



THE MAIZE TRUST

MYCOTOXIN RESEARCH PROPOSALS: PROCEDURES AND INSTRUCTIONS



The Maize Trust is committed to funding mycotoxin research, to the benefit of the maize industry, in terms of the mission as accepted by the industry, namely *“World-class mycotoxin research to be undertaken at South African universities and research institutions in order to ensure safe maize to the food and animal feed industries, consumers and export markets”*.

Researchers and research institutions are annually invited to submit funding applications (*Attachment A*) for mycotoxin research to the Trust. Researchers who are interested in applying for funding to the Trust are advised to take cognisance of the Maize Trust’s Norms, Procedures, and Conditions for Funding of Mycotoxin Research (*Attachment B*).

Researchers who wish to submit a proposal to the Trust are kindly requested to complete and electronically submit the Research Proposal form by 26 April 2023 to albertsh@cput.ac.za and beatrix@agrimanage.co.za. Kindly note, only proposals (saved as pdf) that are submitted before or on the stipulated closing date will be considered.

The form has been designed to provide a logical flow of activities and outcomes that are necessary to reach the project goal. When completing the proposal form, please take note of the following:

- **Sections 1 (personal details), 2 (project title, duration, and collaborators), 5 (budget), 6 (reviewers) and 7 (signatures)** are self-explanatory.
- **Section 3** is the **summary** section of the proposal whereas the **detailed activities** are presented in **Section 4**.
- In Section 3 state the **Goal**; this is the context and wider problem the project will help to solve. Ideally, it will be a one sentence statement accompanied by a motivation why this is important (maximum 200 words). In addition, provide the **Hypothesis and / or Research Questions** that will address the objective of the project. Under **Assumptions** list all external factors necessary to sustain your main objective. This would include aspects such as successful completion of field trials, availability of student/technical assistance, co-worker inputs, access to existing information, approval of additional funding, ethical clearance, etc.
- Add the project details under the appropriate **Strategic Objective(s)** in **Section 4**. To streamline your application, **please delete** the Strategic Objectives that do not apply to your proposal.
- Under **Activities** list the tasks to produce the outputs; supply enough information for peer-review purposes and provide key references where necessary.
- The activities (tasks) are followed by the **Short and Long-term Outcomes** for each activity. These should explain the benefit to the maize industry. Under **Milestones and Timelines** specify the qualitative and/or quantitative deliverables to achieve your objectives and provide a timeframe for these outputs within the context of the duration of the project; The milestones are important and will be used to judge progress. **Means of Verification** are the sources and methods used to quantify the indicators.
- **Example:** If you plan to conduct field work, a typical activity would be *“Determine the field response of 200 maize hybrids and breeding lines to FER at three locations according to the procedures described by ABC et al. (2016). Entries will be subjected to controlled infection by isolates 1, 2 and 3 based on the protocol and statistical design described by XYZ et al. (2010)”*, with *“Information on GxE interaction for ear rot of a selected panel of maize hybrids and identification of resistance sources”* as outcome, *“Successful characterisation of maize germplasm for FER response in year 1”* as milestone, and *“Excel datasheet with statistical analysis and ranking of trial entries according*



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percentage ear rot at three locations” as a means of verification.

- Finally, under **Risks/Assumptions**, list possible factors out of project control which could influence each outcome.

All research proposals will be subject to review by both South African and international experts. The reports of the reviewers will be assessed by the Trust’s Mycotoxin Research Review Panel (MRRP) comprising South African experts. Should a proposal be deemed appropriate for submission to the Maize Forum Steering Committee, the candidate will be asked to present the project to the MRRP, usually in September. The MRRP will evaluate and prioritize the research proposals on merit in terms of the review reports and presentations and make recommendations regarding the possible funding of the proposals to the Maize Forum Steering Committee, which will advise the Trust.

A final decision will be taken by the Trust in November regarding the funding of the proposals and the researchers and research administration offices of the various institutions will be informed about the Trust’s decisions in December. The first 60% of the approved funding will be paid to successful applicants during January of the following year.

Researchers are encouraged to actively pursue the possibility of co-funding within their own institutions, or from other sources, as the Trust has limited funds and is compelled to focus on critical research for the maize industry. Researchers are also encouraged to collaborate with other researchers in their projects.

You are welcome to approach Dr JF (Hanneke) Alberts (albertsh@cput.ac.za; cell no 0829210098) as the Coordinator of Mycotoxin Research on behalf of the Trust, should you require clarification on any research or technical matters related to the proposals or application to be made. All administrative or financial enquiries may be referred to the Trust’s Administrators at beatrix@agrimanage.co.za or at (012) 807 3958.