

# Food and Nutrition Program

## A collaborative framework led by BARD, USDA-NIFA and the Israeli Innovation Authority (IIA)

A 5-year Funding Scheme of \$12M to support Applicable joint U.S.-Israel food & nutrition Research and Development missions

The food and nutrition program runs jointly with the Israel Innovation Authority and support Israeli researchers who partner with Israeli companies that deal with food and nutrition and collaborate with U.S. scientists who were funded by USDA-NIFA.

**Funding Level** The award amount varies with specific track (IIA tracks).

**Award Duration** - up to two years

**Pre-proposal deadline** – June 16, 2024

**Full Proposal deadline** – September 11, 2024

### Background

Food and nutrition play a crucial role in health promotion and chronic disease prevention. International research efforts in several areas of research and development will help form the strategies to advance nutrition science and improve food production and consumption. Agricultural strategies will benefit from the R&D's impact. Policy makers can use research outputs to minimize risks and maximize the benefits to nutrition and health across the entire value chain, from production to consumption.

Both the U.S. and Israel are experiencing a significant rise in novel and highly processed food and drink products in the market. In addition, not enough crop species are bred for high nutritional value and there is a decrease in natural products and alternatives for the food industry. These circumstances lead to an increase in poor nutrition, causing obesity and malnutrition. Improving the nutritional value of food is essential to combat food insecurity and improve health and disease prevention in both nations (and the world).

### Mission

The NIFA-BARD-IIA Food and Nutrition program will support U.S. and Israeli researchers/investigators working together with an Israeli company. The program will grant funding for joint research conducted by a consortium of Israeli and American scientists in authorized research centres (investigators) working with an Israeli company that aims to develop innovative food and nutrition technologies. IP, if available, must be owned by the investigators' institution(s). Any existing or pending agreements between the NIFA funded US scientists and their institutions with US or other companies are not affected by this funding program.

The Israeli research group will be subject to [IIA guidelines](#) and must be accompanied by an Israeli company. The research teams from both countries will be committed to the [NIFA-BARD guidelines](#). This program will aim to improve food and nutrition, increase the variety and availability of food, and support healthy consumption.

## **Cooperative Research**

Cooperative research entails active collaboration between Israeli and American research scientists and an Israeli company. Collaboration is limited to the list of approved US scientists who have been funded by NIFA ([list posted on the website](#)).

BARD in collaboration with IIA will initiate a webinar to present the program as well as to encourage scientists and companies to find each other. Furthermore, upon request, BARD will assist scientists in finding an Israeli company. Please send the BARD office a brief abstract by e-mail. In your email identify the main ideas of the proposed work and include a short CV. Foreground IP rights will be agreed in advance in a consortium agreement between the investigators /institutions and a memorandum of understanding with the Israeli company.

NIFA-BARD Food and Nutrition Program Awards Ceilings:

Awards are based upon the details of the budget justification, the number of funded institutions in the proposed project (up to 3 Israeli research institutions) and the nature of the specific research program. The maximum amount that can be requested per project is 550,000 NIS (\$177,000) a year for a period of two years. The Israeli company will contribute 10% of the entire budget of the Israeli portion for the right of first look for any IP developed by the Israeli research partner as a result of the funding. This agreement should be in place before the onset of funding. Upon mutual agreement the Israeli company may also make a similar agreement with the US research partner.

### **Eligibility- who may apply**

Any Israeli scientist who is a member of a non-profit or government Israeli research institution or university who has secured the consent of an approved NIFA scientist.

The company partner: An industrial corporation, with knowledge and interest relevant to the research plan, expressing an interest in commercializing and translating the knowledge or technology that may be generated by the funded research. The company is obligated to fund at least 10% of the approved budget. In return for its 10% investment in the co-funded research, the company has the right of first refusal.

### **Funding Policy**

The joint program of the BARD Fund, NIFA and the Israeli Innovation Authority will be carried out under the authority of the Innovation Authority Law and the relevant benefit track that will be approved by the sanctioned bodies in accordance with the provisions of the law. The Israeli partner will be funded according to guidelines published by the IIA.

### **Regulatory Agency Requirements**

Proposals and grants must adhere to the policies and regulations established by the regulatory agencies of the country in which the research is to be conducted. Exchange of GMO, exotic species and other materials between countries may require special authorization. The signature of the authorized officer of the research authority indicates that these policies and regulations were met.

### **Submission**

Will be set every year by the program RFP (including pre-proposals applications) and published on the IIA and BARD websites. NIFA will inform eligible scientists about this research opportunity.

## **The Application and Evaluation Process:**

1. The Israeli investigators will submit a pre-proposal which will describe in short, the research goal, objectives, contribution of collaboration to the research objectives, consent of the NIFA scientist and a brief work plan. The pre-proposal will specify the role of each partner in the consortia. [The pre-proposal](#) deadline for 2024 June 16th.
2. The pre-proposal will be evaluated by BARD committee. IIA representative will join the committee for recommendation procedure together with a NIFA representative. Applicants will receive a Go/No Go reply from BARD no later than July 7,2024 (three weeks after the pre-proposal deadline).
3. Applicants that received an OK (Go) will apply to IIA Program following the [IIA program's guidelines](#). The research plan, written in English, will include the joint research collaboration between research groups [if not included in the IIA guidelines, the proposal must include preliminary data, detailed research plan, collaborative arrangements and data management plan, as well as CVs of applicants and the company point person to the project].
4. A meeting with all parties in the project together with an IIA evaluator will be held up to a month from application/s. In case of material completion is required it will be transferred to the IIA evaluator up to two weeks from the meeting.
5. Applicants will be notified of the funding decision no earlier than 11 weeks following full application to the IIA.