

## **PlantLink calls for ‘seed money’ proposals for new collaborative projects**

PlantLink is a research network in Plant Science in the region of Skåne. It was formed in 2011 as an alliance between Lund University and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp (SLU Alnarp). PlantLink has an ambition to bridge the gap between basic and applied plant research with the objective to improve crops and foods, and further to enable sustainable production of high value products and energy from plants.

The aim of this call is to support new and innovative collaborative projects over a period not exceeding 1 year (from 1 January 2019) between researchers at Lund University and SLU Alnarp. We welcome applications for joint research projects, policy aspects and similar issues. The applications should fall into one of the six research themes identified as important by PlantLink, namely (1) Plant breeding and engineering, (2) Post-harvest – product quality and new products, (3) Abiotic stress, (4) Biotic interactions, (5) Modelling and informatics and (6) Plants, people and society.

The project should strengthen plant research in the Skåne region. Industrial and public sector partnerships are encouraged, and so are high-risk pilot projects with the potential for obtaining future external funding. The main applicants should be affiliated to Lund University and SLU Alnarp.

The grant amount is between 250.000 - 500.000 SEK per project for a maximum of five projects.

The application should contain a short description of the project (see below), including a motivation on how the project will strengthen plant science in Skåne. Funds will not be granted to ongoing collaborative projects.

The proposals will be evaluated by external reviewers. **Deadline for applications is 10 September 2018.** Decision on the grants will be announced before the end of this year. The earliest date for project start is 1 January 2019. Successful applicants are expected to participate in future PlantLink activities. The money granted must be used during 2019 and a final project report must be submitted first half of 2020. The exact date and format for report will be set in the grant agreement.

All applications should contain:

- Title
- Project leader: name, institution or equivalent unit and university
- Collaborators' names, institution or equivalent unit and university or private company
- Short project description (max 2 A4-pages, Times 11 pt), including a motivation how the project will strengthen plant research in the Skåne region and the project's possible future impact.
- Budget proposal
- Short CVs of main applicants (2 pages)
- Publication lists 2012-2018 of the main applicants
- The applications should be approved by the head of the institution or equivalent unit

The application should be sent to Erik Alexandersson, Director at PlantLink (erik.alexandersson@slu.se) marked "PlantLink project call 2018 + [project leader name]"

For more information contact Erik Alexandersson (erik.alexandersson@slu.se) or Tina D'Hertefeldt (tina.dhertefeldt@biol.lu.se).