per project

Salaries are allowed and should be relevant to the scientific experience; research track record and achievements of the scientists.

Percentage of time dedicated to the research should be considered while calculating the salary

A maximum of 12% of the requested budget is allowed as indirect cost.

The lower the percentage of the indirect cost is the higher the possibility of the project to be funded.

7. Project Duration

Maximum of 2 years

8. Evaluation Criteria

The proposals will be evaluated on competitive basis based on the following criteria:

- Scope of the call
- Scientific merit
- Validity of the research concept
- Innovation
- Relevance and track record of the research team
- Budget adequacy

9. General Remarks

- The General Guidelines Section of the Guide for Applicants MUST be carefully read
- Proposals will be evaluated on competitive basis in proportional with agricultural strategy 2030
- Proposals must be submitted in alignment with MEK's Guide for Applicants, Scientific Research Grant, available at www.misrelkheir.org/AppliantGuide
- All information on the Evaluation process and reporting are provided by MEK's Guide for Applicant.
- All proposals must be submitted via MEK's website.
- For proposal submission (ONLY online Application will be accepted)please use this link www.misrelkheir.org/Agrsubmit

10. Deadline
15/10/2012