

Scientific-Research Grant Call for "Halyomorpha Halys Elimination State Programme 2018"

Programme and Conditions

Article 1. General terms

1. Aims of the Scientific-Research Grant Call for "Halyomorpha Halys Elimination State Programme 2018" (hereinafter referred to as "the grant call") are: facing the social-economic challenge of the Government - Halyomorpha Halys elimination and addressing agricultural issues, caused by its dissemination, through conducting scientific-technological research; facilitation of innovative scientific research, focused on solving difficulties caused by Halyomorpha Halys; seeking for new knowledge, methods and innovative technological decisions; theoretical and experimental analysis of addressing problems through sharing best international experience.

2. A project proposal should aim at: studying the biology and quantitative dynamics of Halyomorpha halys in Georgia; identifying its bio antagonists and biological enemies, their consumption opportunities, monitoring and studying the efficiency of biological tools for plants protection; experimental proof of new hypotheses and concepts in terms of problem solution. Funded research should provide the basis of progress in long-term perspective for the state or in terms of regional and international scales.

3. The grant call is funded by the National Food Agency, which is the legal entity of public law of the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Agriculture of Georgia. It is administered by the Shota Rustaveli National Science Foundation of Georgia (hereinafter referred to as "the foundation"), which is the legal entity of public law of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of Georgia. The call is administered in accordance with the decree N970 by the Government of Georgia, dated as of May 3, 2018, in frame of the "*Halyomorpha Halys* Elimination State Programme 2018".

Article 2. Definition of terms

Terms, used in the programme and conditions of the grant call, are defined as follows:

- a) **Young scientist** – member of key personnel, MA/PhD or equivalent academic degree-holder, who has achieved the degree at least 7 years prior to the call announcement and MA, PhD student;
- b) **Independent reviewer** – person, who evaluates project according to the defined evaluation criteria. Identity of the reviewer is confidential;
- c) **Supporting personnel** – person(s) employed in frame of the project, who support(s) key personnel in addressing technical issues;
- d) **Joint project** – submitted/funded proposal by one or several legal persons – host institution and co-participant organization(s);
- e) **Group of experts** – group of independent experts, which evaluates project according to the evaluation criteria, defined by this regulation;
- f) **Overhead costs** – indirect expenditure of host and co-participant institutions, which is in line with project

implementation;

- g) **Co-funder** – legal or natural persons that provide co-funding for the project together with the foundation;
- h) **Co-participant organization(s)** – Georgian organization(s) with research competence. Those are legal entities of public law, non-commercial legal entities, and/or higher educational institutions. Co-participant institution(s), together with the host institution, provide(s) scientific team with the infrastructure necessary for the realization of the project. Together with the host institution, co-participant organization is responsible for the reporting as well as financial issues related to the project budget and other tasks defined by the grant agreement;
- i) **Advisor** – citizen of Georgia or foreign country, who works at the research subject, defined by the project and consults key personnel in frame of the research. Advisor is not allowed to be the member of project key personnel;
- j) **Partner organization** – legal person or international organization registered abroad that participates in implementation of particular tasks of the project. Partner organization cannot be a grant recipient;
- k) **Project coordinator** – citizen of Georgia from the key personnel involved in the project management and administration and who is responsible for project management and organizational issues;
- l) **Principal investigator** – PhD or equivalent academic degree holder Georgian citizen from key personnel, who coordinates the project and research, and is responsible for the scientific outcomes of the project and monitoring activities;
- m) **Key personnel** – Georgian or foreign citizen natural persons, who fulfill basic tasks related to the project. Key personnel might be natural person with PhD/MA, or their equivalent academic degree, PhD or MA students;
- n) **Host institution** – Georgian organizations with research competence. Those are legal entities of public law, non-commercial legal entities, and/or higher educational institutions. Host institution provides scientific team with the infrastructure necessary for the realization of the project. It is responsible for the reporting as well as project budget related financial issues and other tasks defined by the grant agreement. Host institution is responsible for the project management and realization.

Article 3. Eligible applicants and participation conditions

1. One or several organizations together with key personnel can submit project proposal and participate in the grant call;
2. Project must have host institution;
3. Project may have co-participant organization(s) (in case of joint project);
4. Project may have partner organization;
5. Project must have key personnel;
6. Project must have principal investigator;
7. Project must have project coordinator;
8. At least one young scientist must be included into the project during all reporting periods;
9. Project may have supporting personnel. The key personnel cannot perform the activities of the supporting personnel;
10. Project may have advisor(s);
11. Project may have co-funder;
12. As a member of key personnel, one and the same person can be included only in one project submitted in frame of this grant call.

Article 4. Financial requirements

1. Project duration should be 1 or 2 years. Reporting period duration is 1 year.
2. Requested funding from the foundation should not exceed 61 250 Gel for 1-year project and 122 500 Gel for 2-year project.
3. In case of 2-year project, total requested funding for first and second reporting periods should not exceed 122 500 gel. Funding distribution between reporting periods should be in compliance with the goals and objectives of the project.
4. Requested funding from the foundation should include following categories of expenditure:
 - a) Grant funding for key personnel;
 - b) Salary for supporting personnel;
 - c) Travel expenses;
 - d) Goods and services;
 - e) Major assets;
 - f) Overhead.
5. Overhead – indirect costs required for realization of planned project activities should not exceed 5% of requested funding from the foundation in total. Host and co-participant institutions can use overhead costs for technical administration of the grant.
6. Project may include co-funding – additional financial support, which is one of the constituents of project total budget, together with the requested funding from the foundation. Funding received from the foundation cannot be defined as co-funding
7. Within the frame of grant funding, expenditure for project preparation and submission is not considered.

Article 5. The grant call documentation

1. For participation in the grant call, authors of selected concepts should submit the full project proposals online in the Grants Management Unified System (GMUS, link – <http://gmus.rustaveli.org.ge>) which consists of content part and supporting annexes/ relevant documentation:

a) Content part of the project includes:

- 1) **Cover page (general information)** of the project (annex 2, to be filled in GMUS)
- 2) **Project proposal** (Annex 3, to be uploaded in GMUS as PDF doc);
- 3) **CVs** of the key personnel (PI, coordinator, Georgian and foreign researchers) - to be filled while registering “scientist’s profile” in GMUS in Georgian and English languages, in case of foreign researcher - to be filled in English. CVs can be generated and exported as PDF file (sample #4). The principal investigator is responsible for providing Georgian translation of English CVs of the foreign personnel.
- 4) **Project timeframe** (Annex 5, to be uploaded in GMUS as an Excel doc);
- 5) **Project budget and budget justification** (sample #6, to be filled in GMUS).

b) Annexes and supporting documentation:

- 1) **CV of the advisor (if applicable)** should be uploaded in GMUS in Georgian and in English as PDF docs by the principal investigator. It is desirable, but not mandatory that “scientist’s profile” of an advisor is

2.2. Compliance of researchers' (key personnel) qualification, competence and skills with the research topic 2.3. International and local partnership of the project										
3. Project management and feasibility	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Minimum - 1 Maximum - 9
3.1. Feasibility and compliance of the project timeframe with the project goals 3.2. Compliance of the project budget and budget justification with the project goals and objectives 3.3. Compliance of material, technical and intellectual environment/resources of host /co-participant institution with project aims and goals 3.4. Project sustainability, project implementation risk analysis and their solutions										
Total score:										Minimum - 3 Maximum - 27
Final evaluation of the project (final evaluation of the peer reviewer/group of experts according to the above mentioned three criteria): <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C										
Final comment / summary (final comment of the peer reviewer/group of experts according to the above mentioned three criteria):										

2. Each of the 1-3 criteria (1 – Scientific-research project, 2 – Research team, 3 – Project management and feasibility) is evaluated by a 9 score system (1-9), according to which 1-3 scores correspond to the C category, 4-6 scores correspond to the B category, 7-9 scores correspond to the A category. The maximum score is 27.

Score	Category	Rate	Explanation
1	C-	Not applicable	Project does not meet the criteria or it cannot be evaluated due to the lack of information
2	C	Extremely poor	Project does not fully meet the criteria, evaluation is difficult due to the lack of information
3	C+	Poor	Project is inconsistent, it poorly meets the criteria. Project is substantially weak
4	B-	Satisfactory	Project meets the general criteria, however it has weaknesses and contains significant amount of inaccuracies
5	B	Average	Project meets the criteria in general, however, its justification is unsatisfactory

6	B+	Above average	Project meets the criteria in overall, however, its justification is unsatisfactory
7	A-	Good	Project meets the criteria very well, its justification is satisfactory, however, it requires some improvements
8	A	Very good	Project meets the criteria very well. It is original and has high scientific value, however, it still requires certain improvements
9	A+	Excellent	Project is outstanding with high scientific potential. It meets the criteria very well.

3. Final score should be in compliance with the 9 score system in each criteria. It is defined as follows:

Score	ABC category
21-27	A
10-20	B
3-9	C

4. In order to receive funding from the foundation it is a required, but not sufficient precondition to receive 19 or more scores. If the score for one of the criteria is C, it is not eligible for funding regardless of the final score.

5. In case of equal scores priority is given to the proposals with the highest scores in first, second and third category consequently. In case of equal scores in all three categories, priority is given to the project with less requested budget.