

SFA LAUNCHES SECOND GRANT CALL FOR RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT (R&D) IN SUSTAINABLE URBAN FOOD PRODUCTION

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) has launched the second grant call for R&D in 'Sustainable Urban Food Production'. The grant call will provide funding support for innovative urban-agriculture projects in the following research areas of interest to address challenges faced by urban agricultural industry:

- i. **Disease and Health Management:** Development of novel indoor crop protection technologies to improve yield and efficiency of resource use, and to reduce cost of indoor production of vegetables.
- ii. **Nutrient & Quality Preservation for Fresh Produce:** Development of novel solutions for shelf life extension and nutrient preservation of fresh produce (i.e. leafy vegetables), beyond what is achievable by best-in-class technologies in a cost-effective and less energy-intensive way to reduce post-harvest and storage losses.

Second Grant call for 'Sustainable Urban Food Production'

2 The Singapore Food Story R&D Programme, led by SFA and A*STAR, was initiated to support the national agenda of strengthening Singapore's food security and achieving the "30 by 30" target, while reaping economic benefits. In March 2019, a total of \$144 million of research funding has been made available under the Singapore Food Story R&D Programme to enable R&D in sustainable urban food production, future foods, and food safety science and innovation. In April 2021, 12 proposals were selected and awarded over \$23 million in funding through first grant call 'Sustainable Urban Food Production' led by SFA. These comprise eight proposals in the domain of aquaculture and four in urban agriculture, and spans key research areas of genetics, disease & health management, systems & conditions optimisation as well as nutrition.

3 The second grant call aims to encourage researchers, technology providers and potential adopters to co-develop innovative solutions for the urban agriculture industries. For the urban agriculture sector to significantly develop in Singapore, various technological challenges will need to be overcome. Through this grant call, SFA is seeking solutions with the ability to increase the productivity of local food producers beyond what is achievable by current best-in-class technologies.

4 The proposals will be evaluated based on their i) potential contribution to grant objectives; ii) scientific excellence and innovation potential; iii) potential for commercialisation, application and deployment in Singapore and beyond; and iv) execution strength and technical competency of research team. Research proposals should also take into consideration cost effectiveness, resource use efficiency, sustainability, and climate resilience.

5 Dr Ngin Hoon Tong, Acting Senior Director for SFA's Science & Technology Division, said, "Singapore imports over 90% of our food needs and COVID-19 has accentuated Singapore's vulnerabilities to global supply disruption. To buffer us against these changes, we are encouraging researchers and industry to develop new innovations for sustainable urban food production in areas such as crop protection, shelf-life extension and nutrient preservation. This would better enhance Singapore's food resilience and security."

Eligibility and application

6 Local researchers from Singapore-based institutions of higher learning, public sector agencies and not-for profit research laboratories, as well as local companies and company-affiliated research laboratories/institutions, are eligible to apply. Funded projects must be conducted in Singapore. All proposals must be submitted by **12 January 2022, 1200hrs, Singapore time (UTC +08:00)**.

7 More details of the Singapore Food Story R&D grant calls and application procedures can be found at <https://www.sfa.gov.sg/food-farming/singapore-food-story/singapore-food-story-r-d-grant-call>.

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About the Singapore Food Agency (SFA)

The Singapore Food Agency (SFA) was formed as a new statutory board under the Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources on 1 April 2019. The SFA brings together food-related functions carried out by the former Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore, the National Environment Agency and the Health Sciences Authority.

As the lead agency for food-related matters, SFA's mission is to ensure and secure a supply of safe food for Singapore. SFA works hand-in-hand with the industry and consumers to grow our three "food baskets" – Diversify import sources, Grow local, and Grow overseas, as well as ensure food safety from farm-to-fork. SFA also partners food businesses to strengthen capabilities, tap on technologies to raise productivity, undertake research to develop new lines of business, and catalyse industry transformation to ensure food security. For more information on SFA, visit www.sfa.gov.sg.