

Launch of a call for transnational research for ARD

This is to inform that a transnational call for Agricultural Research for Development (ARD) is now open.

The theme of this ERA-ARD II Transnational Call is:

“Improving rural livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa: Sustainable and climate-smart intensification of agricultural production”

Some of the members of the ERA ARD II Consortium (see <http://era-ard.org/>) have decided to provide funds for the first ERA-ARD II Transnational Research Call. A little more than 1.6 m. euro has been committed by: Austria (120.000), Belgium (282.000), France (150.000), Germany (300.000), Netherlands (300.000) Switzerland (350.000) and Turkey (150.000).

Initiation of projects is expected to be in the last months of 2012 and each project may run for 3 years. Details of the participating funders and any relevant National Regulations are to be found on the Call Website.

Research consortia, which are interested in applying for funds, will be able to apply up to the limits set aside by the respective national funding organisation. The maximum amount available for funding research institutions from a research consortium will depend on the national contribution from that country. The budget for each project will, therefore, depend on the composition of the research consortium.

This first ERA-ARD II Transnational Research Call provides new opportunities for researchers and other stakeholders (farmers, farmer organizations, NGOs, policy makers, etc.) to take part in multilateral research cooperation in the field of sustainable and climate change resilient intensification of agricultural production.

The *main objective* of the ERA-ARD II Transnational Research Call is to contribute to improved livelihoods of smallholders and rural communities in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) through sustainable and climate-smart intensification of agricultural systems.

The call also aims to support and fund projects that will strengthen collaboration and networking with on-going projects and existing thematic networks.

Each research consortium must be transnational and consist of a minimum of 3 independent legal entities in partnerships from 3 different countries of which at least 1 is from the ERA-ARD II Consortium Member countries and 2 from countries on the “DAC List of ODA Recipients” (see <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/9/50/48858205.pdf>). The research consortium must be led by an institution in an ERA-ARD Consortium member country. Consortia are also encouraged to include more than one European partner.

Please read the relevant document on the Call Website including:

- Framework, Principles and Thematic Focus
- Application Guidelines and Application Form
- List of countries and funders contributing to the call
- List of National Call Contact Points for funders and any specific eligibility requirements

A one-stage application procedure will be used and proposals shall be submitted on the official Application Form according to the terms in the Applicants Guidelines. The Research Coordinator, who will come from the lead research organisation of the consortium, will send an electronic version of the full proposal to the Call Secretariat by the deadline for applications which is **22nd May 2012** (12.00 GMT+1).

For further information please contact the Call Secretariat:

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