

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Quick Start - FY16-17 Request for Pre-Proposals (RFP)

Read this First!

What is new for FY16-17?

- **The USWBSI is soliciting proposed research for the following:**
 - **Category 1 – Commodity-based and VDHR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects (CP):**
 - Commodity-based
 - Barley (BAR-CP);
 - Durum (DUR-CP); and
 - Hard Winter Wheat (HWW-CP)
 - VDHR Uniform Nurseries:
 - Spring Wheat Parents (VDHR-SPR);
 - Northern Soft Winter Wheat (VDHR-NWW); and
 - Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat (VDHR-SWW)

For more information, please turn to page 17.
 - **Category 2 - FHB Management (MGMT) Coordinated Projects:** For FY16-17, the Coordinated Project for Uniform Fungicide Trials has been eliminated. The Integrated Management Studies Coordinated Project (IM-CP) will take over demonstrating the effectiveness of current products as well as the testing of new products as they become available. For more information, please turn to page 26.
 - **Category 3 - Research Area Individual Project Pre-Proposals:**
 - FHB Management (MGMT);
 - Food Safety and Toxicology (FST);
 - Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance (GDER);
 - Pathogen Biology and Genetics (PBG).

For more information, please turn to page 34.
- **Project Summary** is a required component for all Pre-Proposal Categories. The format and content requirements have changed from previous RFPs. PIs submitting pre-proposals for ongoing research projects should carefully review the instructions and new content requirements. Simply copying and pasting FY15 project summary into the pre-proposal without editing for conformance to content requirements and word limit is not acceptable.
- **Research priorities and action plan goals** have been updated from FY14-15. For more information, please see the [FY16-17 Program Descriptions and Research Priorities](#) (begin on page 9) or view the action plan at http://scabusa.org/pdfs/uswbsi_action-plan_web.pdf.
- **Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program Fee:** The SBIR Program is managed by the Small Business Administration and under which a portion of Federal agencies' research or research and development efforts are reserved for award to small business concerns. Mandated by Congress through the Small Business Act (PL 112-239; https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/policy_regulations/Small%20Business%20Act_0.pdf),

USDA-ARS is obligated to apply the SBIR Fee to all projects that are funded through an extramural agreement (see Sec. 9 (f) (1) FEDERAL AGENCY EXPENDITURES FOR THE SBIR PROGRAM, REQUIRED EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS, Pages 148-149 of the Small Business Act). The allocation fee rate for FY16-17 as stipulated in subsections (H) and (I) is below:

FY16 – 3.0%

FY17 – 3.2%

When applicable (only for extramural agreements i.e. non-ARS scientists), PIs are advised to incorporate the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) fee into their budget request. Guidelines for incorporating the SBIR fee into your budget request are detailed in each Category section of the RFP.

NOTE: If the fee is not incorporated into the budget request, and the proposed research is recommended for funding, ARS will subtract the fee from the USWBSI's recommended award amount prior to issuing the award.

- **Electronic Pre-Proposal Submission (EPS) System:** The EPS System is running on a new platform for FY16-17. Therefore, PIs who have previously submitted pre-proposals to the USWBSI will need to create a new user account. Each Pre-Proposal Category contains specific instructions for creating a new user account for the EPS system (see page 19, 28 or 34)

What is included in this document?

This document contains only the instructions for submitting pre-proposals for FY16-17. All RFP forms can be downloaded from the RFP website at: http://scabusa.org/research_rfp16.

NOTE: Using forms from previous RFP versions is not allowed and may result in rejection of pre-proposal.

Categories of Pre-Proposals for FY16-17:

There are three distinct categories of FY16-17 Pre-Proposals:

- 1) Proposed Research Projects submitted to one of the Commodity-based or Variety Development and Host Resistance (VDHR) Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects (CP);
- 2) Proposed Research Projects submitted to the FHB Management (MGMT) Integrated Management Coordinated Project (IM-CP); and
- 3) Individual Pre-Proposals submitted to one of the Research Area.

For more information on these three categories, see page 3.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES FOR ALL PRE-PROPOSAL CATEGORIES

Description of Item:	Deadline:
Pre-Registration for Electronic Pre-Proposal Submission (EPS) System Begins	August 3, 2015
EPS System Opens	August 5, 2015
Pre-Registration for EPS System Closes	August 31, 2015
Pre-Proposal Deadline	September 11, 2015

To see additional 'Category' specific deadlines, turn to page 8.

PREFACE

The FY16-17 Request for Pre-Proposals is based on the USWBSI's Action Plan which will lead to greater collaboration and communication, and more rapid attainment of the Initiative's primary goal: **"To enhance food safety and supply by reducing the impact of Fusarium Head Blight (scab) on wheat and barley."** To read the complete action plans for all research areas go to http://www.scabusa.org/pdfs/uswbsi_action-plan_web.pdf.

FY16-17 Research Categories (RC)

Below are the Research Categories for which FY16-17 pre-proposals will be accepted:

1. Commodity-based and VDHR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects:

- ❖ Barley Coordinated Project (BAR-CP)
- ❖ Durum Coordinated Project (DUR-CP)
- ❖ Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project (HWW-CP)
- ❖ Variety Development and Host Resistance – Spring Wheat Region (VDHR-SPR)
- ❖ Variety Development and Host Resistance - Northern Soft Winter Wheat Region (VDHR-NWW)
- ❖ Variety Development and Host Resistance - Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat Region (VDHR-SWW)

2. FHB Management Coordinated Project:

- ❖ Integrated Management Studies (IM)

3. Research Area (RA) Individual Project Pre-Proposals:

- ❖ FHB Management (MGMT)
- ❖ Food Safety and Toxicology (FST)
- ❖ Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance (GDER)
- ❖ Pathogen Biology and Genetics (PBG)

Program descriptions and research priorities for the research categories listed above are included in this document (beginning on page 9), and may also be accessed at http://www.scabusa.org/research_rfp16. Proposed research should be based on the FY16-17 research priorities which are derived from the goals of the Action Plan.

Requests for Funding

There are three distinct categories of FY16-17 Pre-Proposals: 1) Commodity-based and VDHR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects; 2) MGMT’s Integrated Management Coordinated Project (IM-CP); and 3) Research Area Individual Pre-Proposals. An overview of the three categories follows:

- 1) **Commodity-based and VDHR-Uniform Nursery based Coordinated Projects (CPs):** If the primary focus of your proposed research (all USWBSI Research Areas) is on Barley, Durum or Hard Winter Wheat, you **should** submit your proposed research to the appropriate Commodity-based Coordinated Projects. If your proposed research is in the area of Variety Development and Host Resistance, and you work within one of the Uniform Nursery Regions (see page 17 to find your regional nursery), you **must** submit your proposed research to the appropriate VDHR Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects. Please follow the instructions under **Section 1 - Commodity and VDHR-Uniform Nursery based Coordinated Projects (CPs) – Proposed Research Projects** (instructions begin on page 17).
- 2) **FHB Management Coordinated Project (CP):** If your proposed research fits into the FHB Management Coordinated Project listed below, please follow the instructions and forms under Section 2 titled “**FHB Management Coordinated Project (CP) for Integrated Management – Proposed Research Project**” (instructions begin on page 26) to submit your proposed research.
 - Integrated Management Studies (IM)
- 3) **Research Area Individual Project Pre-Proposals:** If your proposed research is in one of the research areas listed on page 2 and is not associated with a Commodity-based, VDHR-Uniform Nursery or FHB Management Coordinated Project, or if you proposed research was not accepted by one of the CPs, please follow the instructions under Section 3 titled “**Research Area Individual Project Pre-Proposals**” (instructions begin on page 34) to submit your pre-proposal.

Enhancement of USWBSI Communication Activities: The USWBSI is interested in receiving pre-proposals that innovatively address this need. PIs should follow the instructions under **Category 3: Individual Research Area Pre-Proposals**. In Box 16 of the Application for Funding Cover Page, select option ‘None of the above’.

PIs are welcome and encouraged to interact with any of the contacts (listed on page 7) for the Coordinated Projects or Research Areas, or the Networking & Facilitation Office, to identify the appropriate area for their proposed work.

Electronic Submission of FY16-17 Pre-Proposals:

The Electronic Pre-Proposal Submission (EPS) System (web-based) must be used for the submission of all Research Area Individual Pre-Proposals (Category 3) as well as supporting documents for all categories. General instructions for completing pre-proposals and supporting documents for electronic submission are included in this document under each Pre-Proposal Category section.

The on-line submission process begins with the completion of the 'Pre-Registration Process'. The pre-registration period opens August 3, 2015 and must be completed no later than August 31, 2015. Information submitted during this process will be used to setup/configure accounts for PIs and co-PIs. The Electronic Pre-Proposal Submission (EPS) System will open August 5th. Information needed for accessing the EPS System will be distributed to PIs within 48 normal business hours after completing the 'Pre-Registration Process.'

The USWBSI does not require signatures by the Authorized Organizational Representatives (AORs) on pre-proposals/proposed research projects, so AORs will not require access to the EPS system. If PI's institution requires approval from the Authorized Organizational Representative (i.e. Sponsored Programs Administration/Office) on 'pre-proposals', included in the RFP is a special form that can be used at the institutional level for obtaining approval by the PI's sponsored programs office. The form can be downloaded from the Scab Website at http://scabusa.org/research_rfp16 under 'SPECIAL FORMS' on the FY16-17 RFP web page.

INTRODUCTION

After carefully reading the 'PREFACE' and 'FY16-17 Research Category Program Descriptions and Research Priorities', you are ready to create your proposed research request(s). Below are a few steps to guide you through this process:

1. First, determine the appropriate Category for your proposed research: **1)** Commodity-based or VDHR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Project; **2)** MGMT Integrated Management Coordinated Project; or **3)** Research Area Individual Project Pre-Proposal. You may contact any individual listed in Table 1 (page 7) to help determine the most appropriate category for your proposed research.
2. If Category 1 or 2 was selected in step 1, determine the Coordinated Project that best fits your proposed research.
3. If Category 3 was selected, determine the appropriate Research Area for your proposed research.
4. Finally, follow the instructions in the corresponding section to complete your proposal.

NOTE: Proposals that do not fit into one of the coordinated projects or research areas (listed on page 3) for which proposals are being accepted for FY16-17 are also welcome. Follow the instructions under Section 3 to complete and submit your pre-proposal.

CONFORMANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRE-PROPOSAL PREPARATION:

It is important that all pre-proposals conform to the instructions provided in the FY16-17 Request for Project Pre-Proposal Application. The USWBSI's Networking & Facilitation Office may return, without review, any pre-proposals that are not consistent with these instructions. The NFO must authorize any deviations from these instructions in advance of pre-proposal submission. Deviations must be authorized by written approval from the NFO Director (dvs@uky.edu) or Manager (scabusa@scabusa.org).

COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS:

In addition to the Coordinated Projects, other collaborative projects within or across research areas are encouraged. PIs who intend to submit pre-proposals with similar objectives, methods, treatments, etc. should coordinate their efforts to produce a single, unified pre-proposal rather than similar, separate pre-proposals. If you are part of a collaborative project, and your proposed project is approved for funding, the funding will come in the form of a direct agreement between USDA-ARS and the collaborating PIs' institutions.

REVIEW AND FUNDING RECOMMENDATION PROCESS:

Please note that proposed research projects and pre-proposals will be **regarded as confidential** documents. Distribution will be limited only to parties involved with the review process. All pre-proposals received by the assigned deadline will be sent for review to one of the designated review panels. The Executive Committee will then review the panels' recommendations and if necessary, modify the awards to conform to the FY16 Congressional budget and the overall objectives of the Initiative. The final step is approval of the EC's recommended research plan and budget by the Steering Committee in early December. **All PIs whose pre-proposals or proposed research project(s) are recommended for funding by the Initiative will be asked to compile and formalize their proposed research into 'Grant Applications' for inclusion in the Initiative's recommended research plan** (approximately mid- to late-January). The recommended comprehensive plan will be sent to USDA-ARS in the early months of 2016. More detailed information on the review process for each pre-proposal category is available on the RFP website - http://www.scabusa.org/research_rfp16.

REVISIONS TO PRE-PROPOSALS MADE DURING THE REVIEW PROCESS:

In the event of a significant development (e.g., research findings, changed circumstances, unavailability of PI, etc.) that might materially affect the outcome of the review of a pending pre-proposal, the PI must contact the Director of the NFO to discuss the issue. Depending on the outcome of that discussion, the PI may be allowed to submit a one-page update to the NFO. The NFO will provide a form and deadline for the update. Submitting additional information must not be used as a means of circumventing page limitations or stated deadlines.

NEED HELP?

If you have any questions regarding this application or the pre-proposal process, please contact the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative's Networking and Facilitation Office (NFO) by phone at (517) 353-0201 or by e-mail at scabusa@scabusa.org.

To facilitate pre-proposal preparation, a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document pertaining to preparation and submission of pre-proposals has been developed and is available electronically on the USWBSI's Website at:

http://scabusa.org/pdfs/rfp_faq.pdf

The FAQ document will be updated regularly as questions and requests for clarification are submitted to the Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO).

Table 1. Contacts for Research Areas, Coordinated Projects and the Networking & Facilitation Office (NFO).

RESEARCH AREAS (RA)	CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
FHB Management (MGMT)	Erick DeWolf, Kansas State University	dewolf1@ksu.edu
Food Safety and Toxicology (FST)	Jim Pestka, Michigan State University	pestka@msu.edu
Gene Discovery and Engineering Resistance (GDER)	Nilgun Tumer, Rutgers University	tumer@aesop.rutgers.edu
Pathogen Biology and Genetics (PBG)	JinRong Xu, Purdue University	jinrong@purdue.edu
COORDINATED PROJECTS (CP)		
COORDINATED PROJECTS (CP)	CONTACT	EMAIL ADDRESS
MGMT'S Integrated Management Studies (IM-CP)	Pierce Paul, Ohio State University	paul.661@osu.edu
Commodity-Based CPs		
Barley (BAR-CP)	Phil Bregitzer, USDA-ARS, ID	Phil.Bregitzer@ARS.USDA.GOV
Durum (DUR-CP)	Shaobin Zhong, North Dakota State University	shaobin.zhong@ndsu.edu
Hard Winter Wheat (HWW-CP)	Bill Berzonsky, Bayer CropScience, NE	bill.berzonsky@bayer.com
VDHR - Uniform Nursery CPs		
Spring Wheat Region (VDHR-SPR)	Jochum Wiersma, University of Minnesota	wiers002@umn.edu
Northern Soft Winter Wheat (VDHR-NWW)	Eric Olson, Michigan State University	colson@msu.edu
Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat (VDHR-SWW)	Esten Mason, University of Arkansas	esten@uark.edu
NETWORKING & FACILITATION OFFICE (NFO)		
NETWORKING & FACILITATION OFFICE (NFO)	CONTACT	CONTACT INFORMATION
General Questions Regarding the RFP Process	Dave Van Sanford, Director	859-338-2409 dvs@email.uky.edu
	Sue Canty, Manager	517-290-5023 scabusa@scabusa.org

IMPORTANT RFP DATES AND DEADLINES FOR FY16-17 PRE-PROPOSALS

IMPORTANT DATES AND DEADLINES *(Ordered by Category and then Date)*

<u>RFP Category</u>	<u>Description of Item:</u>	<u>Deadline:</u>
Category 1: Commodity-based and VDHR-Uniform Nursery Coordinated Projects (CP)	Letter of Intent (LOI) sent to CP Chair and NFO (electronic version acceptable)	July 8, 2015
	Pre-Registration for EPS System Begins	August 3, 2015
	EPS System Opens	August 5, 2015
	CP Chairs notify all PIs who submitted Letters of Intent to their CP whether their proposed research has been accepted into the CP's FY16-17 Pre-Proposal.	August 7, 2015
	Pre-Registration for EPS System Closes	August 31, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-version of Proposed Research Project (PRP) sent to CPC Chair and NFO. • CV/Publication List, and Current and Pending Support Form uploaded to EPS System. 	September 11, 2015
	Submission of FY16-17 CP Pre-Proposals by CPCs	October 9, 2015
Category 2: MGMT's Integrated Management Coordinated Project (IM- CP)	Letter of Intent (LOI) sent to CP Chair and NFO (electronic version preferred)	July 8, 2015
	Pre-Registration for EPS System Begins	August 3, 2015
	EPS System Opens	August 5, 2015
	CP Coordinator notify all PIs who submitted Letters of Intent to their CP whether their proposed research has been accepted into the CP's FY16-17 Pre- Proposal.	August 7, 2015
	CP Coordinator sends protocols to PI's accepted into the CP.	August 14, 2015
	Pre-Registration for EPS System Closes	August 31, 2015
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-version of Proposed Research Project (PRP) sent to CPC Chair and NFO. • CV/Publication List, and Current and Pending Support Form uploaded to EPS System. 	September 11, 2015
	Submission of FY16-17 MGMT IM-CP Pre-Proposal by IM CPC	October 9, 2015
Category 3: Research Area (RA) Individual Pre-Proposals	Pre-Registration for EPS System Opens	August 3, 2015
	EPS System Opens	August 5, 2015
	Pre-Registration for EPS System Closes	August 31, 2015
	Submission of FY16-17 Pre-Proposal(s) and supporting documents via the EPS System.	September 11, 2015

Need Help? Please contact (see page 7) Sue Canty or Dave Van Sanford if you have questions.