2020 Research Grant

Call for Research Projects

Guidelines

The International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation (INC) promotes clinical, epidemiological, basic and/or strategic research that may contribute to enhance the understanding of the health effects of nuts and dried fruits.

The INC calls for research projects from researchers from public and private institutions, as well as not-for-profit organizations.

Since the INC represents 17 nuts and dried fruits (namely almonds, apricot kernels, Amazonia (Brazil) nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, peanuts, dates, dried apricots, dried cranberries, dried figs, dried grapes and prunes), INC will only accept research projects with at least 3 nuts OR 3 dried fruits.

INC will not accept scientific studies that mix nuts and dried fruits.

Research proposals can include 3 or more of the above-mentioned nuts or dried fruits. However, projects that compare nuts or dried fruits among themselves will not be accepted.

Up to 300,000 EUR is available for this grant. This call is for both co-funded and non co-funded projects.

Research priorities:

1. Fertility
2. Diabetes prevention
3. Diabetes and hyperlipidemia treatments
4. Microbiota
5. Cardioprotective mechanisms and/or inflammatory diseases
6. Calorie control and satiety
7. Cancer
8. Human health and environmental sustainability
Other priorities:

- New research against existing studies
- Multi-institutional, cooperative projects
- Co-funded projects
- Clinical trials

Furthermore, cooperation with industry-related partners will be scored favorably.

**Instructions to apply:**

1. First of all, project proposals must be submitted using the Letter of Intent Form. Letters are **due by September 30, 2019**. Please send your Letter of Intent as one single PDF e-mail attachment before September 30, 2019, at 11:59 PM (UTC+2), to maria.pascual@nutfruit.org. We need an electronic copy only. Please do not send paper copies.

   List of final candidates will be announced in **October 31, 2019**.

2. Then, the final candidates must complete the final project proposal using the Application Form. Applications are **due by December 31, 2019**. Please send your Application as one single PDF e-mail attachment before December 31, 2019, at 11:59 PM (UTC+1), to maria.pascual@nutfruit.org. We need an electronic copy only. Please do not send paper copies.

The grant announcement can be expected after the XXXIX World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress, Dubai, UAE, May 28-30, 2020.
1. INC International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation

The International Nut and Dried Fruit Council Foundation (INC) is a not-for-profit organization representing more than 800 nut and dried fruit sector companies from over 80 countries. INC is the leading international organization regarding nuts and dried fruits, health, nutrition, statistics, food safety, international standards and regulations. Its mission is to stimulate and facilitate sustainable growth in the global Nut and Dried Fruit Industry.

2. INC World Forum for Nutrition Research and Dissemination

The INC World Forum for Nutrition Research and Dissemination (the Forum) is the international umbrella for scientific research into the nutritional and health effects of nuts and dried fruits. The Forum promotes scientific research, defines research priorities and promotes calls for research and dissemination of scientific findings worldwide. The Forum evaluates project proposals and scientific award nominees according to the objectives of the Forum, and promotes the production and dissemination of knowledge in accordance with its mission.

3. Call for Research Projects 2020

The objective of this grant is to fund clinical, epidemiological, basic and/or strategic research that may contribute to enhance the understanding of the health effects of nuts and dried fruits.

The INC calls for research projects from researchers from public and private institutions, as well as not-for-profit organizations.

Researchers who submit a clinical trial must have prior experience in carrying out human clinical trials.

Since the INC represents 17 nuts and dried fruits, namely almonds, apricot kernels, Amazonia (Brazil) nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, peanuts, dates, dried apricots, dried cranberries, dried figs, dried grapes and prunes, the INC will only accept research projects with at least 3 nuts OR 3 dried fruits.

**INC will not accept scientific studies that mix nuts and dried fruits.**
Research proposals can include 3 or more of the above-mentioned nuts or dried fruits. However, projects that compare nuts or dried fruits among themselves will not be accepted.

3.1. Research Topics

2020 Research priorities:

1. Fertility
2. Diabetes prevention
3. Diabetes and hyperlipidemia treatments
4. Microbiota
5. Cardioprotective mechanisms and/or inflammatory diseases
6. Calorie control and satiety
7. Cancer
8. Human health and environmental sustainability

Other priorities:

- New research against existing studies
- Multi-institutional, cooperative projects
- Co-funded projects
- Clinical trials

Furthermore, cooperation with industry-related partners will be scored favorably.

3.2. Grant Conditions and Financing

Up to 300,000 EUR is available for this grant. This call is for both co-funded and non co-funded projects. Co-funded projects will be scored more favorably.

INC will not cover salaries paid by the institutions of origin (or any co-applicant institution where the project or parts of the project will take place) to current employees. INC will only cover salaries of new jobs (hiring somebody for the project) and postdocs.

In the case of co-funded projects, the applicant is responsible for obtaining additional funding. Subsidizers may include public or private sector research organizations, as well as business and other partner organizations whenever these bring distinctive contributions to the research project. Salaries paid by the institution of origin are not considered co-funding. Subsidizers have to complete the Statement in the Application Form. The project cannot start until the
Subsidizers have been secured. Applicants will have up to 12 months to deliver the list of subsidizers. If the applicant has been unable to secure external co-funding within one year, the INC will no longer reserve funding for the project.

The Evaluating Committee of the Forum will peer-review and prioritize the applications. However, the final funding decision will be made by the INC Executive Committee.

If the application is successful, an agreement will be drawn up between the INC and the applicant. The information provided in the application form will provide the basis for the agreement. If the information is incorrect or significant elements are no longer applicable when the agreement is due for signature, the INC reserves the right to revise its decisions about amounts and/or recipients.

Payments will be made according to the following plan:

- 1st Payment: 50% is to be paid by the INC when the agreement is signed.
- 2nd Payment: 50% is to be paid by the INC when the Final Report is received.

The award is in euros and all documents and payments will be in euros. INC will not pay in any other currency under any circumstances and regardless of the exchange rate.

INC will not supply the foods to be tested and/or any materials needed in order to carry out the research. Applicants should not take for granted that INC members or industry partners will provide food samples for the study for free. If the project requires the acquisition of food samples, the cost should be included in the budget.

Disclaimer: All Applicant’s costs and charges incurred as a result of making this application shall be for the Applicant’s account and cannot be claimed as part of the project.
3.3. Who can apply?

INC welcomes applications from researchers from public and private institutions, as well as not-for-profit organizations. When applying, please make sure that all participating research institutions have approved the submission of the application – affirmative written consent will be necessary.

INC will only accept one project per researcher and institution. The INC will not accept more than one project from the same P.I. and the same institution.

3.4. Reservations

A positive evaluation by the Forum does not automatically imply funding. The final funding decision will be made by the INC Executive Committee.

There shall be no expectation of grant unless and until a Grant Agreement is signed by both parties and the appropriate ethics approval, the research protocol as well as all other approvals and insurance certificate, if applicable, have been granted and a copy received in the INC Office.

3.5. Letter of Intent and Application Form

1. First of all, project proposals must be submitted using the Letter of Intent Form. Letters are due by September 30, 2019. Please send your Letter of Intent as one single PDF e-mail attachment before September 30, 2019, at 11:59 PM (UTC+2), to maria.pascual@nutfruit.org. We need an electronic copy only. Please do not send paper copies. List of final candidates will be announced in October 31, 2019.

2. Then, the final candidates must complete the final project proposal using the Application Form. Applications are due by December 31, 2019. Please send your Application as one single PDF e-mail attachment before December 31, 2019, at 11:59 PM (UTC+1), to maria.pascual@nutfruit.org. We need an electronic copy only. Please do not send paper copies.

The grant announcement can be expected after the XXXIX World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress, Dubai, UAE, May 28-30, 2020.
3.6. Evaluation

Applications submitted to the INC for grants are evaluated for scientific and technical merit through the peer-review system of the Evaluating Committee of the Forum.

The Evaluating Committee will peer-review and prioritize the applications according to scientific criteria, regardless of the nuts/fruits involved. The final funding decision will be made by the INC Executive Committee.

3.7. Duties and Responsibilities

3.7.1. Research Ethics

The conditions for the performance of the research shall be those laid down in the national rules of the Grantee institution, subject to the institution’s medical and scientific policies as well as the provisions of the research protocol, including its amendments or modifications approved by competent authorities.

In case the research involves human subjects (either directly or as an observational study), Grantee institutions agree to comply with their national applicable rules and regulations as well as the following:


- The provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki on Ethical Principles for Medical Research Involving Human Subjects, in its latest version.

Grantee institutions must safeguard the rights, including privacy and information rights and welfare of individuals who participate as subjects in research activities as specified by national authorities. If the proposed research involves the use of human subjects (either directly or through patient records), human tissue or animals, funding is contingent upon national regulation and the subjects participating in the research must be able to give their consent after having been duly informed about the nature, importance, implication and risks of their participation in the research.

Grantee institutions must ensure registration of the research protocol (e.g. ClinicalTrials.gov) pursuant to the registration requirements for clinical trials.
established by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors ("ICMJE") in order to preserve publication rights.

All grant recipients are required to obtain all necessary approvals including ethics approval from the appropriate institutional board and institutional animal care committee.

Should the application result in an award, no payments will be transferred until the appropriate ethics approval, the research protocol as well as all other approvals and insurance certificate, if applicable, have been granted and a copy received by the INC Office. The approvals and insurance must conform to the national laws of the country where the research is to be carried out.

3.7.2. Reporting

Grant holders are required to provide Progress Reports every 6 months and a Final Report to the INC.

Progress Reports require the Principal Investigator to report on measurable outcomes including papers and patents. Reports must provide information on relevance, productivity and quality of the research. The Principal Investigator will be required to use INC Report templates.

The Final Report will be required within 1 month of the conclusion of the project in case the duration of the project is less than 24 months, or 3 months in case the project lasts 24 months. The report should address the outcomes achieved in seeking the project objectives, potential impact of the project findings and how the funds were spent. The Principal Investigator will be required to justify and prove the expenses.

3.7.3. Responsibility of the Grantee

The applicant will be responsible for the project management.

Neither the INC nor the Forum assume responsibility for the conduct of the activities of the grant recipients, applicants or co-applicants, as they are under the direction and control of the grantee institution and subject to the institution's medical and scientific policies, as well as all applicable rules and regulations.

In no event will the INC be liable for any damages whatsoever arising from the performance of the research, including but not limited to direct, indirect, incidental, damages likely to threaten the life or cause personal injury to
participant subjects, punitive, and consequential damages (including without limitation those resulting from lost profits, lost reputation, lost data or business interruption) arising from the research project.

3.7.4. Mandatory Reference

It is mandatory to mention INC support in all scientific publications, as well as in presentations, posters, brochures, books, printed materials, press releases and online communications regarding the research project. The approval from both parties is required before printing. Grantees must use the phrase "supported by the INC International Nut and Dried Fruit Council" if the project is receiving or has received INC funding.

The INC logo should appear in all forms of publication such as presentations, posters, conferences and brochures.

3.7.5. Communication Plan

Once the project is completed, investigators are required to promptly prepare and submit manuscript(s) for publication in a scientific journal and notify INC. Preparation, content, editing and submission for publication of significant research findings are the responsibility of the investigators.

In addition, researchers should be willing to participate in a communication program (including press releases) aimed at disseminating the study results through traditional and social media.

A plan for communication of the outcomes of the study must be included in the Application Form.

3.8. Announcement of Grant Recipient

The grant announcement can be expected after the XXXIX World Nut and Dried Fruit Congress, Dubai, UAE, May 28-30, 2020.