

Agropolis Fondation

Scientific collaboration between Agropolis Fondation and Brazil



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Agropolis Fondation was established in February 2007. As a grant-making foundation, it supports and promotes research and higher education in agriculture and sustainable development. It seeks to establish and reinforce international collaboration between its scientific network (see box) and key international partners in the North and the South and the Mediterranean.

France and Brazil has very strong scientific links, particularly between Montpellier talent pool and Brazilian scientists in the field of agriculture and food. EMBRAPA is among the top 3 international partners of the foundation's scientific network.

In this context, Agropolis Fondation has signed a multi-year agreement with the Brazilian Agency for Research and Higher Education (CAPES) on research and training in agriculture and sustainable development, providing a unique opportunity to enhance France- Brazil scientific cooperation. The two institutions launched in 2010 and 2011 Joint Calls for Proposals which led to the funding of 10 projects involving scientists from France, Brazil and African countries. A third Joint Call in 2013 is under preparation.

Also, the Foundation has supported a series of workshops (2007 to 2009) of the International Consortium on Advanced Biology (International Advanced Biology Consortium, CIBA) aimed to develop proposals submitted to French and European Calls for Proposals as well as to define research priorities and partnerships involving France, Brazil and the African region. The Foundation (co-) funds 22 projects involving Brazilian scientists from various research institutions (e.g., EMBRAPA, IAPAR, IAC, CENARGEN, CEPLAC, EPAMIG, etc.) and universities (e.g., Brasília, Campinas, Londrina, Parana, Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo etc.) thereby contributing to knowledge sharing and scientific capacity building.

Agropolis Fondation and its scientific network in brief...

From its base in Montpellier, at the heart of Agropolis International, the Foundation is able to draw on an extraordinary pool of international expertise and talent.

The foundation's scientific network includes 37 research units (involving 2700 staff, including more than 1300 permanent scientists, 600 doctorates and 200 post-docs) specializing in plant research at various levels covering a wide range of disciplines including:

- Genetics and genomics, plant breeding, eco-physiology
- Integrated crop protection, plant pests and diseases, symbiotes, population ecology
- Agro-ecosystems, agri-environmental innovations and resource management
- Agri-food systems, processing and quality of food and non-food materials
- Innovation processes and social management of innovation

As a grant-making foundation, Agropolis Fondation provides different types of funding support designed to encourage break-through research and to create a leverage effect on international attractiveness and visibility. It funds scientific and capacity building programmes in the following interdisciplinary axes:

- Development of plant phenotypes
- Diversity of interrelations between plants and bio-aggressors
- Agro-ecosystems, territories, services and innovation

- From genes to products: integrated approaches for assessing, controlling and improving the quality of plant products

The Foundation's funding commitment is about 4 M€ per year. Since its inception, it has funded more than 100 projects involving more than 200 Agropolis Fondation Fellows and 300 partners from 70 countries (more than 60% from the South and the Mediterranean).

Since its inception, Agropolis Fondation has privileged integrative (from genes to systems, up to the final use of products) and interdisciplinary approach (biological, engineering, human and social sciences, as well as other disciplines) to plants of agronomic interest. It encourages interdisciplinary efforts on key issues facing today's bioeconomy, particularly those that are at the interface of temperate, tropical and Mediterranean regions: Increasing demand for plants and plant by-products for both food and non-food applications; interaction between climate change and crops; and prevention and management of risks related to crop and food systems.

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