

Project **GREEN**

FY19 PRI-GREEN SEED GRANT FUNDING INITIATIVE

INTRODUCTION

The MSU Plant Resilience Institute (PRI) and MSU Project GREEN (Generating Research and Extension to meet Economic and Environmental Needs) have partnered to fund a pilot **competitive seed grants** program in the area of plant resilience in the upcoming fiscal year. The current program funding is for one year with the potential for continuation based on program outcomes and availability of funding.

The PRI was established to enhance plant resilience to environmental challenges including extremes in weather and climate change becoming a “Center of Excellence” for foundational and translational plant research aimed at increasing the productivity and quality of food and energy crops important to Michigan. The Michigan Legislature created project GREEN to advance Michigan’s economy through its plant-based agriculture.

Plant resilience for the purposes of this initiative involves plant responses/adaptations to abiotic and biotic stress conditions and interactions including those due to climate/global change. Projects can be focused on basic, applied and/or a combination of basic and applied research approaches to further our understanding of plant resilience.

New proposals for FY19 will be considered for funding.

ELIGIBILITY

Principal Investigators and co-Principal Investigators must be employed by Michigan State University or the Michigan Department of Agriculture & Rural Development. There are no restrictions on employment status of other team members.

Investigators that have received start-up funds from MSU in the last three years as of January 1, 2019 are ineligible to serve as PI for a proposal in this initiative.

Members of the PRI cannot serve as PI, but can be co-PI or Key Personnel.

Applicants can only be on a single proposal, regardless of role.

TIMELINE

November 2018	Call for Proposals
January 28, 2019	Proposals due
April 8, 2019	Notification of Awards
July 1, 2019	Project funds available
June 30, 2020	Termination date for FY19 funded projects

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PROGRAM AREA

All proposals should focus on plant resilience. As these are seed grants, they must:

- Support the development of highly competitive proposals for submission to federal agencies that support plant resilience research and the mission of GREEN.
- Propose research that is not a simple extension of on-going research themes.
- Propose expenditures that clearly focus on data generation and other specific activities needed for preparation of a highly competitive grant proposal
- Include a specific plan (including timeline and target funding agency and program) for submission of a grant proposal.
- Be multi-investigator and/or multi-disciplinary in scope

FUNDING SCOPE

Proposals can request up to \$40,000 for 1 year.

PROPOSAL REVIEW

All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of MSU faculty and academic staff whose membership will be confidential. The Chair of the review panel will make recommendations for funding to the Director of MSU AgBioResearch and the Director of the PRI with the concurrence of the PROJECT GREEN Directors Action Team. The following criteria will be used to score the proposals.

Evaluation Criteria	Points
Addresses compelling problem in plant resilience	25
Scientific soundness; appropriateness of methodology; feasibility of completion.	25
Does the proposal have a path to successful proposal development	20
Team composition and investigator qualifications aligned with project objectives	15
Is this a substantial advancement in research approaches?	15
Total	100

Questions regarding this pilot PRI-GREEN initiative should be directed to Robin Buell (buell@msu.edu) and/or Ray Hammerschmidt (hammers1@msu.edu).

Proposals are due by 5 PM EDT on January 28, 2019. No exceptions