Request for Pre-Proposals
Southeastern Peanut Research Initiative
Series Year 2014
Deadline: September 30, 2013

Background
The National Peanut Board was formed in the spring of 2000 to manage the national peanut check-off monies. The federal order that established the National Peanut Board allows for up to 20% of the check-off monies to be allocated to state and regional research. The Southeast peanut grower leadership, the state check-off executives and the Land Grant Colleges Agricultural Deans then met to discuss how to optimize the use of these funds in addressing Southeastern peanut research issues. This group decided that the most effective program would be possible through coordination of efforts and maximization of available talent in the Southeast ignoring geographic boundaries.

A Southeastern Peanut Research Initiative Committee was formed and charged to develop the research proposal for submission to the National Peanut Board. The three state check-off executive directors are members of this committee, along with two individuals that are selected from each Auburn University, the University of Georgia, and the University of Florida to represent their respective state on this committee.

Final proposals will be submitted to the National Peanut Board through the state check-off organizations by their December 2013 deadline. The committee has developed a multiyear regional strategy plan. This same research initiative and strategic plan will continue for this coming year. The committee welcomes input and pre-proposals from all interested individuals and groups from the Southeast. The committee strongly supports the concept that regional research efforts be carried out in multi-disciplinary teams in the following areas:

Genomics and Biotechnology
This year the committee continues to seek to conform to the Strategic Plan that has already been developed by the industry in consultation with several scientists for the Peanut Genome and Biotechnology Initiative which address the following areas: Genetic Tools and Breeding Methods, Plant Transformation Technology, Genomic Sequencing & Gene Discovery, Functional Genomics & Proteomics, Immunology of Peanut Proteins, and Bioinformatics.

The first general goals and objective of this Initiative include:
1. Improve genetic tools for genomics research & develop gene markers & genetic maps for peanut.
2. Improve the efficacy of technology for gene manipulation in genomes and develop useful transformation methods for functional genomic research in peanut.
3. Develop a framework for assembling the peanut genetic blueprint and identify and locate abundant and rarely expressed genes, using genetic and physical approaches to integrate diverse data types.
4. Improve knowledge of gene identification and regulation and provide baseline data and tools that facilitate determination of the biological basis for gene function.
5. Provide bioinformatics management of biological information and establish a state-of-art interactive system and mechanisms for assuring public distribution of high quality data and information.
6. Determine the allergenic potential of peanut and provide quantitative model systems to evaluate allergy and threshold levels of potential allergens.

A large amount of background material, prior research and additional planning has already been fleshed out by the Industry and the many scientist that have been involved in this initiative. It is our intentions here to not recreate or redirect the efforts and progress already initiated but to help facilitate the funding process of the plan where projects are determined to best fit with our committee’s overall priorities.

**Breeding**

Primary emphasis should be on development of cultivars with resistance to nematodes, aflatoxin contamination, tomato spotted wilt virus, and other plant diseases, including leaf spot and white mold. Cultivars must have suitable end use characteristics. Pre-proposals can include support required to achieve the development of new varieties with suitable post-harvest characteristics.

**Management Index**

Efforts are needed toward the development and improvements of disease and pest risk indexes, similar to the current TSWV risk index. Such efforts would include studying the factors that comprise such an index, validation of the index, and studies on improved crop management. Genetic investigations aimed at controlling or eliminating TSWV and other disease infections of peanuts are needed.

**Cultivar Utilization and Management**

Efforts are needed on improving usage of currently available cultivars, and other previous releases. Any of these cultivars may fulfill needs in new cultural practices; re-examination of the economic benefits of these cultivars may also be needed. Pre-proposals are desired on ways to produce these cultivars more economically. Included in this area should be an effort using adaptive research farms to further develop economically feasible production systems for our changing environment.

**Water Use Management and Quality**

It is necessary to develop a system for re-fitting current irrigation systems to maximize water use efficiency. Efforts are needed toward determining water harvest potential and storage systems, including efficiency and needs, as well as finding new water sources. Irrigation systems for peanuts and rotational crops need to be evaluated and their impact determined.

An investigation into systems, application, and economics in an effort to move irrigation to optimal efficiency in southern cropping systems is necessary. Plant physiological and economic thresholds for irrigation, including timing of early irrigation to replenish sub-soil moisture, might be emphasized. Efforts are needed on water quality, particularly with a focus on watershed issues and GPS in peanut irrigation and production.
General Economics and Competitiveness
Changes in the National Peanut Program and cost of fertilizers, pest control, and fuel reinforces the need for information to understand the cost of producing peanuts today by peanut farmers. Efforts are also needed on marketing alternatives and improving the understanding of the economics in a changing global economy.

Other
Efforts continue to be needed on improving all management practices including pest (pathogens, weed, etc.) management, plant populations and spacing, tillage, and precision agriculture, as well as on the interacting effects of these practices. This year we must exclude value-added, product development and any other food science related research to the call for proposals. Note attached addendum to this call for proposals from the National Peanut Board.

Organization-Note additional request on attached Addendum
Limit pre-proposals to one page for an individual effort or two pages for team effort in covering items iii)-v) below. Research plans will be for 1 year with the funding period being January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014. Content should include:

i) title of project,
ii) list of investigators with contact information,
iii) objectives, a brief description of the research project and approach to be taken, (if the pre-proposal is a continuation of a previously funded project a short report needs to be provided on the research completed to this point)
iv) statement on expected results,
v) responsibility of each investigator, and
vi) estimated budget (avoid excessive detail).

Based on the policy of the National Peanut Board and the state check-off organizations, no indirect cost, overhead or administrative cost expenses are allowed. National Peanut Board also has a policy of no equipment expenses will be allowed. The committee also expects additional land resources will be required to conduct some of the proposed research. Please indicate in the pre-proposal what additional land resources will be needed beyond the current level of land resources currently being used.

Submission Procedure
The deadline for submission is September 30, 2013. Electronic submission is requested and preferred in a MS Word format (please no PDF files). Make sure an electronic return receipt of any proposal is initiated and verified. Pre-proposals received after this date will not be considered. Submit one (1) copy of the pre-proposal if not an electronic submission to:

Joy Purvis
Georgia Peanut Commission
P.O. Box 967
Tifton, GA  31793-0967

Email: joypurvis@gapeanuts.com  & Cc: jamison@gapeanuts.com
**Review**
Pre-proposals will be evaluated on application to production research, reducing cost of production and growers needs; regionalism of approach and application to southeastern peanuts; economic impact of research initiatives; and degree to which team is interdisciplinary. The committee may recommend development of a full proposal with a team of other investigators if pre-proposals indicate mutual interests. At that time final funding will be established and other needs and consideration will be addressed on a project-by-project basis. Full proposals are likely to have a submission deadline in mid to late October 2013 and will also need to be concise.

**ADDENDUM TO THE CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR 2013 FORWARD**

The National Peanut Board changed the Production Research Process last year which is addressed and explained below. However, the National Peanut Board says the one thing that has not changed is the Board’s commitment to funding production research at the maximum level allowed under the Peanut Order. As farmers, they remain adamant that investment in production research brings significant returns by improving peanut production through cost input reduction, increased yields and higher quality.

The National Peanut Board has requested that the SPRI Committee provide all appropriate materials and communicate this needed information to all researchers participating in the Production Research Funding Process, PRFP previously known as the Research Funding Process, RFP.

**Changes:**

A. **The NPB wants to begin a discussion of production research in a more global way for the future.**

B. **Consistent format for submitted proposals.** The NPB operates under strict governance from USDA-AMS. The NPB is audited by USDA’s Compliance Division as well as by outside independent financial auditors. These audit processes expect continuous improvement in documentation and controls to ensure there is never a question surrounding the use of farmer investor funds. To that end, the NPB has been asked to put in place and require a uniform research proposal format; thus ensuring, across the entire peanut belt, all projects have the same level of detail and information.

Attached is the new form/format that is required for all research proposals in order to be considered by the National Peanut Board for approval. The NPB says the format has been independently reviewed by several peanut researchers who indicate that this new format will not place any undue burden upon them, but is reflective of what is required in most funding applications that they submit. All parts of the format must be addressed, or if not applicable, marked N/A. While many of the proposals submitted in previous years have addressed these various elements, we are being asked to ensure NPB is fully compliant with recommended guidelines and require that all research projects provide uniform information for consideration. The format will supply additional information for the SPRI to review when evaluating potential projects and provide a more efficient method for the NPB to meet the USDA required reviews and evaluations.
National Peanut Board’s Proposal Format for Funding Cycle

Please include the following components:

I. Identification
   a. Project Title
   b. Funding Year
   c. Principal Investigator(s)
   d. Cooperating Personnel
   e. Total Funds Requested
   f. Location(s) where research will be performed

   g. New or Continuing Project
      i. If continuing, how many years and amounts of previous NPB funding have been
         received? Briefly describe the progress and accomplishments to-date on the project.
      ii. Will funds be required in subsequent years to complete the objectives? If yes, how
          many years do you anticipate requiring funding?
      iii. What other sources of funding are being requested, i.e. list States, Foundations,
           USDA, etc. Are these funds included in the total funds requested from NPB?

II. Abstract/Project Summary
    Briefly describe the project in layman’s terms. This section will be referenced in the National
    Peanut Board’s outreach efforts to farmers. It is important to convey the importance of the work
    and its potential benefits to the industry.

III. Project Description
    Include the central hypothesis and specific research objectives. If this is a multi-year project
    dependent on renewed funding in future years, please provide a timetable and anticipated funds
    needed for completion of long-term objectives and transfer of technology to the industry.

IV. Rationale
    Identify the specific issue, problem or industry need this research will address. Provide a brief
    summary of previous research if this is a continuing project, preliminary research results if this is
    a new project and recent literature citations to support the relevancy of the work.

V. Experimental Plan and Methods
    Describe experimental materials and methods for each objective. Include number of treatments
    and number of replications, when applicable. Describe sampling methods, types of data to be
    collected and statistical analyses to be performed.

VI. Measurable Outcomes and Potential Impact
    Describe distinct, quantifiable outcomes expected as a result of the project. How will the project
    impact the industry and when will the impact be realized? Also, explain how and when
    technology transfer will be conducted to get the outcomes to the industry (field days, technical
    bulletins, scientific manuscripts, etc.). Describe how the benefits of the research will justify the
    cost of the project.
VII. Potential Pitfalls
Describe known issues that could prevent achievement of the objectives.

VIII. Results from Previous NPB Funding
Provide a summary of results from previously funded NPB projects including publications, germplasm release, data release to the public domain, attendance at field days, adoption of research findings/impact.

IX. Budget
On a separate, Excel spreadsheet, include budget information broken out in the following categories:
- Personnel
  * Salaries - list the number of positions and the percentage of their time to be supported through funding of this project (cannot fund PI)
  * Hourly Wages – also list number of positions and hours
- Benefits – enumerate by salaried and hourly positions
- Travel – please include information on the purpose of the travel, number of personnel traveling, number of trips
- Purchases/Materials
- Supplies
- Contract Services
- Describe other costs not accounted for in the other categories
- Total amount requested

Production Research Funding Process

The Board will issue a Request for Proposals letter to the state certified peanut producer organizations (CPPOs) seeking research proposals once the Board has set the budget and USDA has approved. The Request for Proposals letter will specify the state’s new pro-rata share of production research dollars as well as any carry-forward dollars resulting from unallocated prior year funds or cancelled and closed projects from prior years. The RFP will include the required format and information needed to ensure consistency of proposals as well as all of the invoicing requirements. If the Board has specific goals or objectives it wants the proposals to consider, then it will also state that in the RFP letter.

The Board will set a deadline for proposals as well as an opportunity for the CPPOs to meet with the Board. Those dates will be included in the initial RFP communication to the CPPOs.

The CPPOs solicit proposals from research institutions that follow the required format and that achieve the goals and objectives set forth by the Board. The CPPOs will submit a prioritized list of proposals to the Board no later than the due date listed on the Request for Proposals letter. The Board may solicit its own proposals for various types of research.
Unless the Board receives notification from the CPPO within 60 days of receipt of the RFP letters objecting to a continuation of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for an additional year, the existing MOU remains in force. Likewise, the Research Institution Agreements (RIA) with each research institution, for which one or more projects were approved, remain in force unless a CPPO objects. Should a CPPO object to the RIA with their state research institution(s), CPPO must notify the Board in writing within the 60-day time frame and before submitting proposals.

The NPB Research Committee will review all the submitted proposals prior to the Research Committee meeting with the CPPOs.

At the Research Committee meeting with the CPPOs and/or their state research chairperson and/or state board chairman, CPPOs talk with NPB about why the proposed projects were selected. The NPB Research Committee asks any questions that may help clarify or better define the proposal and how the proposals meet the criteria set by the Board.