

2024 Joint Linkage Call between the University of Florida, Institute for Food and agriculture (UF|IFAS) and the French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE)

OVERVIEW

INRAE aims to carry out mission-oriented research and training for better food and nutrition, preservation of the environment and competitive sustainable agricultural practices. In order to face these global challenges, research has to go beyond national frontiers. INRAE promotes the development strategic international partnerships to support scientific cooperation.

University of Florida/IFAS is committed to fostering integrated, team science that addresses grand challenges faced by Florida and the world and assists faculty in developing international networks necessary to drive meaningful collaborations for discovery.

As strategic partners who wish to strengthen their collaboration, the University of Florida (UF) and INRAE signed a Memorandum of Understanding in 2020, followed by a Joint Linkage Call (JLC) to fund INRAE scientific staff and UF IFAS faculty exchanges and cross visits. This 1st edition was highly successful and provided funds to support the development of seven collaborative projects. INRAE and IFAS wish to continue collaborating and extended the MoU for a further 5- year period. In order to promote new joint projects, INRAE and UF/IFAS will launch a 2nd JLC in 2024.

SCOPE AND CRITERIA

Joint linkage calls act as seed funding for bilateral research projects. In a spirit of reciprocity, the call aims to foster short-term exchanges of scientific staff between UF faculty and scientists working at INRAE research units in order to strengthen the reciprocal knowledge and facilitate the implementation of further research projects on the topics of the call. Successful joint linkage activities will lead to the development and advancement of projects, collection of new data, and/or analysis of existing data to assist in creating and transferring tools and technologies.

We expect proposals in the following priority areas:

- 1. AI and Big Data (Remote sensing, big data, machine learning, precision agriculture)**
- 2. Water management and drought monitoring**
- 3. Zoonotic diseases (including, early detection)**
- 4. Biological carbon sequestration and storage**
- 5. Modelling in climate change context (grasslands, crops, forests)**

At least one grant will be awarded for each priority area, provided compelling proposals are submitted. Projects in other research areas may be considered for evaluation, subject to availability of funds.

FUNDING

A total of up to \$50,000 will be awarded by UF/IFAS and €50,000 by INRAE.

Each partner will only fund the outgoing mobility of their own scientific staff. Therefore, funds should be spent according to the budgetary rules applying to each organization.

When budgeting, please remember that only travel costs (including ground transportation, airfare, food, and lodging) are eligible for funding. Note that funds may not cover salaries.

ELIGIBILITY

Proposals not adhering to the specified format (**proposal template**) or not submitted before **deadline (December 1st)** will not be considered.

Proposals should be jointly written by UF and INRAE teams.

SUBMISSION

Deadline: 1 December 2024

Please submit proposals to both INRAE and UF/IFAS using email addresses noted below. Lead researchers should copy their teams when submitting proposals for review.

- **INRAE International Relations Office:** gema.herrero-corral@inrae.fr and laura.goncalves-de-souza@inrae.fr
- **UF/IFAS:** jcjess@ufl.edu and adesogan@ufl.edu

SELECTION PROCESS

A joint selection committee, comprised of representatives from both partner organizations will select the projects for funding based on:

- Quality of the scientific project;
- Potential for the creation of long-term solid international collaboration between UF and INRAE teams;
- Potential of the collaboration to further lead to extramural private and/or public sector funding;
- Contribution of the project's scientific outputs to INRAE's Scientific Divisions strategic priorities and IFAS Research and Extension program development;
- The involvement of multiple scientists and specifically early-career scientists are encouraged (including PhD students)

INRAE and UF/IFAS representatives are responsible for final award decisions after a first screening from the Scientific Divisions.

INRAE and UF/IFAS will announce funding decisions no later than *January 31st 2025*. Travel may begin in 2025 and can be organized throughout the funding period (until December 31, 2025).

FINAL REPORTS

Final reports are due one year after the award date

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For INRAE, contact gema.herrero-corral@inrae.fr and laura.goncalves-de-souza@inrae.fr

For UF/IFAS, contact: Gbola Adesogan (adesogan@ufl.edu) and Jessica Baker (jcjess@ufl.edu)



INRAE and UF/IFAS Joint Linkage Call for Proposals

Under the framework of the *Joint Linkage Call* partnership tool

Proposal Template Please limit submissions to 4-5 pages, maximum

Lead Researcher (INRAE): [name, classification level, email address, Research Unit and code, Research division]

Other INRAE staff: [name, Research Unit, classification level]

Lead Researcher (UF/IFAS): [name, title, email address, department name]

Other UF/IFAS staff: [name, Research Unit, classification level]

Proposal title:

Rationale for investment:

Objectives for travel:

(Travel must be completed in 2025)

Activity Plan:

Deliverables or expected outputs

Capacity development / training activities

Future plans for the collaboration AND future funding strategy*:

* Summary of other programs, including extramural funding, to apply to in the future (if identified)

Approximate dates for exchange visits

Itinerary for both UF/IFAS and INRAE visits (per person)

<i>Researcher's name, classification level</i>	<i>Research group/unit</i>	<i>Location for visit(s) (specify labs)</i>	<i>Start date</i>	<i>End date</i>

Budget summary:

The estimated budget can include all expenses; if necessary, details (per person) will be requested post selection.

INRAE

	<i>Funds requested (in EU)</i>	<i>Short justification of expenses</i>
Transportation		
Living costs		
Total		

UF/IFAS

	<i>Funds requested (in USD)</i>	<i>Short justification of expenses</i>
Transportation		
Living costs		
Total		

Note: when budgeting, please remember that only travel and living costs (air and ground transportation, lodging and food) are eligible.

Please submit your application to the designated coordinators in each organisation **before DECEMBER 1st**

- **INRAE:** International Relations Office (gema.herrero-corral@inrae.fr **and** laura.goncalves-de-souza@inrae.fr)
- **UF/IFAS:** Global Food Systems Institute (adesogan@ufl.edu and Jessica Baker (jcjess@ufl.edu))

In case it is difficult to find or contact partners, please consult the coordinators and submit a proposal with the names or requirements of your potential partners as early as possible. The coordinators in both organizations, within their capacity, will try to find you partners.