

MINCyT-BMBF Call
For joint projects
Research and development in the
Area of bioeconomy

Scope of application

Biological resources and processes should be used in a systematic way, in order to ensure global food supply, produce safe and healthy food, achieve sustainable agricultural production and promote the use of renewable resources in industry and the generation of energy. The use of biotechnology methods and the effort to improve biological production systems in industry have become increasingly important. Companies are introducing sustainable processes and products for the sake of remaining competitive. However, we must continue our efforts to ensure global food security and at the same time promote a bio-based economy. It is becoming increasingly evident in many countries that the production of agricultural biomass will have to face the growing problem of competitiveness in the use of resources, ranging from feeding of the population to the industrial extraction of raw materials for the production of biofuels and biomaterials.

Taking into account that bio-economy is an economic system based on biology, it is necessary to expand, essentially, national initiatives into the field of international cooperation. This is the main purpose of the MinCyt-BMBF Call for Proposals.

Aim of financing

The aim of this program is to finance high-quality research and development projects with the participation of German and Argentine partners in order to strengthen existing initiatives and establish new international partnerships/collaborations in one of the following fields of research:

1. Technological Platforms for Bioeconomy - genotyping and phenotyping with future applications in plant and crop breeding
2. Valorisation of agricultural waste into new products (e.g. including biomaterials or bio-based chemicals)
3. Biotechnological products and production technologies to reduce the impact of agriculture on the environment (eco-efficiency)

To be eligible for participation, consortia must be formed by companies, universities, non-university research centres and/or federal or provincial institutions, depending on the project's focus. Each consortium must include at least one partner from Argentina and one partner from Germany; the maximum number of partners on each side will not be restricted.

Depending on the project focus, the participation of industry (SMEs or larger companies) is possible, but not mandatory.

Partners from other countries may participate in consortia, but must fully cover their own project expenses. Financing of their participation must be proved.

Evaluation and Financing

Proposals shall be evaluated separately in Argentina and Germany following a peer-review process and the results of the evaluation shall be confirmed by BMBF and MINCYT. Proposals with positive evaluation results may be funded by both institutions, depending on the financial capacity and mechanism available in each country.

Funding may be requested to cover:

- Labour costs for postdoctoral researchers, doctoral researchers and assistants
- Consumables
- Small equipment needed for research project
- Administrative and ticket expenses
- Subcontracting (Germany only)
- Overhead (only in Germany)

The MINCYT will provide a grant of up to 450,000 Argentine pesos per year per approved project.

This amount will be delivered for management to the Technological Linkage Unit (TLU) appointed exclusively by the Argentine University or Research Centre to which the Argentine Project Coordinator belongs, which must be registered as such with the Agency for Science and Technology Promotion. The MINCYT will set out the conditions under which the grant will be provided in an agreement entered with the above TLU, where internal rules for funding and subsequently rendering of accounts will be set forth.

Proposal submission and procedure for the evaluation

Argentine/German participants are requested to prepare a common proposal (a proposal template is available on the respective web sites, see below) in Spanish until the closing of the Call February 15, 2018. Each country must define a project coordinator who will be responsible for submitting the application on behalf of the consortium simultaneously to the responsible office in Germany and Argentina.

For submission of the proposal in Germany, the submission system at www.bioeconomy-international.de must be used. Electronic mail submission is not allowed.

For submission of the proposal in Argentina a presentation form and a spread sheet with the institutional signatures available on the website of MINCYT: www.mincyt.gob.ar

The duration of the projects is expected to be up to 24 months.

Coordinators are encouraged to contact their national contacts for more information (see below) before submitting their proposals.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation of project proposals received, which may involve external experts, is based on the following criteria:

- Relevance to objectives of the national strategic funding policy
- Added value of international cooperation (increase in the knowledge base, young researchers' training, access to R&D infrastructure)
- Relevance of the research approach, quality and originality of the solution strategy
- Prospects of success and commercial exploitation of results
- Excellence and expertise of the applicant and the partners involved (German and Argentine); relevance of previous work of all the partners for the intended project
- Accuracy of the extent and structure of the project, quality and consistency of time programming, work and budget plans and or allocation of work among partners

Final financing decisions will be taken jointly by MINCYT and BMBF based on expert reports and national priorities.

Time Schedule

- Call opening: 15 December 2017
- Submission deadline: 15 April 2018

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