

Organic food production and consumption

Application Deadline: 28 August 2018, 14.00

Date of Decision: 14 November 2018 (Preliminary)

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Description of the call

With this call, Formas is providing funding for broad research projects that can address complex issues (rather than narrowly defined projects) and will contribute to increased competence within organic food production and consumption. The call is aimed at researchers from all disciplines who are affiliated with a Swedish university, university college or research institute, or government agency with research assignments.

To achieve the global goals for sustainable development (economic, social and environmental), organic food production and consumption must evolve and be promoted as a tool towards sustainable development (UN, 2018; Swedish Government, 2018). There is a clear demand for useful sustainable solutions. Formas therefore encourages interdisciplinary research projects. Funding is available on all stages throughout the research and innovation chain. Examples include the recycling of nutrients between city and countryside, collaborative partnerships between farmers for better resource use, and stakeholder cooperation across the food supply chain.

The food sector is facing major challenges that require a better understanding of relevant preconditions and possible solutions. The state of scientific knowledge, as well as the implementation and impact of research and development, touches on many complex issues. The purpose of this call is to fund projects that build on both the Swedish Board of Agriculture's action plan, Sweden's National food strategy, and Agenda 2030. The research projects should address topics that contribute to or highlight important issues surrounding organic food production and consumption, both from economic, social, cultural or environmental perspectives.

The call aims to strengthen both the research and its impact. Research projects that are granted funding therefore need to interact and communicate with relevant stakeholders from the sector and the surrounding society. One of the requirements of the call is a detailed communication and resource plan that aims at raising awareness by disseminating the research findings, during and after the project period, to relevant target groups. A clearly structured partnership plan between stakeholders and researchers in the industry should also be described. Any co-financing for the project should be indicated in the budget form and described in the budget specification.

The purpose of the call is also to fund at least one doctoral student affiliated with each research project. Salaries for doctoral students should be indicated in the budget and described in the budget specification.

The amount of funding under this call totals 48 million SEK. A maximum of 3 million SEK per year will be granted over a 4-year period per individual research project.

Background

Within the framework of its National food strategy, the Government has set a goal that at least 30 percent of agricultural land use and 60 percent of public food consumption should be organic by 2030. The Board of Agriculture, together with the Centre for Organic Food and Farming (EPOK) at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, noted in their action plan for increasing the production, consumption and export of organic food (Report 2018:16, "Åtgärdsplan för att öka produktion, konsumtion och export av ekologiska livsmedel") that investments in research, development and innovation are fundamental prerequisites of achieving the targeted goal. Research will also contribute to the in-demand skills and competence within organic food production.

In the action plan, the Swedish Board of Agriculture emphasises the need for broader research projects, rather than narrowly defined projects, that address more complex issues. For this we require new knowledge and strategic, innovative solutions.

EPOK has compiled a list of all projects that were granted research funding for organic farming during 2008-2017. Formas has been a major funder of earlier research efforts on this topic. The research conducted has proved to be relevant and has advanced Swedish organic production. With this call, Formas aims to continue such investments. An important insight that has emerged is that the knowledge transfer of research results needs to be improved and further developed. To accomplish this, one of the priorities is to encourage researchers to collaborate more with stakeholders in agriculture in order to promote the practical application of research results.

EPOK has also compiled a study that highlights key research areas needed to increase organic production. It reveals the need for more systems research that considers multiple perspectives, such as: production, the environment, animal welfare and the economy, nutrient supply, more effective weed control, the need of pest management strategies in horticulture, new resource-efficient fertilisers, and new feed material for pigs and poultry. Other areas in need of further attention include greater cooperation between advisers and researchers as well as other industry players (such as commercial operators), agricultural research and solutions, and research on organic farming.

Purpose of the call

The call aims to satisfy the need for broader projects that can address cross-disciplinary issues and sustainable solutions, and to contribute to greater expertise in organic food production and consumption.

Project duration

Call budget

Project budget target: Up to 2-3 million SEK/year

Project duration: 4 years

Grant award budget: 48 million SEK

Note that it is possible to apply for funding under this call even if you have already been granted funding for an ongoing project under Formas' annual open call. However, the total salary from Formas must never exceed 100 percent of full-time employment.

Questions about the call

Formas will not offer any informational meeting or other occasion for obtaining more information, but the responsible research officer will respond to questions by email and phone.

Application deadline

The call closes on **August 28, 2018 at 14.00 Central European Time**. Please create your application in Prisma in good time so that you can get support if problems arise. You can preview your application at any time during the process. Up until the call closes, you can de-register your application and make changes. Note that it is not possible to add or change information in your application after the call is closed.

Your application

Projects that qualify for funding

- Funding can be awarded to projects that are within Formas' areas of responsibility and within the framework of the call. Grants can be sought to cover costs associated with the project's implementation, such as salary funding for researchers, doctoral students or technical staff.
- The total amount of the salary for a single researcher, student or other staff must not exceed 100 percent of a full-time employment. This means that additional salary funding cannot be granted to researchers, doctoral students or other staff who already receive grants or contributions with full salary funding. Formas does not allow annual salary increases for project participants.
- Subcontractors are allowed only if they have limited participation in the project. Subcontractors include other stakeholders in society, such as municipalities, private companies or trade associations. Other stakeholders can also contribute their time in-kind. Such contributions to the project should be described in the application.
- Grants can be sought to fund operating expenses, such as travel, collaborative activities, conferences and workshops, data or material purchases, analyses, premises and other related costs (though not for scholarships or educational grants for graduate students).
- Grants can be sought for costs related to publication in open access journals. Note that researchers who receive funding from Formas must ensure that their research findings are available via open access within six months of publication.

Funding amounts and project duration

- Funding can be requested for a maximum of four years (48 months in total).
- A research project can be granted a maximum total of 12 million SEK, divided into a maximum of 3 million SEK on average per project year. If the total amount applied for exceeds the average annual amount of 3 million SEK, the application will be rejected.
- The project start date is predefined in Prisma and cannot be changed. Fund for the first 12 months will be paid out in 2018 (no funds are paid out in 2021). Applicants should enter their budget in the application based on actual costs. Research project funding may be appropriated for one year after the end of the project.
- Financial statements must be submitted each year for projects longer than 18 months. The final financial and scientific reports must be submitted no later than three months after the end of the appropriation period.
- Although no co-financing is required in this call, it is welcomed.

Who can apply

- To be able to apply for funding, main applicant and participating researchers must have completed a doctoral degree. Other staff involved in the project, such as graduate students, partners or technical staff, do not need to have a doctoral degree.
- Grants may be administrated by a Swedish university, college, research institute, government agency commissioned to conduct research or other public-sector organisation that meet Formas' criteria for administrating organisations. Read more about administrating organisations below.
- It is possible to include other individuals/functions in the project without including them as participating researcher (or 'co-applicants') in Prisma. This can be done through a description in the project description and/or in the budget. These individuals will not be linked to the application form in Prisma, and will therefore not contribute with data from their CV. This may

include, for example, administrative personnel, research students, technical personnel or other partners, and they do not need to have completed a doctoral degree. There is no age limit for applicants or participating researchers, but fully retired researchers cannot obtain funding for their salary.

- Main applicants may submit no more than one project application to this call. Note that it is possible to apply for funding under this call even if you have already been granted funding for an ongoing project under Formas' annual open call. However, the total salary from Formas must never exceed 100 percent of full-time employment.

How to apply

Submit your grant application using the application system Prisma. To create an application in Prisma, you need a user account.

[Link to Prisma](#)

Language

You may write your application in Swedish or English, but Formas recommends that you use English. This is because the review panel is composed of international members, so applications entirely written in Swedish must be translated into English by Formas before they are submitted to Formas' review panel for review. It is not possible to make changes to the translation. The popular science report must be written in Swedish, while the abstract should be in both Swedish and English. Please note that you should always write the budget specification in English; any Swedish budget specification will not be translated but will instead be reviewed as is by the international review panel.

Information your application must contain

Basic information

- Number of months for which funding is requested and estimated project duration
- Project title in Swedish and English (max. 200 characters)
- Popular science report in Swedish (max. 4,500 characters)
- Abstract in Swedish and English (max. 1,500 characters each)

The research project

- Specific aims and objectives of the proposed project and a background description containing an overview of the research area. Describe the specific aims, objectives and originality of the proposed project. This section should also include a background description containing an overview of the research area as well as a description on how the goals and objectives of the project relate to the aim of the call and, if applicable, other relevant objectives and strategies (max 7 000 characters).
- Project description, including project design, theory, methods, implementation and a plan for scientific publication (max 15000 characters).
- Description of the potential societal value of the research questions and planned communication with stakeholders/end users. You should also describe planned targeted communication activities and interaction with stakeholders. Describe how results from the project will be communicated and how the potential impact of the research may affect different groups in the society (max. 8,000 characters).

- References included in running text under the items above is specified in a separate field (max 4000 characters).

Budget

Specify the following information:

- Salaries, including social-security contributions for each project participant. For existing employment positions, the current salary at the time of application (including social-security contributions) must be used for all subsequent years. For new employment positions the starting salary at the grant administrating organisation must be used for all subsequent year. Note that Formas does not grant funding for annual salary increase. Activity level/dedicated time in the project for all project participants. Also include activity level for project participants who contribute with time in-kind or have funding for participating in the project from other sources.
- Running costs are specified in accordance with the practice used at the grant administrating organisation. Depreciation costs for equipment is specified if relevant to the application.
- Premises costs are specified in accordance with the practice used at the grant administrating organisation (unless included in the overhead costs). In the total amount requested for the project budget, specify any indirect costs in accordance with practices at the administrating organisation. Indirect costs relate to overhead costs. Formas does not allow overhead for equipment depreciation costs or costs of premises.
- Budget specification. In the budget specification, a brief motivation for all salary costs and other costs is required. A description of the total budget for the project, including finance from other sources, must also be included. Clear justification must be specified for all other costs, such as participation in conferences, purchasing data, publication via Open Access, etc.

Ethical considerations

Applicants should always specify whether there are special ethical aspects in the project. If so, the ethical issues in question and how they are to be handled in the context of the research project must be described. This may, for example, involve research that make use of personal data or involves experiments on humans or animals. Find out more about ethics in Formas' general instructions (<http://www.formas.se/Financing/General-instructions/>).

Classifications

- Select at least one, and at the most three, subject areas.
- Select at least one, and at the most three, SCB codes.
- Select at least one, and at the most three, of the 17 Global Sustainable Development Goals that best apply to the project. If more than one goal is considered relevant, the goals should be indicated in order of priority. The most relevant goal should be indicated in the first box. For more information on the Sustainable Development Goals, <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>.
- State at least one, and at the most five, key word(s) that describe the project.

Grant administrating organisation

- Select your grant administrating organisation and add the project department or unit where the project is based. [Read more about Formas' criteria for administrating organisations](#) in [Formas' general instructions](#).

- Approved grant administrating organisations are listed in Prisma. If your research organisation is not included in the list, contact your organisation as it must create an organisation account in Prisma.
- A registered application is automatically sent to the grant administering organisation for approval, once the call closes. The administrating organisation has seven calendar days to sign the application.

Participants

- The main applicant invites “participating researchers” (the participants who are intended to be co-applicants for the) and participating administrators (not part of the project, but persons that help you fill out the application form).
- Participating researcher must themselves be registered and have their own personal account in Prisma. The main applicant invites participants by searching their name and e-mail in Prisma (note that correct spelling of names and e-mails is required)

CV

The applicant retrieves information relevant to the application from their personal profile in Prisma. “Participating researchers” themselves add CV information from their profile to the application and should ensure that their CV in Prisma is complete and up to date. This information should include:

- **Education:** Post-graduate (doctoral) education, undergraduate and graduate education.
- **Professional history:** Current employment and relevant previous longer-term positions, postdocs, research exchange visits relevant to the described research project, as well as any extended period of interruption to the research (for example parental leave, illness, military or public service).
- **Merits and awards:**
 - **Associate professorship**
 - **Supervision:** doctoral students, post-doctoral students, and exam project students; state the total number in each respective category and provide the names of the most relevant supervisions (max. 10).
 - **Grants awarded in competition,** state the most relevant grants (max. 10).
 - **Prizes and awards,** state the most relevant grants (max. 10).
 - **Additional merits, including information on publications:** Here the main applicant and the participating researchers must state the number of their publications over the past 5-year period and the total number of publications if the applicants have been active within the profession for a period longer than five years (max. 800 characters including spaces). This summary should also include the number of publications of different types (such as articles in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters, books and other monographs, conference contributions, popular science contributions). For participating stakeholders outside academia, previous relevant experience of research and development should be included as well as expertise and experience relevant to the project in question. Under additional merits other merits relevant to the application may also be listed, such as documented experience of collaboration and research communication (max. 10).
 - **Intellectual property:** For example, patents and public access software programs developed by the applicant (max. 10).

List of publications

- The main applicant and participating researchers should specify up to ten of their most relevant publications. Please note that the publications should be linked from the applicants' personal profile in Prisma.

How applications are evaluated

The applications will be assessed by an international expert panel consisting of active researchers and people (users of research) who are qualified to assess the relevance of research. All criteria must be addressed in applications, and applicants are encouraged to clearly and specifically relate the application to these criteria. The applicant is encouraged to be thorough with the structure and clarity of the application, as the evaluation will be based solely on the information provided in the application. The application is evaluated on the basis of criteria for scientific quality (research topic, methodology and implementation, as well as scientific excellence) and societal relevance (the topic's potential benefit to society, targeted communication initiatives and interactions with stakeholders). Budget reasonableness is evaluated in relation to the project's structure and expected results.

Please note that the review criteria described below are formulated specifically for this targeted call and therefore differ from the criteria mentioned on Formas' website.

Evaluation criteria for scientific quality

Research question:

- Possibility of significant scientific results
- Originality and novelty of the purpose, theory and hypotheses
- Objectives consistent with the call

Clarifications

The research question should focus on one or several challenges that fall within the scope of organic food production and consumption under this call.

Method and performance:

- Specific and realistic work plan
- Specific and realistic plan for scientific publication and dissemination of information
- Coordination of the project and the research group
- Suitability of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approach
- Ethical considerations
- Feasibility of the budget in relation to the structure of the project and the anticipated results

Clarifications

The advantage of the project's collaboration between researchers should be clearly stated in the application, as well as the proposed interdisciplinary approach.

Scientific expertise:

- Scientific quality of the publications
- Ability to carry out the project according to the project plan
- Experience in supervision of younger researchers (postdoctoral and doctoral students, as well as degree project students for applicants who are themselves young researchers)
- Experience in project leadership
- National and international activities, including projects, networks, commissions, honorary commissions, participation in, or organisation of, workshops or conferences
- Interest, experience and ability to disseminate research and research results to stakeholders/users
- Strength and competitiveness of the research group

Clarifications

- The quality of scientific publications must be assessed with regard to standards in each scientific field
- When several researchers and stakeholders collaborate, the competence and expertise of each individual participant as well as the overall expertise and experience of the team, and their ability to implement the project, will be assessed

Evaluation criteria for societal relevance

Potential societal benefits of the research topic:

- The research topic addresses important social/sector issues within the focus areas of the call,
- Stakeholder/end-user needs have been taken into account in the design of the project
- The project can, in the short or long term, contribute to the sustainable development goals under Agenda 2030.

Clarifications

Taking account of stakeholder or user needs can consist of references to directives, different goals and strategies, or discussions with relevant groups in society.

Communication with stakeholders and users:

- The key areas where impact can be expected are identified
- Clear, realistic and appropriate targets for impact are formulated
- Realistic and appropriate impact goals and initiatives/activities for communication and interaction that contribute to utilisation of the research are well described
- Realistic and appropriate impact goals and initiatives/activities for communication and interaction that contribute to utilisation of the research are well described

Clarifications

The application must have a detailed communications and resource plan that raises awareness of the project findings both during and after the project period.

Guiding questions to be answered by the applicant: Which initiatives are planned? For whom? Are there different initiatives for different stakeholders or groups in society? What is the goal of the initiatives? What previous experience does the research team have of communicating research findings and involving or engaging stakeholders? Are there other planned communication initiatives or resources that the project will provide?

How will the assessment process be implemented?

Formas will assess the applications according to the instructions and directives provided in the call text. The research must be of relevance to sustainable development of society and of highest scientific quality. <http://www.formas.se/sv/Finansiering/Bedomning-av-ansokningar/>

Funding decisions

Decisions on grant funding will be made by Formas' Scientific Council on the 14th of November 2018. The decisions will be published on Formas' website shortly afterwards. Decisions about funding grants cannot be appealed.

Support and shortcuts

- [General instructions](#)
- [Ethics policy](#)
- [Criteria for administrating organisations](#)
- [Prisma](#)
- [Prisma support](#)

Contact details

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