



CENTER *for* INTEGRATED AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS

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Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems Call for Multidisciplinary Research Proposals

**Deadlines: Letters of intent due September 16, 2019
Proposals due November 1, 2019**

The Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems ([CIAS](#)) invites faculty in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALs) and the School of Human Ecology (SoHE) to submit multidisciplinary research projects addressing the sustainability of agricultural and food systems.

CIAS research and outreach is focused on a vision of sustainable agricultural and food systems that contribute to the environmental, economic and social well-being of families, workers, consumers and their communities. Working with [staff members](#), [faculty associates](#) and a [Citizens Advisory Council](#) (CAC), the mission of CIAS emphasizes participatory research that responds to farmer and citizen needs. In particular, CIAS seeks creative production and marketing solutions to challenges facing people and institutions involved in small to medium agricultural and food enterprises.

Through the FY21 Hatch and McIntire-Stennis programs, CALs has generously committed up to three, two-year Research Assistantships to support CIAS's mission and create win-win opportunities with departmental units. The allocation of these research assistantships will follow the guidelines for FY21 Hatch and McIntire-Stennis proposals administered by CALs. This special call for multidisciplinary research proposals has three goals: (a) to foster system-level research initiatives that build upon and expand the scope of traditional, discipline-based research; (b) to stimulate synergies between CIAS and academic departments; and (c) to generate outcomes (e.g., linkages, preliminary data, etc.) that will strengthen future grant proposals for competitive, extramural funding.

How is this different from the regular Hatch and McIntire-Stennis call for proposals?

This is a one-time call for multidisciplinary, two-year [FY21 Hatch and McIntire-Stennis](#) proposals focused on sustainable agricultural and food systems. It is separate from multidisciplinary Hatch proposals submitted directly to CALs. Multi-state Hatch submissions are eligible for this call. The purpose of this special opportunity is to set the stage for strong future collaboration between CIAS and departmental researchers in CALs and SoHE. **Applicants must initially submit a letter of intent.** Successful applicants will be invited to submit full proposals through WISPER. Both the letters of intent and proposals will be reviewed by a panel of CIAS faculty associates, Citizens Advisory Council members and staff. Successful PIs must be willing to serve as CIAS Faculty Associates.

Criteria

Successful proposals will provide a clear vision and concrete plan of action for:

- Cross-departmental collaboration (highly recommended) with clearly defined responsibilities for each co-PI and collaborators;
- Research activities that focus on at least two of the three pillars of sustainability: social,

economic, and environmental (also known as the three “Ps” — people, profit and planet), including, for example: modeling, meta-analyses or empirical data collection in alignment with CIAS’s mission and vision, as described above;

- Providing a Master’s student with opportunities for multidisciplinary training;
- Intent to publish in peer-reviewed sustainability or systems-based scientific journals;
- Pursuing additional funding through extramural grants, in collaboration with CIAS.

Areas of emphasis

- **Local and regional food systems:** This area focuses on sustainable and organic activities from farm to table at local and regional scales. Projects could focus on farm-to-consumer direct marketing strategies or efforts to “scale up” production, distribution and marketing of local food to schools, institutions, restaurants and other retail locations.
- **Equity and food sovereignty:** This area focuses on participatory research and partnerships with farmers, community-based organizations, tribal communities and others working on issues related to food sovereignty and equity in the food system. Projects could focus on urban agriculture, community-based food production, equitable access to healthy food, seed saving, foodways and land access.
- **Continuous living cover:** This area focuses on strategies for incorporating greater perennial cover into agricultural landscapes through the use of winter cover crops, deep-rooted perennial crops, agroforestry, pasture and other types of year-round living vegetation. Projects could focus on ecosystem services, soil health, water quality, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Integrated livestock-crop systems:** This emphasis focuses on the intersection and complementarity of the livestock and crop components of diverse production systems, primarily for the production of animal source food (ASF). Projects could focus on managed grazing, diversification of livestock feed resources produced on the farm, soil health, water quality, air quality and greenhouse gas emissions.

Letters of intent should include:

- Names, contact information and departmental affiliations of PI, co-PIs and collaborators. The PI must have a CALS or SoHE faculty appointment. PIs can have a total of two Hatch grants (one individual and one multidisciplinary) at one time, including this special call;
- Project title;
- Area(s) of emphasis (see above);
- Research project description: Please follow the project narrative outline in the [Hatch RFP](#): Introduction, Background and justification, Objectives/hypotheses, Experimental/methodological approach, Management plan;
- A brief description of how the proposal addresses the criteria listed above;
- Total budget, [calculated as per Hatch guidelines](#);
- Format: 1,000 total word count maximum, saved as a PDF.

Successful applicants will be contacted by September 26 regarding full proposal submission.

Please email your letter of intent by 4:30 pm on September 16, 2019 to Cris Carusi, CIAS associate director, at cecarusi@wisc.edu. If you have questions, you can reach Cris by email or at 608-262-8018.