



National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia 22230

Dear Colleague Letter: Basic Research to Enable Agricultural Development (BREAD)

The National Science Foundation
Directorate for Biological Sciences
Office of Assistant Director

Dear Colleague:

This letter is to call your attention to a funding opportunity that will be offered in FY 2009. The Basic Research to Enable Agricultural Development (BREAD) Program will support basic research to build a foundation for generating sustainable, science-based solutions to problems of agriculture in developing countries, testing innovative hypotheses leading to novel and creative approaches and technologies. The Program, which is a continuation of ongoing activities funded under the Plant Genome Research Program, will be supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation through funding provided to NSF.

The BREAD Program will support basic research in US academic institutions and non-profit research organizations with partner institutions in other countries, including developing countries. Projects that meet the BREAD program goals would include those that develop science-based concepts, derived from basic research, for improving current agricultural crops, developing new crops, increasing crop productivity, developing efficient production practices or novel technologies. The program will welcome novel, imaginative, and creative ideas from individuals and groups of scientists in all fields of science and engineering as long as the outcomes of the proposed work meet the program objectives.

Prior to the release of the Program Solicitation, NSF intends to hold workshops to provide additional information about the BREAD Program and its goals. Once final plans for the workshops are developed they will be posted on the Plant Genome website.

Further information on BREAD is available on the Plant Genome Research Program page at http://www.nsf.gov/funding/pgm_summ.jsp?pims_id=5338

Sincerely,

James P. Collins
Assistant Director