The Aflatoxin Mitigation Center of Excellence (AMCOE) Research Program for 2016 is offered. Participating Southern states Corn Checkoff Boards developed a unified approach to funding research projects affecting growers across the region. The National Corn Growers Association (NCGA) located in Chesterfield, Missouri, is managing the AMCOE program. The goal is to leverage more dollars for solving the aflatoxin issues through development of strong regional teams highly competitive for federal, public and private grants.

PRE-PROPOSALS PROCEDURE
(Required for new projects that have not received AMCOE funding in any previous years.)

Who is Eligible to submit a Pre-Proposal?
Principal Investigators, Scientists from any Land Grant University or affiliate, submitted with Co-PI’s and Collaborators, Scientists with appropriate expertise to help with the priority areas identified. Involvement of collaborators from other agencies and/or universities that enhance the competitiveness of a proposal is encouraged and subcontracting with the PI/Institution is permissible.

Deadline of Submission:
Pre-proposals are due no later than the date established by the Steering Committee each project year. For 2016 funding applications, the final submission cutoff is close-of-business August 31, 2015. Submit an electronic copy of each pre-proposal to the National Corn Growers Association staff Linda Kassoff <kassoff@ncga.com> and Max Starbuck <starbuck@ncga.com>.

Review Process:
Pre-proposals will be reviewed by the AMCOE Steering Committee and designated reviewers at an agreed upon time.

For submitted Pre-proposals:
Principle Investigators are notified by email of the Steering Committees decision to request a full proposal or not and provided next step instructions when applicable. Determinations to request 2016 full proposals notifications will be sent from NCGA before September 10, 2015.
CRITERIA FOR THE EVALUATION OF PRE-PROPOSALS AND SUBSEQUENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

AMCOE will accept proposals under the following guidelines:

1. Requested funding should not exceed $100,000 per year.
2. Multi-year proposals will be considered for funding but funding is explicitly for one year.
3. Each pre-proposal should have one clearly identified principal investigator (PI).
4. Preference will be given to pre-proposals based upon the following criteria:
   a. Demonstrate potential to develop, evaluate and transfer new technologies to corn producers.
   b. Potential of the team or individual investigator to acquire new funds (leverage existing funds).
   c. Research teams from multiple cooperating universities and states.
   d. Qualifications of PI and/or interdisciplinary team.
   e. Focus on a priority area listed above.
5. There will be no overhead paid to the universities from NCGA on awarded contracts as agreed upon at the establishment of AMCOE.
6. AMCOE will not approve budgets for Graduate Student tuition; however, stipend for hours worked is allowed.
7. AMCOE will work with and encourage the seeking of additional funding and grants to supplement the funds from each state. All projects awarded AMCOE funds are required to leverage projects by applying for available funding sources. *i.e.,* Centers of Excellence Implementation for National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) Competitive Grant Programs and other leveraging efforts.

*Six priority research areas:*

1. Biological control, especially atoxigenic strain development and deployment technology and increased utilization,
2. Transgenic modification for improved aflatoxin resistance,
3. Breeding for aflatoxin resistance,
4. Amelioration technology for aflatoxin contaminated grain,
5. Best management strategies for reducing aflatoxin and
6. Improved testing procedures.

Detailed criteria for Full Proposals are included in the Notification-to-Submitted from NCGA.
Title:

AMCOE Category:

Principal Investigator:

Co-Principal Investigators(s):

Collaborator(s):

FY 2016 Amount Requested: $______________ (Not to exceed $100,000)

Proposed Project received AMCOE Funded in prior years YES NO

One-page Abbreviated Project PreProposal
(e.g. priority area this project is attempting to solve, macro value proposition, and research approach):

Potential for Leveraging Resources (acquiring additional funding):

Attachments: Qualifications of Team (including up to 2 pages CV for PI’s and Co-PI’s)