

Announcement

MinCyt-BMBF Call for Proposals

for Joint R&D Projects

in the field of Bioeconomy

Scope:

Biological resources and processes must be used systematically in order to secure the global food supply, produce healthy and safe foodstuffs, make agricultural production more sustainable and promote the use of renewable resources in industry and energy generation. Using biotechnological methods and focusing on improved biological production systems in industry are also becoming increasingly important. Companies are introducing sustainable processes and products in order to remain competitive. However, we must keep up our efforts to ensure global food security while moving towards a bio-based economy. It is becoming evident in many countries that agricultural biomass production will have to face the increasing problem of competing uses, ranging from feeding the population to industrial extraction of raw materials to the production of biofuels.

Realizing the bioeconomy as a bio-based economic system requires more than merely national initiatives. International cooperation is needed. This is the purpose of the MinCyt-BMBF Call for Proposals.

Object of funding

The aim of this program is to fund high quality research and development projects of German and Argentinian partners in order to strengthen existing and establish new international partnerships/collaborations in one of the following fields of research:

1. Technology Platforms for bioeconomy – genotyping & phenotyping
2. Valorization of agricultural waste
3. Biotechnology products and production technologies for lowering the footprint of agriculture in the environment (eco-efficiency)

Eligible consortia are built of - depending on the project's orientation - companies, universities, non-university research establishments and/or federal institutions. Each consortium must include at least one partner from Argentina and one partner from Germany; the maximum number of partners is not restricted.

The participation of industry (SMEs and/or large industry) is possible but not obligatory (depending on the project's orientation).

Additional partners from other countries may participate to the consortia on their own costs. The financing of their project participation has to be proven.

Evaluation & Financing:

All proposals will be separately evaluated in Argentina and Germany in a peer review process and evaluation results will be matched together by BMBF and MinCyt. Proposals with positive evaluation results can be financed by both institutions according to the capacity and financial mechanism of each country.

Funding can be requested for:

- Employment costs for postdoc-researchers, PhD- researchers and assistants
- Consumables
- Small equipment for the research project
- Travel costs
- Subcontracting
- Overhead costs

Submission and evaluation procedure:

The Argentinian /German participants are requested to write a common proposal (a proposal template is provided at the respective submission websites; see below) in English language until the call deadline on June 3th, 2015.

Each country has to define a project coordinator who has the task to submit the application on behalf of the consortium simultaneously once in Germany (via Submission System) and once in Argentina (per e-mail).

For the submission of the proposal in Germany the online submission system (www.bioeconomy-international.de) has to be used. A submission via email is not allowed.

Argentinian cooperation partners are asked to submit their proposal simultaneously to MinCyt. To learn more about submission to MinCyt please visit www.mincyt.gob.ar, or contact [Lic. Karina Pombo](#) or [Lic. Micaela Bomba](#).

The project duration is expected to be up to 36 month.

The coordinators are advised to contact their national contacts (see below) before submitting their proposals.

Evaluation criteria

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

- Relevance to the national funding policy objectives
- Added value of international cooperation (increased knowledge base, training of young scientists, access to R&D infrastructure, ...)
- Relevance of the research approach, quality and originality of the solution strategy
- Chances of success and commercial exploitation of the results
- Excellence and expertise of the applicant and the partners involved (German and Brazilian); relevant previous work of all the partners

- Appropriateness of the size and structure of the project, quality and stringency of the time schedule, work and budgetary plans and distribution of work among the partners

The final funding decisions will be taken jointly by MinCyt and BMBF based on the experts' reports and the respective national priorities.

Timeline

- June, 03rd, 2015: Deadline for submission of proposals
- June – September 2015: national and joint evaluation

National Contacts

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