

## Call for Strategic Internal Projects at LEAF 2023 – 2024

### 1. Objectives

The main objective of this call is to promote, develop and consolidate excellence in research activities in strategic emerging themes and scientific output of LEAF Research Centre, Instituto Superior de Agronomia. This call follows on the advice provided by the Stakeholder Advisory Committee **to tackle strategic emerging themes affecting the agro-food system. Furthermore, this call also aims at research integration, while building on established and new synergies within the different laboratories and research areas of the Centre.**

LEAF's internal projects must result in:

- a) increased synergies within LEAF researchers from the three Groups and of international collaborations
- b) increased high-quality research products (e.g., publications in peer reviewed international scientific journals of either general or specialized nature).

LEAF Internal projects should also promote active advanced training and increased capacity to secure externally funded projects at both Portuguese and European levels.

### 2. Project Characteristics

LEAF internal projects will have a maximum duration of 24 months, with the maximum budget of up to **30 k€** for running costs and missions. The projects must necessarily involve researchers from at least two of the three LEAF research groups based at ISA/ULISBOA (<https://www.isa.ulisboa.pt/en/leaf/research-groups>) under one of the following subjects (mandatory):

- a) Social Life Cycle Assessments
- b) Sustainable packaging
- c) Data integration: water management data platform
- d) The glyphosate controversy: alternative solutions for glyphosate as drying agent for crops
- e) Energy transition in the agro-food systems (suggested by Prof. Elizabeth Duarte)

Both PI and co-PI must be affiliated to LEAF as well as the large majority of the researchers involved.

The budget of the project allows for three types of costs:

- a) Laboratory/field consumables and external service purchases (includes open access Q1 publications);
- b) Small back up equipment;
- c) Missions - for field or laboratory work and participation in international congresses

LEAF internal projects do not cover the costs for large equipment purchase and external consultants.

### 3. Application

Proposals should be written in English and each PI is allowed to submit only one application, although he/she can collaborate in other projects.

**The proposals should not exceed of 10 A4 pages, 1.5 line spacing and Times New Roman font, size 12.**

The evaluators will not consider extra pages.

Projects must comply with the following structure (up to 10 pages):

- a) Acronym
- b) Title
- c) Abstract
- d) Graphical abstract
- e) Objectives and strategic emerging theme addressed (relevance and contribution of the project)
- f) State of the art
- g) List of Researchers involved, including their updated ORCID IDs and CIÊNCIA VITAE
- h) Working plan (including tasks, proposed methodologies, milestones, deliverables, risk evaluation and contingency measures)
- i) Expected results: a map of deliverables, including publications with expected delivery dates.
- j) Timeframe: It should include starting and conclusion date and a chronogram (e.g., Gantt) with the different tasks and respective milestones
- k) Foreseen dissemination of results, including oral communications (posters can be added) to scientific meetings (National and International Congresses)
- l) References (up to 30)
- m) Budget distribution that must be checked with and approved by our Project Office

### 4. Project submission

Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file until midnight of January 10, by email to [leaf@isa.ulisboa.pt](mailto:leaf@isa.ulisboa.pt). Both PI and co-PI should sign and submit a statement assuming their compromise to conclude the project proposed.

## 5. Project Applications Evaluation

LEAF Coordination team will invite senior LEAF members and each application will be evaluated by at least three members.

Evaluation criteria of the project:

- a) Overall scientific quality of the project: (scoring 0-10)
- b) Interdisciplinary nature of the project and of the involvement of researchers from more than two LEAF groups: (scoring 0-1)
- c) Capacity and suitability of the research team to achieve the proposed objectives (includes CV evaluation of PI and CoPI and past experience in the proposed research topic): (Scoring 0-3)
- d) Prospects of obtaining sound research outputs, namely in the form of 2-3 publications in Q1 journals: (Scoring 0-3)
- e) Suitability of the requested funding: (Scoring 0-3 value)

Each evaluator will assess the proposals within the above-mentioned criteria independently of the other evaluator and using the formula:

$$\text{FINAL SCORE} = A + B + C + D + E$$

**(Maximum 20 values)**

The final score of the proposal will be the average of the marks obtained from each evaluator. Projects will be ranked according to the final score.

## 6. Obligations of the PI/co-PI

The PI is responsible for managing the project. At the event of PI failure, the co-PI will assume full responsibility. Semestral progress reports (including budget execution, results, constraints, missed milestones and delayed deliverables) and a final report (within the six months upon project completion) must be handed to the LEAF Coordination team.

## 7. Non-compliance

In the event of non-compliance, including *force majeure* reasons (e.g. PI accident, etc.), or declared by the LEAF Coordination team based on the progress reports and (lack of) outputs, the PI and/or the co-PI will discuss with the LEAF board an alternative in order to conclude the project. If it results impossible to complete the project, it will therefore be immediately terminated.