

Call for Proposals - FY 2022-2023

The Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station Competitive Grant Program

DEADLINE – Midnight (Eastern), Friday, October 15, 2021

Full-time faculty (tenured/tenure track/professional track) in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (AGNR), University of Maryland, are eligible to apply for this grant. Professional track (PTK) faculty who are applying as Lead-PIs are strongly encouraged to partner with tenured/tenure track faculty. **Recipients of FY 2021-2022 MAES Competitive Grants are not eligible to submit in this round of competition. Those who have pending “no-cost extension” or pending final report submission on the previously funded MAES projects are also not eligible.** Only one proposal can be submitted by a faculty as the Lead-PI. A faculty who is a Lead-PI can be a Co-PI on no more than one other proposal. Furthermore, faculty are limited to be Co-PIs on no more than two proposals if they are not leading a proposal.

Types of Proposals: Research (basic, applied, and/or combination of basic & applied) may be submitted under this RFA. Proposals may have Extension component, but Extension education-only proposals or proposals heavy on extension and light on research are not within the scope of this MAES Competitive Grants Program.

Areas of Focus: Proposals should focus and address NIFA’s high priority areas, both under Foundational and AFRI programs, as noted in the 2018 Farm Bill (2018-2023). It is also expected that your proposals align with one or more of AGNR’s Strategic Initiatives. As such, here are focus areas A and B:

A) AFRI’s High-Priority Research Areas (<https://nifa.usda.gov/farm-bill>):

- Agriculture economics and rural communities
- Agriculture systems and technology
- Animal health and production and products
- Bioenergy, natural resources, and environment
- Food safety, nutrition, and health
- Plant health and production and plant products

Note that our emphasis is on USDA-NIFA research priority areas because majority of support for our research programs comes from our capacity funds, and AFRI is our major target for competitive grants. However, if seed data collected under the MAES Competitive Grants Program can potentially be used to compete for other external sources, you may include research priority areas of other prospective federal funding agencies such as NSF, DOE, DOD, EPA, NIH, USGS, etc. Please provide specific information on the vital state, regional and national research areas being addressed for potential extramural funding, so that the Review Panel can develop an appreciation for the importance of your proposed research.

B) AGNR's Strategic Initiatives (<https://agnr.umd.edu/about/strategic-initiatives>):

It is important that we align our research activities towards achieving the goals of AGNR's Strategic Initiatives. Conformity of your proposed research project with any of the following AGNR's Five Strategic Initiatives, is one of the main review criteria.

Please make sure that you expound how your proposal aligns with one or more of these initiatives:

- 1. Establish a Healthy Food System and Ensure Global Food and Nutritional Security**
- 2. Ensure Healthy Watersheds and the Chesapeake Bay**
- 3. Advance Innovative, Profitable, and Sustainable Agricultural Production Systems**
- 4. One Health: Improve Human, Animal, and Environmental Health**
- 5. Optimize Urban Environments Through Design, Green Technology, and Community Engagement**

How to Submit a Proposal:

All proposals should be submitted online using the University of Maryland Limited Submission and Seed Grant Portal at <https://umd.infoready4.com/> using your UMD Username and Password to login. Please contact Rubie G. Mize at rgmize@umd.edu (PH 301-405-4049) if you have questions about the InfoReady system and this RFA.

Proposals cannot exceed \$30K, and are limited to the duration of funding period from January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Note that project period had been extended from 12 months (prior years) to 18 months to avoid missing growing season, etc., thus no extensions will be approved unless an emergency or *force majeure* event caused a delay in accomplishing the project's objectives. "No Cost Extensions" are detrimental to the continuation of MAES Competitive Grants Program because funds not used during the specified project period do not carry forward; thus forcing us to use funds from "new" Fiscal Year.

PIs who have received prior MAES Grant support should indicate whether MAES funded research helped them to submit external proposals and whether they were successful in securing funding. We need to determine the ROI (Return on Investment) to see if these competitive grants help our faculty to secure external funding. Information can be useful in deciding future continuation of the program. In addition, progress reports are required from awardees informing MAES of proposal(s) submitted to AFRI and/or other federal funding agencies and the status of those submissions as their projects are on-going.

Proposal Format:

Upload your PDF submission into the appropriate box in the form. Use **Times New Roman – 12 font – single-spaced**. Name your electronic file using format: **Last name of PI, First Initial – PI's Department acronym 2022-2023 MAES (Example: Puneet, S.-ENST-2022-2023, MAES)**.

- Title – brief, clear and concise that would give a clear indication of what the research project is about. Limit to 100 characters, including symbols and spaces.
- Area of focus (please refer to the list provided under "Areas of Focus A and B")
- Faculty name and address, including phone, email and department or research center.
- Co-PIs names and addresses, including phone, email and department or research center for each.

- Names, e-mail addresses and phone numbers of 2 experts (one internal/University of Maryland Scientist and one external/non University of Maryland Scientist from other local agencies such as USDA-ARS, FDA, EPA, DOE, NIH, etc.). Past major advisors, students and current co-investigators cannot be recommended. We may ask the experts suggested by you to serve in the review panel. Therefore, please make sure that they are willing to serve prior to providing their names.
- Introduction and rationale for conducting the research. Include in this section a brief review of pertinent literature and any available preliminary data. (1 page maximum)
- Overall goal and objectives listed numerically and referenced to procedures. (1 page maximum)
- Research Plan. Describe the methods that will be used to achieve the objectives listed above. Please write separate materials and methods for each specific objective. Also include in this section a tentative timeline for anticipated outcomes. (3 pages maximum)
- Anticipated outcomes and how results will be used to address a specific NIFA AFRI Priority Area and support the goals of AGNR's Strategic Initiatives. If not NIFA, then what federal agency is interested in this line of research and what agency's priority area are you responding to? (1 page maximum)
- How will this funding enhance your future competitiveness and what agency may potentially fund this type of research?
- Literature citations. (1 page maximum)
- A two page C.V. (2 page maximum) for each project PI and Co-PIs.
- Detailed budgets (Note - all costs associated with the project including salaries and fringe benefits, excluding tuition remission, must be included in the budget. Please outline each budget item. **This program cannot support Faculty and Post-doc salaries, and tuition remission.**)
- **Please follow the attached template and submit/upload all in one PDF file at URL-- <https://umd.infoready4.com/>**

Proposals are due by midnight Friday, October 15, 2021

Proposals arriving after this time will not be accepted.

Proposals submitted with incomplete information will be returned and declined.

Review Process:

A Panel of external and internal peer reviewers, representing the different areas of focus reflected in the proposals, will complete their reviews online, also using the UMD Infoready system. The review process is anticipated to take about 4-5 weeks.

The entire process starting from issuance of RFA through submission, review, etc., is transparent. However, names of "Review Panel" members are kept confidential, to the extent possible, as is done in all external agency panels.

Reviewers will focus and rate proposals (1 lowest to 9 highest) using the following criteria:

- **Quality of Science** - hypotheses/objectives, literature review/background, methodology, potential outcome, peer-reviewed publications that may result from work, innovation, etc.
- **Relevance to the USDA-NIFA and AFRI priority areas and support for the AGNR Strategic Initiatives**
- **Future Funding Support** - Plan and degree of potential for results to lead to extramural funding

The MAES Office will notify all the PIs about the result of the review and their proposal's standing in terms of being funded or not, and share the review comments with them.

Awards Process:

Awards will be announced no later than November 30, 2021. Funding will be available January 2022 or as soon as the KFS accounts have been assigned. The MAES Business Manager will work with the College's Finance Office to secure KFS account numbers for each selected proposal for funding and will notify the project PI and his/her respective department.

Prior to release of funds, investigators will be required to have an approved IRB or IACUC protocol, if applicable. Winning PIs will be required to enter their project into the USDA-NIFA's "REReport" system as soon as their project is selected for funding. Ms. Rubie G. Mize will provide directions and guidance on how to enter the project in REReport [<https://portal.nifa.usda.gov>]. Progress and final reports will be submitted in REReport.

Note: In some instances, proposals will be ranked based on the focus areas in order to have some level of funding distribution and coverage of priority areas rather than funding being allocated to one specific area.

**Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station Competitive Grant Program
Submission Form – FY 2022-2023**

*Faculty members submitting for this competition are required to inform their
Department Chair of their participation in this MAES Competitive Grant Competition.*

Title of Planned Research:

Area(s) of Focus ([AFRI Research Priority Area](#) and [AGNR Strategic Initiative](#)):

Funding Request (\$30,000 maximum):

AMOUNT REQUESTED _____

Dept. Business/Account Manager _____ Phone _____ E-mail _____

Lead PI name:

Lead PI phone:

Lead PI email:

Lead PI campus mailing address:

Department or Research Center:

Co PI #1 name:

Co PI #1 phone:

Co PI #1 email:

Co PI #1 campus mailing address:

Department or Research Center:

Co PI #2 name:

Co PI #2 phone:

Co PI #2 email:

Co PI #2 campus mailing address:

Department or Research Center:

NOTE: Past advisors, students, and current co-investigators cannot be used as reviewers.

*Contact information for prospective reviewers are very important!
Please make sure that information you provide are up-to-date and accurate,
so please verify before listing them here.*

Please provide names, current e-mail addresses and phone numbers of two experts (one internal/University of Maryland Scientist and one external/non University of Maryland Scientist from other local agencies such as USDA-ARS, FDA, EPA, DOE, NIH, etc.) who are willing and could evaluate your proposal and serve as a panel member. Past major advisors, students and current co-investigators cannot be recommended. These must be included before the proposal will be processed.

1 Internal E-mail: Phone:

2 External E-mail: Phone:

Abstract - (Not to exceed 200 words):

History of Past MAES Grant(s) and Potential for Future Funding –

This is an important Section, so please provide accurate information. Our program's continuous funding is dependent on your success to secure external competitive grants.

1. Please list the title, co-P.I.s and years funded of any previous MAES competitive grant(s) in the last five years.
2. If seed data collected by any previously funded MAES grants led to successful awards of larger grants from other agencies by you or your co-P.I.s, please list them here and indicate which MAES grant led to a new larger grant, what agency funded it, year of funding and the amount of funding.
3. MAES competitive grants are intended to be a tool for obtaining seed data to enhance your competitiveness for future funding and not an end in itself. Using the information generated by this grant to what agency do you plan on submitting a proposal for a larger grant and when?

Introduction and Rationale for Conducting the Research - Include in this section a brief review of pertinent literature, and any available preliminary data and justifications for your proposed project. (1 page maximum)

Objectives - List numerically and reference to them when describing the procedures under the “Research Plan”. (1 page maximum)

Research Plan - Describe the methods that will be used to achieve the objectives listed above. Please describe method(s) used to accomplish each specific objective separately. Also include in this section a tentative timeline for anticipated accomplishments. (3 pages maximum)

Anticipated Outcomes – Please state as to which [AFRI Research Priority Area](#) your proposal is addressing, and explain how results will be used to support the [Strategic Initiatives](#) of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. (1 page maximum)

Literature Citations (1 page maximum)

CV(s): 2-page CV for each PI and Co-PI's

Detailed Budget -

(Note - all costs associated with the project including salaries and fringe benefits, except tuition remission, **must be included** in the budget. *Faculty and Post-doc salaries cannot be supported under this program.*)

Salaries

Graduate Student	\$
Undergraduate Student	\$
Other	\$

Fringe Benefits (do not include tuition remission) \$

Supplies

Substrates and Chemicals	\$
Analytical Supplies	\$

Equipment Less than \$5,000 \$

(provide a brief description of the equipment and its use in your proposed research)

Travel (in state only and for the purposes of this project) \$

Other \$

Other \$

Other \$

Total Amount