



UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MANILA
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

G/F National Institutes of Health Bldg., UP Manila, 623 Pedro Gil St. Ermita, Manila 1000 Philippines
Tel Nos: (632) 5264266; (632) 5264349 Telefax No: (632) 5250395 Website: <http://nih.upm.edu.ph>



RGAO10003382

13 June 2017

TO : Deans/Directors/Department Chairs/Faculty/REPS

FROM : *Eva Maria Cutiongco* **Eva Maria Cutiongco – Dela Paz, MD, FPPS**
Vice Chancellor for Research, UPM and
Executive Director, NIH

SUBJECT : **Department of Agriculture (DA) – Biotech Program Call for Proposals**

We are pleased to announce that the Department of Agriculture (DA) Biotech Program is now accepting proposals for the fourth quarter of CY 2017 and for CY 2018.

The priority areas are as follows:

1. Policy Research and Advocacy;
2. Institutional Capacity Enhancement;
3. Information, Education and Communication; and
4. Applied Biotech Research.

Attached is the Call for Proposal for your reference. You can download the capsule proposal form at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B5J-zjXx6Q3zcTdtalNHZ21PS2s>.

The **deadline** for submission of proposal is on **30 June 2017**. For inquiries, kindly coordinate with the Research Grants Administration Office (rgao@post.upm.edu.ph, 567-2054)

Thank you for your continued interest in health research and development.

DA BIOTECH PROGRAM'S CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Agencies/organizations/institutions are encouraged to submit project proposals on any of the priority areas listed below for funding consideration under DA Biotechnology Program for the fourth quarter of CY 2017 and for CY 2018

Interested parties are encouraged to submit proposals through the dabiotech.proposals@gmail.com. Attached are the step-by-step guide on submission and processing and format for the capsule proposal.

Dates to remember:

June 30, 2017 : For 4th quarter of 2017

October 31, 2018 : For CY 2018

For further inquiries, please feel free to contact us at (632) 927-0426 / 922-0057 or through dabiotech.proposals@gmail.com.

Priority Areas:

A. Policy Research and Advocacy

1. Environmental impact of GM corn in the Philippines
2. Conduct of market and feasibility studies on GM products in the pipeline and other biotech products and processes
3. Development of product standards for priority natural ingredients
4. Integrating Biotechnology into basic education
5. Conduct of feasibility studies on establishing regional business incubators
6. Technology audit of home-grown innovations/technologies
7. Setting up the regulatory system for GM animals and new plant breeding techniques

B. Institutional Capacity Enhancement

1. Upgrading of biotech laboratories and skills enhancement for DA regulatory agencies
2. DA manpower development program for research, IP protection and management, and technology commercialization
3. Introduction of biotechnology topics in basic education (preferably in partnership with DepEd)
4. On-the-Job training applications in key biotech centers
5. Upgrading of existing DA analytical service laboratories to assist in the requirements of public/private partners specific for natural ingredients to comply with international standards
6. Strengthening the DA Intellectual Property Office

C. Information, Education and Communication

1. Information dissemination and production of information materials in different dialects
2. Information and advocacy campaign in support to policy-making on biotechnology
3. Information, education and communication campaign/advocacy targeting specific stakeholder

4. Establishment and maintenance of a virtual network of databases and information hub on biotechnology

D. Applied Biotech Research

I. Priority Research Areas for Crops (*abaca, rice, banana, mango, coconut, white and yellow corn, cotton, cassava, sweet potato, yam, tomato, eggplant, papaya, rubber*)

Genetic improvement using modern biotech tools

- a. Development of climate resilient crops (tolerant to drought, heat and salinity)
- b. Development of pest resistant (insect and diseases) crops

Diagnostic kits/tools

- c. Validation of protocols developed to detect disease, pathogen, etc. (*preferably protocols developed supported by the DA BPO*)
- d. Development of high-throughput molecular-based disease detection methods for the priority crops
- e. Development of on-site disease detection kit/s for the priority crops

DNA fingerprinting and varietal identification (in collaboration with BPI)

- f. Development of molecular IDs for variety identification of Philippine coffee and cacao

II. Priority Research Areas for LIVESTOCK (*water buffalo, cattle, small ruminants (goat and sheep), swine and poultry*)

Ensure food safety and quality, Animal Health (in collaboration with government-regulatory/research agencies i.e., BAI, NMIS, NDA, PNAD)

- g. Development of high-throughput detection protocols for the following:
 - Food-borne pathogens
 - Residues
 - Adulterants
- h. Development of local products for animal/public health
 - Vaccines
 - On-site detection kits (i.e., for salbutamol, ect.)

III. Priority Research Areas for FISHERIES (*milkfish, tilapia, siganids, groupers, pompano, snappers, sea bass, eels, marine fish, tuna, sardines, shrimp, freshwater prawn, mud crab, blue crab, abalone, scallops, giant clam, oyster, sea cucumbers, indigenous species, and high value species*)

Development of Disease Management protocols

- i. Evaluating immune responses
 - Molecular diagnostics
 - Profiling and breeding for disease resistance
 - Development of immune stimulants
- j. Climate change
 - Heat and saline tolerance
 - Disease resistance