

Expressions of Interest (EoI) - SEVERO OCHOA (SO-CBGP) Center of Excellence for Plant-Environment Interactions (CEPEI)-SO-EoI Grants Call

SPECIFIC BASES OF CEPEI-SO-EoI Calls

1. The SO-CBGP grant has several scientific Programs and Actions (Computational/Systems Biology and Genomics Program (CsBGP) and three Transversal Scientific Programs (TSP)) oriented to achieve the SO-CBGP Strategic Plan (SO-CBGP-SP) milestones. Recently, as part of the CBGP's internalization plan, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CBGP, the Institute of Genetics and Developmental Biology (IGDB, Beijing) from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and the Shanghai Center for Plant Stress Biology (PSC-CAS) has been signed to establish a **joint Center of Excellence for Plant-Environment Interactions (CEPEI)**. One of the **objectives of CEPEI is to develop joint research projects** in four main areas:
 - Plant Response to Biotic Stresses-TSP1
 - Plant Adaptation to Environmental Changes-TSP2
 - Empowering Plant Nutrition-TSP3
 - Computational/Systems Biology and Genomics-CsBGP
2. Human resources (PhD contracts from the Spanish *Formación de Personal Investigador* (FPIs)) will be assigned for this International cooperation program (CEPEI).
3. The Executive Board of CBGP (UPM-INIA) approved on June 16th (2017) the bases for the application and assignment of SO-CBGP human resources. To apply for the human resources assigned to CEPEI international cooperation action, the CBGP, IGD and PSC researchers have to submit a joint Expression of Interest (EoI) that will describe a research project, with objectives and milestones (see Annex 1). These EoIs have to be aligned with one of the four areas described above and with the Translational Biology Action (TBA-SO-CBGP), which aims to transfer the knowledge generated in the frame of these proposal to the bioeconomy sector. To fulfil this objective, the EoI application should include a brief description of its innovation aspects and the potential of translate the knowledge generated in the EoI to the Agro-Biotech economy sector.
4. The CBGP Directory Board will open the **CEPEI-SO-EoI** call to assign the PhD fellows of this international cooperation program. The human resources assigned to this call are five FPI PhD contracts (4 years duration) of the Spanish FPI calls of 2019 and 2020 of the Spanish Research Agency. The expected starting date for the PhDs of these two FPIs calls are October 2020 and July 2021, respectively.
5. The bases for CEPEI-SO-EoIs application and evaluation, and the specific conditions for FPIs assignments are described in the enclosed Annex 1.
6. The **CEPEI-SO-EoI** call will open on **open on April 3rd 2020 at 15:00**, and will **close on May 4th 2020 at 14:00 (CEST Spain time)**.

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7. EoI application must be fulfilled through the following CBGP intranet link: http://intranet.cbgp.upm.es/intranet/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=90&Itemid=32. In this web page you will find EoI Template file for application (Word file; see Annex 2) that must be completed and submitted in pdf format to so.cbgp@upm.es.
8. Contact for application and questions: so.cbgp@upm.es

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ANNEX 1 (CEPEI-SO-EoI)

CBGP (UPM-INIA) SEVERO OCHOA PROGRAM EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI) SO-CBGP-EoI BASES FOR CEPEI-SO-EoI Applications

1. APPLICATION

- 1.1. The CBGP/IGDB/PSC researchers have to submit an Expression of Interest (EoI) application following the EoI model (see Annex 2). Thesis Director, who has to be a CBGP's researcher, and Co-director (from CBGP, IGDB or PSC) must be indicated in the application form. CBGP researchers can be only PhD Director of one PhD student from CEPEI-SO-EoI call.
- 1.2. The PhD students must enroll into the UPM PhD Program "Biotecnología y Recursos Genéticos de Plantas y Microorganismos Asociados" (*"Biotechnology and Genetic Resources of Plants and Associated Microorganisms"*). The PhD Director and Co-director (from CBGP, IGDB or PSC) must be accepted as Professor in this UPM PhD Program.
- 1.3. Principal Investigators of the CBGP/IGDB/PSC Research Groups can only be involved as PI or co-PI in one EoI application to CEPEI program per call.
- 1.4. CBGP Researchers (including PIs, staff and tenure-track researchers) of the CBGP Research Groups can only be involved as PIs and co-PIs in one EoI application to CEPEI-SO-EoI program.
- 1.5. EoI application must involve at least one CBGP researcher and one PI of IGDB or PSC. Eols with the participation of researchers from the three institutions are encouraged to be submitted.
- 1.6. **Evaluation of the Eols:** each EoI will be reviewed by at least three members of the **CEPEI Scientific Committee (CEPEI-SC)**. The evaluation criteria will be the following:
 - EoI scientific excellence and feasibility (70 points)
 - EoI contribution to the SO-CBGP, IGDB or PSC Strategic Plans (10 points)
 - EoI contribution to translational biology and innovation (20 points)
- 1.7. The **composition of CEPEI-SC** will be the following:
 - Scientific Director of SO-Program (Dr. A. Molina)
 - Deputy Director of Scientific Programs of CBGP (Dr. C. del Pozo)
 - Three Members of the Scientific Advisory Board of the CBGP
 - Three Researchers (Group Leaders) designed by IGDB-CAS
 - Three Researchers (Group Leaders) designed by PSC-CAS
- 1.8. Once the Eols have been selected for assignment of PhD contracts (FPI program), an International call will be done by the CBGP (UPM-INIA) to pre-select candidates by the PIs/Co-PIs.
- 1.9. **The distribution of the 5 PhD contracts (FPI program)** assigned to CEPEI will be the following:
 - Plant Response to Biotic Stresses-Transversal Scientific Program (TSP1): 0-2 FPIs
 - Plant Adaptation to Environmental Changes-TSP1: 0-2 FPIs
 - Empowering Plant Nutrition-TSP3: 0-2 FPIs
 - Computational and Systems Biology and Genomics (CsBGP): 0-1 FPIs

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Annex 2

CEPEI Expression of Interest (EoI)

(sections 2-5 in pages 2-3 and section 6 in Page 4; Times New Roman 11 and 1.15 line spacing)

Title:

Acronym:

A) Principal Investigator-CBGP:

Name of the CBGP group:

Name of PIs-CBGP:

Name of other Co-PIs-CBGP:

B) Principal Investigator-IGDB/PSC:

Name of the IGDB group:

Name of Co-PI-IGDB:

Name of other Co-PIs-IGDB:

Name of the PSC group:

Name of Co-PI-PSC:

Name of other Co-PIs-PSC:

C) Area of Research (*TSP1-3/CsBGP; please mark one*)

- ☐ Plant Response to Biotic Stresses-TSP1
☐ Plant Adaptation to Environmental Changes-TSP2
☐ Empowering Plant Nutrition-TSP3
☐ Computational/Systems Biology and Genomics-CsBGP

1. EoI Summary (max. 200 words)

2. Rational, objectives, brief description of the working plan and methodology, and bibliography

3. Expected results and deliveries

4. Expected Technological Innovations (max. 200 words)

5. Other resources that the applicants could incorporate to the EoI (e.g. current funded projects)

6. Chronogram and Figures (2 maximum) in a different page (Page 4).