

Limited Submission Funding Opportunity
An announcement from the Offices of Research and Foundation Relations

Internal Deadline: January 24, 2025

Funder: Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR)

Program: [New Innovator in Food & Agriculture Research Award](#)

UCSC Contact

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Award Amount: Up to \$150,000/year for up to three years (36 months)

Overview

The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR) seeks nominations for its 2025 New Innovator in Food and Agriculture Research Award (NIA). With this program, FFAR intends to support and promote the future generation of exceptionally talented and creative new faculty who are conducting critical and highly innovative research and are establishing research programs that will lead to expanded availability of food and facilitate the global practice of sustainable agriculture as the world's population grows to more than nine billion people by the year 2050.

The New Innovator Award seeks to promote career advancement of highly creative and promising new scientists who intend to make a long-term career commitment to research in food and agriculture and bring innovative, ground-breaking research initiatives and thinking to bear on problems facing food and agriculture. Within the scope of the New Innovator Program, investigators will have the freedom to explore new avenues of inquiry that arise during their research. Therefore, FFAR is interested in the **program** of research to be explored and its impact as opposed to a list of very specific aims.

Priority 1: Cultivating Thriving Production Systems

Priority 2: Sustaining Vibrant Agroecosystems

Priority 3: Bolstering Healthy Food Systems

Priority 4: Strengthening the Scientific Workforce

Please see here for [full program guidelines](#).

Award Amount & Terms

Amount: \$450,000. Up to \$150,000/year for up to three years (36 months).

Anticipated Award Duration: Up to 36 months

Indirect costs are limited to 10% of the total award, including subcontracts, if applicable.

Anticipated Number of Awards: Up to ten (10) awards.

For additional information, please reference the RFA [FAQs](#).

Eligibility

Faculty members at eligible institutions with the creative ideas, skills, knowledge and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research program as principal investigator are invited to work with their institution to develop an application for support.

The nominated faculty member must have been hired on or after **August 1, 2021** for a tenure-track or equivalent position and may work in any discipline or any department within the institution.

Preference will be given to individuals near the onset of their independent research career and who are within eight (8) years of receiving a Ph.D. or equivalent degree.

Individuals with significant research experience prior to obtaining their faculty position will not be considered for this award. For the purpose of this funding opportunity, significant research experience is defined as a nominee that has been awarded a substantial research grant (three to five years of support) or has received project funding totaling over \$1M within the time of their tenure position or has been awarded similar career development awards with similar budgetary scopes. This research concept must directly benefit U.S. agricultural interests.

See here for a list of [previously funded grants](#).

To apply:

To be considered for nomination, applicants should submit materials via [InfoReady](#). Select “Apply” and upload the following documents:

1. Word document with the following information:
 - Name
 - Department
 - Name of Nominator
 - Confirmation of eligibility
2. Nomination letter. Someone who can speak most eloquently about the nominee’s qualifications (e.g., chair, dean, or mentor = Nominator) should draft the letter. The letter should include a response to the points below:
 - Explain how this individual is outstanding in their field (300-word limit)
 - How would the institution benefit from this nominee receiving the New Innovator Award? (300-word limit)
3. Proposal Information:
 - Nominee’s research program overview (400-word limit)
4. CV

Timeline

January 24, 2025 LOI submission of internal application materials via InfoReady

January 30, 2025 Campus candidate selected

February 19, 2025 at 2:00pm PT Nominations due to FFAR Portal

February 26, 2025 Notification if invited to submit proposal

April 2, 2025 at 2:00 pm PT Full Applications Due

Special Instructions

Please notify the Office of Foundation Relations if you are interested in applying to this opportunity (fr@ucsc.edu). For support developing your proposal, please contact the [Research Development Specialist](#) assigned to your unit or send a request to resdev@ucsc.edu. Within the Division of Social Sciences, please contact Ashlee Tews (ashleeac@ucsc.edu).

Call sent: January 8, 2025

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The Office of Foundation Relations is a unit of University Advancement. The FR team creates and maintains mutually beneficial, long-term relationships with private organizations, matching grant initiatives with educational and research programs and centers. FR supports faculty and staff to identify and approach these and other private foundations for funding, to assist in strategic positioning of the grant application,

and to facilitate funder campus visits. For a list of recent funding opportunities, please visit the FR website: [FR Calls for Funding](#).

*As a courtesy we have copied all BE and PBCi department chairs on this email. Please self-select if this opportunity is relevant to faculty research in your departments.*