

SAFES-RISE 2021 Seed Grant Program

DESCRIPTION

The Institute for Sustainable Agricultural, Food, and Environmental Science (SAFES), along with the Insect Biodiversity Center and the Institute for Computational and Data Sciences (ICDS) are pleased to offer faculty in the College of Agricultural Sciences the opportunity to apply for funding through the SAFES-RISE 2021 Seed Grant Program.

The ICDS Research Innovations with Scientists and Engineering (RISE) team is comprised of computational scientists and software engineers who specialize in assisting Penn State investigators who would like to enhance or build research programs that need computing, programming, data management, data visualization/exploration, or workflow support. More information about RISE services can be found here: <https://www.icds.psu.edu/computing-services/riase>.

The goal of the SAFES-RISE 2021 Seed Grant Program is to build and facilitate computational and data science support for research projects in the SAFES research themes. For reference, a list of current SAFES Critical Issue Initiatives can be found here: <https://agsci.psu.edu/safes/research/critical-issues>.

Proposals may support new or existing research programs that seek to increase research impact, grow faculty expertise in data and computing, or overcome hurdles in implementing such programs. Projects may utilize the expertise in RISE in data management platform creation, computing, programming, data visualization, and data exploration.

ELIGIBILITY

All College of Agricultural Sciences faculty (tenured, tenure track, and fixed term) who hold an appointment of half-time or greater at University Park or any Penn State Commonwealth Campus are eligible to apply. Other researchers (students, postdocs, staff, agency employees, or Penn State Extension employees) may be included as collaborators. The Principal Investigator is expected to be responsible for the application and the management of the grant. Investigators may only serve as PI on one proposal.

AWARD

It is estimated that most awardees will receive 100-150 hours of RISE consulting time; it is generally expected that most seed grant projects in this program will have a duration of 3 to 6 months. Awards are not provided in cash, and awards may only be used to purchase RISE services.

Funds cannot be used for graduate student tuition, faculty supplemental salary, or conference travel. Awards should be used within one year. Subawards to external institutions will not be allowed.

SUBMISSION & REVIEW INSTRUCTIONS

The deadline to apply for the 2021 SAFES-RISE Seed Grant Program will be **May 31, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. EDT.**

Proposals must be submitted through <https://psu.infoready4.com>. The SAFES-RISE Seed Grant may be found in the Seed Grants section.

- **Proposal**

All proposals should include:

- A list of the collaborators and their organizations; research programs must be led by primary investigators in the College of Agricultural Sciences; projects that include co-investigators and collaborators from other colleges, Commonwealth Campuses or institutes will be considered favorably.
 - A description of the significance of the project.
 - A description of how the project relates to one or more SAFES [Critical Issue Initiatives](#).
 - A description of how RISE support may enable the pursuit of new external funding opportunities, or greatly improve the scope and scale of currently funded projects.
 - A description of the data, computing, or programming challenge that the RISE team could work to solve.
 - A two-page CV for the primary investigator and collaborators in a similar format to USDA or NSF requirements.
- *Please plan to upload your proposal document as a .doc or .pdf file. The proposal should be a maximum of 2 pages, not including the participants list.*

REVIEW CRITERIA

In addition to the requirements listed above, proposals will be considered using the following criteria:

- Research programs from SAFES Associates will be considered favorably
- Scientific merit and innovation
- The likelihood that RISE Support will improve outcomes or effectiveness of the research project
- Programs that are an appropriate match for RISE's service portfolio
- Programs that are an appropriate match for the size of the award relative to the RISE staff support required to successfully implement the project
- Programs that show promise for pursuing new external funding opportunities will be considered favorably

DECISION TIMEFRAME

PIs whose applications are reviewed favorably will be contacted by ICDS-RISE staff to further discuss the projects in June 2021. Applicants will be notified of awards in July 2021.

QUESTIONS

Any questions regarding applications or the seed grant competition should be directed via email to safes@psu.edu.

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