



Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research

Leadership Profile



Consortium Director

Crops of the Future Collaborative



This search is being assisted by:

ACADEMICSEARCH

Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research Consortium Director, Crops of the Future Collaborative

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) is seeking a dynamic individual with deep knowledge of plant genomics and phenomics to serve as its inaugural Consortium Director of its exciting new Crops of the Future Collaborative (COTF). The COTF was launched in June of 2017, with seven diverse international partners, in addition to FFAR. This is an outstanding opportunity for a highly motivated professional to assume a pivotal leadership role in directing an internationally-significant agricultural research platform with great potential for long-term high impact. We are seeking an individual of outstanding quality with a proven and respected record of accomplishments and the ability to leverage existing and new networks.



OVERVIEW OF FFAR

FFAR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established and initially funded by Congress as part of the 2014 Farm Bill. FFAR is a dynamic organization with growing impact that focuses on catalyzing innovation through research to solve pressing food and agriculture challenges that affect the lives of all Americans. FFAR leverages public and private resources to increase the scientific and technological research, innovation, and partnerships critical to enhancing sustainable production of nutritious food for a growing global population. For more information on FFAR, see: www.FoundationFAR.org.

CONCEPT OF CROPS OF THE FUTURE COLLABORATIVE

FFAR is committed to providing a forum in which the food and agriculture community can work together in a pre-competitive environment. In organizing the Crops of the Future Collaborative as a public-private consortium and bringing together food and seed companies, commodity groups, nonprofits, and various government entities to mutually identify and execute research leading to advancements in crop development FFAR is leading the effort to systematically discover genes as they relate to traits and environments. FFAR is creating a safe harbor space for funding participants to collaborate on areas of mutual interest. Rather than each partner duplicating the same costs and efforts, the initial risk associated with gene discovery as it relates to crop development can be shared between participants. Working together, the partners decrease their individual risks and multiply their combined tools, knowledge, and financial resources. This accelerates the discovery of advantageous traits, pathways, and genes that can have a tremendous impact on adaptation to benefit the public and private sectors. The knowledge generated by the Consortium will be publicly available through scientific publications, data sharing, dissemination of research tools, and other appropriate means, benefiting future research, private and public breeding efforts, and otherwise contributing to the public good. Knowledge generated by the Consortium will be widely shared to advance the agricultural ecosystem, and will also allow partners and others to accelerate development of their own proprietary knowledge, products, and technologies.

The Crops of the Future Collaborative is a deliverables-driven consortium initially focused on three crops: maize, leafy greens, and wheat/small grains. While deliverables will vary by crop, each crop will target a pre-determined number of traits and focus on identifying a specified number of the genes and pathways that give rise to them. By taking advantage of advancements in gene editing and phenomics, the Crops of the Future Collaborative will accelerate discoveries in ways not possible in the past. While multiple efforts exist to advance breeding, this Consortium offers an approach that can complement, leverage, and enhance these other efforts, generating new tools and knowledge. The Crops of the Future Collaborative will make substantial additions to the breeding toolbox for multiple crops, enhancing efforts in:

- Understanding the genes and pathways that influence desirable crop qualities in multiple environments and complex, multigenic traits
- Prediction models for ideotype development
- Phenomics

As the Crops of the Future Collaborative achieves its goals, FFAR envisions that it will grow to include new traits, crops, and partners. This new research platform is just the beginning of a what could become a much larger effort within the food and agriculture community.

For additional information on the launch of the Consortium and its Founding Partners, see: <http://foundationfar.org/2017/06/29/crops-of-the-future/>

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSORTIUM DIRECTOR

The inaugural Consortium Director of the Crops of the Future Collaborative will be the key leader of this new consortium research platform. Among other responsibilities, the Consortium Director will:

- Coordinate identification of new scientific projects and oversee work of partners and grantees on approved scientific projects
- Design and guide research opportunities and approaches within the Consortiums mission
- Perform and oversee scientific review of Consortium projects
- Determine, propose and implement Consortium procedures
- Form and lead advisory-based committees
- Ensure program objectives are met for each crop-specific program
- Develop criteria and milestones for crop-specific programs
- Identify and recruit additional Consortium partners
- Shape and direct the future directions of the Crops of the Future Collaborative, in close consultation with the FFAR Executive Director and the Consortium's Executive Committee.

The Director of the Crops of the Future Collaborative will have responsibility to manage the Consortium in accordance with the overall direction set by the Executive Committee of the Consortium. The Consortium Director will ultimately be responsible for the success of the Consortium and will coordinate efforts across crops and ensure deliverables are met. The Consortium Director will be the main liaison and coordinator of activity and information between the Executive Committee of the Crops of the Future Collaborative and all elements of the Consortium. The Consortium Director will be an employee of FFAR, reporting to the FFAR Executive Director, and supported in part by other FFAR staff and potentially other Consortium staff.

KEY DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

As a prerequisite, the successful candidate must believe in the core values of FFAR and be driven by its mission. The candidate should demonstrate a passion for breaking new ground through science to lead social change. General desired qualities also include:

Results—proven track record of exceeding goals; evidence of the ability to consistently make good decisions through a combination of analysis, wisdom, experience, and judgment; high-level of acumen including successful management; the ability to balance the delivery of programs against the realities of a budget; and problem solving, project management, and creative resourcefulness.



Strategic Vision and Agility—ability to think strategically, anticipate future consequences and trends, and incorporate them into the organizational plan.

Capacity Building—ability to effectively build organization and staff capacity, especially in collaborative environments.

Leadership and Organization—exceptional capacity for managing and leading people; a team builder who has experience in scaling up organizations; ability to connect people both on an individual level and in large groups; capacity to ensure accountability, cultivate entrepreneurship, and learn the strengths and weaknesses of the team to put people in positions to succeed.

Action Oriented—enjoys working hard and looks for challenges; able to act and react as necessary, even if limited information is available; not afraid to take charge of a situation; can overcome resistance to leadership and take unpopular stands when necessary.

General Management—sufficient understanding of public and private budgets, organizations and systems as they relate to the scientific program functions, especially those related to food and agriculture; experience with strategic development and planning, budgeting, and grants management.

SPECIFIC DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Exemplary educational background, with notable strengths in science and research
- Understanding of technologies in plant genomics, phenomics, breeding
- Experience in forming and working with international partnerships
- Experience in industry or academia, particularly in collaboration with other partners
- Charismatic, dynamic, energetic, visionary
- Able to build relationships and build collaborative partnerships
- Demonstrated success in use of project management skills to accomplish results
- Direct experience working in one or more scientific research consortia
- Minimum Masters degree, PhD preferred
- Fluent in English

COMPENSATION

FFAR is prepared to offer a fair and attractive compensation package, including a competitive base salary as well as health insurance, a 401(k) plan, and vacation benefits.

TO APPLY

The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research is being assisted in this search by Academic Search, Inc. A full leadership profile with further information is available at: <http://www.academic-search.com/sites/default/files/FFARCOTFDirectorProfile.pdf>. Applications, nominations, and expressions of interest can be submitted in confidence to COTFDirector@academic-search.com. The search is being led by William F. Howard, Vice President & Senior Consultant, who can be reached at wfh@academic-search.com or 202-263-7489 for confidential discussions about this opportunity.

The position will remain open until filled, but FFAR will begin reviewing and acting on applications after September 11, 2017, so only applications submitted by this date will be guaranteed full consideration. Candidates should submit a substantive cover letter addressing the opportunities and qualifications above, a current curriculum vitae, and a list of at least five (5) professional references with full contact information. References will not be contacted without explicit permission from the candidate.

FFAR is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants are considered for positions without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information or any other category protected by applicable federal, state or local laws, and applications are encouraged from individuals who may fall into any such groups, as well as from veterans and uniformed service members.

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