

# **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](http://www.FoundationFAR.org).

## **CROPS OF THE FUTURE COLLABORATIVE**

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 Collaborative offers an approach that can complement, leverage, and enhance these other efforts, generating new tools and knowledge. 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. 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 Consortium's 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. We are seeking someone who can deliver results, with strategic vision and agility; who is action-oriented and able to build capacity; and whose leadership and management abilities will thrive in a collaborative, international partnership environment.

## **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.

## **FURTHER INFORMATION, NOMINATIONS AND APPLICATIONS**

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](mailto: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](mailto: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.*