



الصندوق القطري لرعاية البحث العلمي
Qatar National Research Fund
عضو في مؤسسة قطر
Member of Qatar Foundation



Food Security Call

QNRF-MME Joint Funding



Call for Proposal (CFP)

First Cycle

May 2019

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Section 1. Acronym List

AA	Award Administration
AMG	Award Management Guide
AROR	Authorized Research Office Representative
CFP	Call for Proposal
GS	Graduate Student
IACUC	Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
IBC	Institutional Biosafety Committee
IP	Intellectual Property
IRB	Institutional Review Board
KI	Key Investigator
LPI	Lead Principal Investigator
MOPH	Ministry of Public Health –Qatar
MME	Ministry of Municipality and Environment- Qatar
PD	Post-Doctoral Scholar
PI	Principal Investigator
FS	Food Security
PR	Peer Reviewer
QNRF	Qatar National Research Fund
QNRS	Qatar National Research Strategy
QRLP	Qatar Research Leadership Program
RA	Research Assistant
REG	Research Ethics Guide
RIG	Research Integrity Guide
RO	Research Office
ROC	Research Outcome Centre
SI	Submitting Institution



Section 2. Food Security Call Snapshot

SCOPE	
Competition opens	6th May, 2019 (noon, Doha time)
Submission deadline	Final date for proposal submission by LPI: 2nd of October 2019 (noon, Doha time). Final submission and RO vetting: 9th October 2019 (noon, Doha time). The complete application is due at this time.
Announcement of results	January/February 2020
Anticipated Project Start Date	Project activities can begin only after the Master Research Funding Agreement (MRFA) has been signed. This process can take 60 days from the time of the award announcement and that should be taken into consideration when preparing the application implementation timeline.
Research priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Food Production • Community Initiative • Policy and Legislation • Strengthening resilience among people and Agrifood systems • Supply Chain
Eligible applicant	The LPI from academic/research institution must be a researcher who holds a research-oriented doctorate or any of the approved terminal degrees as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees and has at least five peer reviewed publications. The LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree, however they must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of five publications, technical reports or authored patent applications/patents. The LPI must be affiliated with an approved submitting institution inside or a collaborative institution outside Qatar. If the LPI is from a collaborative institution outside Qatar, he/she must collaborate with a Co-LPI from an approved submitting institution inside Qatar.
Awards parameters	Each award is up to US\$ 300,000 per year and up to three years with total budget up to US\$ 750,000. This amount includes personnel, capital equipment, consumables, materials, services, travel, miscellaneous and applicable indirect costs. All Capital equipment cost must be inside Qatar.
Co-funding opportunities	QNRF & MME encourages co-funding of projects in cash and/or in-kind. No fund match will be provided by QNRF and MME.
IP Policy	QNRF & MME will comply with the Qatar Foundation (QF) Intellectual Property (IP) Policy. For further details, refer to the QF IP policy at link .
How to apply	Register and submit the full application through the online submission system website: https://www.qgrants.org/ . The Grant Application Guide is available for download on www.qnrf.org . The site will be active on the 6 th of May 2019 (noon, Doha time).
QNRF program contact	QNRF support system http://support.qnrf.org/index.php?/Tickets/Submit .



Reference Documents

QNRF Co-Funding Policy ([link](#))

Research Ethics Guide (<http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/REG>)

Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements document at the [link](#)

Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS) ([link](#))

Data Management Plan Policy <https://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/Policies-Rules-and-Regulations/Data-Management-Plan-Policy>

Travel Policy ([link](#))

For information about MME resources www.mme.gov.qa and **Appendix A**

Other documents available at [link](#) and [link](#)



Section 3. Overview

Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF), in partnership with the Ministry of Municipality and Environment (MME), are hereby launching the first cycle of the joint call on Food Security (FS). This call aims to foster the development of productive and sustainable food systems that increase food security, enhance nutrition and strengthen resilience.

The vision of Qatar National Research Fund (QNRF) is to enable research and development excellence in Qatar in order to achieve a sustainable, diversified economy through the advancement of research and education by providing funding opportunities for original, competitively-selected research and development at all levels and across all disciplines with emphasis on the following four pillars of the Qatar National Research Strategy (QNRS):

- Energy and Environment
- Computer Science and ICT
- Health
- Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities

MME is joining hands with QNRF to address, through research, the challenges of Food Security in Qatar, and develop a comprehensive, sustainable and long-term National Food System. The vision of MME falls in line with Qatar National Vision 2030, which is to improve the quality of life in Qatar by achieving Food Security.

Food Security is a main priority for the Government of the State of Qatar, and has been identified through four pillars:

- Capacity for high efficient domestic production
- A strong, modern domestic market
- Sufficient strategic reserves
- A robust and flexible international trade strategy

Section 4. FS Call Objectives

The key objectives of this call are:

- Enhance Food Security measures in Qatar through investing in applied research in the main theme of “Local Food Production”. In this respect, and in consideration the complex scheme of Food Security in Qatar, other themes (see below) are also encouraged.
- Harness external expertise and knowledge in Food Security related science and technology to develop solutions for the local Qatari conditions.

Section 5. Research Priority Areas

The increase in food and nutritional uncertainty, climate change effects, new and emerging diseases, economic fluctuation together with the ever increasing in geopolitical instability all threaten the livelihoods of millions in many countries. The need to improve food security lands itself, therefore, naturally as an important for all countries.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO) advised that already as of May 2009, over 1 billion people were undernourished. The World Bank has estimated that under current conditions, food production would have to double by 2030 to meet the increasing demand. As much as this is true at the global scene, it is manifested severely at local scale where special life style and geopolitical conditions together with the increased affluence lead to



demand for more and higher quality foods, and given environmental problems such as soil degradation, water scarcity, and climate change, new and innovative solutions are required to improve food security.

According to the definition of the 1996 World Food Summit, “*Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.*” One could easily appraise the important local and intra-collaborative dimensions of food security. Therefore, investing in agricultural and nutrition-related research require close collaboration between the local organizations, and with the private sector, farmers, and civil society, as there is wide consensus that the small scale farming sector is fundamental to food security in Qatar. Effective partnerships will generate the type of knowledge and innovation that enables the relevant parties to improve their productivity and strengthen local markets, while achieving environmental sustainability.

The QNRF and MME, after thoroughly studying the local Qatari conditions, relevant national strategies, the different indices of Food Security and Self-Sufficiency in Qatar, the challenges faced and after assessing the local capacity and available resources through meeting the relevant stakeholders, agreed to focus the main theme of this call to “**Local Food Production**” while encouraging other themes (see below) that would feed to the main one.

Increasing local food productivity through strategies that do not deplete the natural resource will be one of the keys to ensuring food security for the growing needs of Qatar. Especially, in a desert climate, there is a need for technologies and practices to sustainably increase the productivity, stability, and resilience of production systems. Strengthening production systems must involve consideration of crops, aquaculture, livestock and other food products.

Below is a description of the research priority areas of this call.

5.1. Local Food Production

The main research theme of this call has been selected to promote local food production in Qatar, including crop production, fisheries, dairy, poultry, livestock etc, while taking into consideration the full cycle of growing, harvesting, and food distribution. Research on this main theme aims to:

- Promote innovation by supporting efforts that explore and enhance ways of producing and protecting local agricultural products (plants, animal and fisheries resources).
- Promote the integration of relevant technologies into agricultural production (use of Artificial Intelligence-AI and Smart Agriculture).
- Integrate efficient water use, energy into agri-technology (greenhouse design, smart animal husbandry, and aquaculture, hydroponics, etc) for efficient local food production.
- Integrate food safety and genetic enhancement techniques (breeding and selection) to enhance local crops, animal resources and fisheries production, etc.

Local food production ensures certain level of sustainability. This will also enhance local foods availability and increase self-reliance of communities.

Other themes have been selected to take into consideration the complex scheme of Food Security in Qatar, which requires involvement of different parties from different fields and to feed into the area of food production.



5.2. Community Initiative

This research theme has been selected with the aim of supporting community efforts that improve understanding of the overall local food production and availability. In fact, Qatar's people should develop a long-standing knowledge of how to produce, harvest, postharvest and store food and transfer these skills to younger generations. As such, it is important to provide opportunities for skills and knowledge development related to local food production. Research in this theme intends to:

- Create networks involving experts and educators in the development and transmission of agricultural production skills
- Support agricultural extension using both formal and informal methods including providing resources, training, and encouragement
- Promote the development, sharing and distribution of agricultural information
- Make agricultural extension program available to broader audiences that include a diversity of ages and genders

5.3. Policy and Legislation

This research theme has been selected with the aim of advocating for a strong social input that promotes local food production through relevant policy and legislative measures. In fact, there is a need for policy and legislation to regulate food production in Qatar that should be founded on Societal Values. Food production can be influenced through a variety of policy areas, including, but not limited to, income, education, employment, and transportation. All of these policy areas play strong roles in fostering an environment that supports food security in Qatar. Research in this theme intends to:

- Support the implementation of food-related regulations and legislation that enhance local food production.
- Assess the adequacy and effectiveness of food related policies.
- Explore policy and legislative measures that will provide adequate safety to food as well as promote traditional livelihoods.

5.4. Strengthening resilience among people and Agrifood systems

This research theme has been selected with the aims to:

- Promote people's and system's ability to strengthen resilience and help local food production.
- Explore the resilience of current agrifood systems, how conflict (as an external stressor) together with already existing environmental stressors (e.g. water scarcity, heat stress, salinity...) influence local food production, supply, and nutrition in Qatar.

5.5. Supply Chain

This research theme has been selected with the aim to support a food supply chain that promotes the availability and affordability of quality and satisfactory of locally produced food in the right time that maximizes nutritional and economic value for Qatar. Research in this theme intends to:

- Develop dynamic models that simulate the market needs, customer satisfaction and update the supply chain processes on real time manner.
- Study the factors that influence the cost, quality and accessibility to locally produced food and make policy programs and recommendation.
- Conduct analysis of market food chain, including food subsidy programs to identify ways to increase access to healthy locally produced food.



- Improving food security by encouraging strategic storage concepts and distribution plans.

Section 6. Eligibility

6.1. Eligibility of Proposal

The proposal must be within the specific research areas described in **Section 5**.

6.2. Eligibility of Submitting Institution

6.2.1. Institutions inside Qatar with approved Research Offices (ROs) are eligible to submit proposals. See submitting institution and RO roles in the “Institution’s responsibilities and Post-Award” document available [at link](#).

6.2.2. Authorized Research Office Representatives (ARORs) and other members of the RO are not eligible to participate in any FS projects.

6.3. Eligibility of Participants

6.3.1. Eligibility of Lead Principal Investigators (LPIs)

6.3.1.1. The LPI must be affiliated with either the submitting institution inside Qatar or a collaborative institution outside Qatar. If the LPI is from a collaborative institution outside Qatar, he/she must collaborate with a Co-LPI from an approved submitting institution inside Qatar.

6.3.1.2. The LPI may collaborate with other research entities, located inside or outside Qatar.

6.3.1.3. The LPI must hold a research-oriented doctorate or any of the approved terminal degrees as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees, which is available at [link](#).

6.3.1.4. The LPI should have at least five single- or co-authored peer-reviewed publications uploaded in their profile in the QNRF online submission system.

6.3.1.5. Types of publications accepted by QNRF include journal papers, full paper conference proceedings, books, book chapters or patents by the LPI. In addition, QNRF accepts peer-reviewed creative works that cover the following research areas: performing arts, visual arts, creative writing, design works, and communication media. These creative works are only accepted when the LPI provides an “attestation letter” from the LPI’s affiliated institution, indicating that these particular creative works are acceptable research outcomes.

6.3.1.6. The LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree, however he/she must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of five peer reviewed publications, technical reports or authored patent applications/patents.

6.3.1.7. MME staff are not eligible to participate as LPIs in this call.

6.3.1.8. A post-doctoral scholar is not eligible to act as a LPI (see definition at [link](#)).

6.3.2. Number of Roles

6.3.2.1. The count of individual participation in all FS proposals as key investigators (KI) for researchers from inside Qatar is unlimited with research effort not exceeding the allowable institutional percentage of effort.

6.3.2.2. For LPIs from outside Qatar, the LPI can submit only one application per cycle.



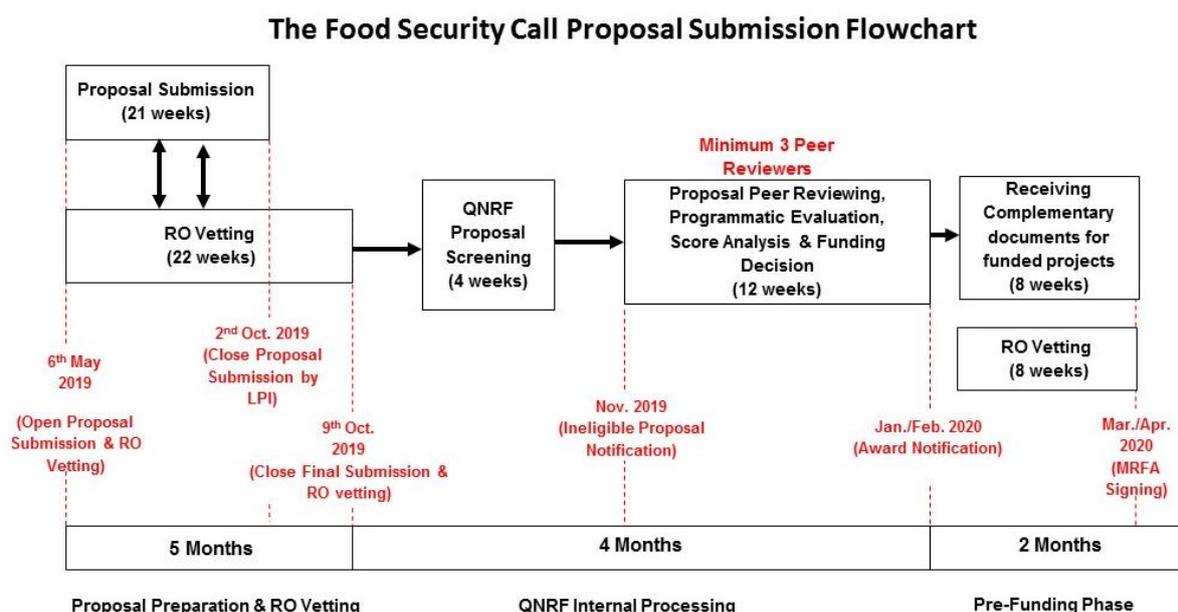
6.3.2.3. For researchers from outside Qatar, the count of an individual participation in all FS proposals as a key investigator (KI) must not exceed three roles, with research effort not exceeding the allowable institutional percentage of effort.

Section 7. Submission Process

7.1. Proposal Submission Flowchart and Timeline

7.1.1. Flowchart

The following flowchart illustrates the steps necessary from proposal submission by the LPI and the RO to the notification of the final award.



7.1.2. Timeline

The following table shows important dates for the 1st cycle of the FS call.

Timeline for the 1st Cycle of the FS call	
Description	Dates
Open proposal submission as well as RO vetting* process.	12:00pm (Doha time), Monday 6th of May 2019
Close proposal submission by LPI	12:00pm (Doha time), Wednesday 2nd of October 2019
RO Final proposal submission and vetting	12:00pm (Doha time), Wednesday 9th of October 2019
Ineligible proposals notification	November, 2019
Successful proposals notification, awards announced	January/February 2020

*RO vetting can only start once the proposal is submitted.



Section 8. Budget

8.1. QNRF Grant

FS award is up to US\$ 750,000 for up to 3 years with maximum US\$ 300,000 per year.

8.2. Co-Funding Rules

QNRF and MME **encourage co-funded projects** in the FS call. In such a case, applicants are requested to comply with QNRF's Co-Funding policy ([link](#)). No fund match will be provided by QNRF and MME.

8.3. Grant and Effort Allocation

8.3.1. At least 70% of the proposed funded research effort must be conducted inside Qatar by the research team

8.3.2. At least 70% of the total annual budget must be expended inside Qatar.

8.3.3. All Capital equipment cost must be allocated and purchased inside Qatar only.

Please refer to the Budget Components document available at [link](#).

Section 9. Eligibility of Research team

9.1. Principal Investigators (Co-LPI, PI)

9.1.1. The Co-LPI must hold a research-oriented doctorate or any of the approved terminal degrees as defined under the approved list of terminal degrees, which is available at [link](#).

9.1.2. The Co-LPI from a research end-user entity may not hold a terminal degree, however he/she must have a track record in managing technology development projects and/or research projects, and a minimum of five peer-reviewed publications, technical reports or authored patent applications/patents.

9.1.3. An eligible PI must hold at least a university post-graduate degree and he/she should have a suitable research experience relevant to the area of the proposal and the tasks assigned to him/her. Principal Investigator (PI) must be affiliated with a submitting institution in Qatar or a collaborating institution inside or outside Qatar.

9.1.4. MME staff are not eligible to participate as Co-LPIs or PIs in the call.

9.1.5. A post-doctoral scholar is not eligible to act as a PI (see definition at [link](#)).

9.2. Other Research Team Members

Post-doctoral scholars, graduate students, research associates, research assistants, undergraduate students, lab technicians and engineers are considered Research Team Members. MME staff are not eligible to participate as researchers in this call.

9.3. Graduate Students

A graduate student (GS) is eligible to participate in FS projects provided that he/she is enrolled in a higher educational degree program at the submitting and collaborative institutions. QNRF/MME encourages applicants to hire from QRLP (Qatar Research Leadership Program) graduates and GSs from Qatar. The QRLP graduates and candidates will be at zero cost.



9.4. Undergraduate Students

If necessary, the LPI may include undergraduate students as Research Team Members under the “Undergraduate Student” roles on the QNRF online submission website, provided that their participation complies with their institution’s policies.

9.5. Consultants

If the need for consultant (see definition at [link](#)) services is anticipated, the nature of the proposed consultant services must be justified and included in the proposal. **The consultant services cannot be considered as scientific or intellectual contribution to the project.**

Section 10. Online Submission Procedures

10.1. Submission Requirements

- 10.1.1. The online application submitted by the LP must be vetted by the Research Office (RO) of the submitting institution in order to be considered as an official submission to QNRF; RO vetting must be completed in accordance with the timeline (**section 7.1.**), and the RO responsibilities at [link](#).
- 10.1.2. All principal investigators listed on an FS grant application, residing inside or outside Qatar, must register with QNRF at <https://oss.qgrants.org/>.
- 10.1.3. An applicant is required to use his/her official work email addresses during registration. Those who have previously registered do not need to re-register, but will need to update their profile and CV, as applicable. Applicants who register with two different emails will be disqualified.
- 10.1.4. Each LPI is required to upload a minimum of five peer-reviewed publications. Research end-users LPIs may include technical reports or patent applications.
- 10.1.5. LPIs from a research end-user entity who do not hold a terminal degree should request an approval from QNRF to act as LPI through the online system. Also, the LPI should request an approval for the Co-LPI from a research-end user entity who does not hold a terminal degree. For more details, please refer to the Grant Application Guide (GAG), at [link](#).
- 10.1.6. Consultants are required to register and upload their CVs, stating their affiliation.
- 10.1.7. For the requirements regarding online registration, please refer to the Grant Application Guide, at [link](#).

10.2. Proposal Registration

- 10.2.1. After registration, the LPI is required to register the proposal at the following website: <https://oss.qgrants.org/>. For more information regarding the proposal registration and submission, please refer to Grant Application Guide, at [link](#).
- 10.2.2. The LPI may use the “Comments to QNRF” box to designate persons they would prefer not review the proposal, indicating why. The decision whether or not to follow the suggestions, however, remains with QNRF. The LPI may also utilize the “Comments to QNRF” box for any other issue he/she needs to declare ahead of submission. The LPI should also identify any research work that they have conducted/are conducting which is similar to the proposal and explain how the latter is distinct.



10.3. Proposal Preparation

During “Proposal Preparation”, the LPI has to submit the information according to the online sections listed below as well as to upload documents as required.

- 10.3.1. Proposal Summary:** A brief description written in the third person outlining the major aspect(s) of the proposed activity, while illustrating the objectives and methods to be used. The description should be informative, highlighting the intellectual merit and the potential impact of the project; it is requested during the proposal submission phase on the system.
- 10.3.2. Submitting Institution’s Information:** A research institution registered inside Qatar that has appropriate research resources specialized in area(s) within QNRS and is responsible for submitting research proposals to QNRF. The LPI’s institution in Qatar will be considered as the submitting institution and will be responsible for vetting the proposal. If the LPI is from outside Qatar, then the LPI’s institution will be considered as a collaborative institution, and the LPI is required to identify a Co-LPI from inside Qatar. The Co-LPI’s institution in Qatar will be considered as the submitting institution and will be responsible for vetting the proposal.
- 10.3.3. Collaborative Institutions’ Information:** Institution inside or outside the State of Qatar collaborating with the submitting institution in conducting the research proposal. If collaborative institutions are involved in the proposal, the LPI should enter the required information for each institution, including uploading an official support letter. The supporting letter template is available at [link](#). The collaborative Institution must include at least a KI.
- 10.3.4. Personnel:**
- 10.3.4.1. **Research Team:** The LPI can nominate Research Team Members (see definition at [link](#)) from the submitting and collaborative institutions. PIs are required to be registered in order to be added to the proposal submission. The system will request the PIs to update their profiles with all required documentation/information in order to be added to the proposal.
- 10.3.4.2. **Consultant:** The LPI lists the consultant(s) for the project, if needed. Consultants (see definition at [link](#)) are required to be registered in order to be added to the proposal.
- 10.3.5. Research Plan:** The LPI should prepare the research plan file according to the research plan template available at [link](#). The research plan should use Arial font for the body text, font size 11, single space and the margins as identified in the template (no less than 0.5 inches). The research plan must not exceed 25 pages excluding cover page, table of contents and references.
- 10.3.6. Budget:** for more information on the budget, see Budget Components document at [link](#).
- 10.3.7. Co-Funding:** In a case of co-funding, the LPI is required to provide justification, the total amount of co-funding, including the expected categories of contributions, and upload a commitment letter from the co-funder(s) signed by an authority of the co-funder(s). The template is available at [link](#).
- 10.3.8. Other grants:** The LPI should disclose any information on all on-going and completed previous research funds for each Key Investigator over the last three years such as project title, name of funding agency, project duration, start and end dates, the total amount of fund/year, total effort, remaining effort, abstract and, if applicable, outcome summary.
- 10.3.9. Ethical Compliance:** For research involving human subject(s), stem cells in human subject(s), research with laboratory animals, DNA research and biohazards materials, the LPI is required to comply with the



laws and regulations set out by the Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) for the protection of the human subjects and laboratory animals.

10.3.10. IP/Market: This section addresses are some questions related to Intellectual Property that need to be addressed by the LPI.

10.3.11. Miscellaneous Documents: This section may contain any supporting documents such as tables, appendices, etc. However, documents wrongly uploaded under this section, such as a research plan, will not be considered. All the information required for the evaluation process should be included in the research plan.

10.3.12. Declarations: The LPI should declare that the proposal is his/her own work, except where appropriately referenced and that the proposal was not and will not be submitted in whole, or in part, for funding more than once within the same cycle, or to other funding programs within QNRF, or other funding agencies.

Section 11. Screening

All submitted proposals are subject to screening by QNRF/MME according to the screening process outlined at [link](#).

Section 12. Proposal Evaluation

12.1. Proposal Review and Ranking

The proposal review and ranking process comprises a number of assessment steps that first include peer review by international experts, followed by a programmatic review, which is carried out by QNRF/MME. The two processes are detailed below.

12.1.1. Peer Review

A minimum of three qualified, international, peer reviewers (representing an appropriate mix of academic, industry and public-sector expertise) are solicited by QNRF to evaluate each proposal against the criteria listed below. The reviewers will evaluate the proposals, make recommendations to QNRF as to “Fund” or “Not Fund” and provide narrative feedback to applicants. The evaluation criteria consist of the following:

12.1.1.1. Intellectual Merit (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field? Is there a strong scientific premise for the project?
- Are the objectives for the project clear, measurable, realistic and achievable?
- What is the potential for the proposed activity to advance knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields?
- How will successful completion of the aims change the concepts, methods, technologies, treatments, services, or preventative interventions that drive this field?
- Does the application challenge and seek to shift current research by utilizing novel theoretical concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions?
- Are the concepts, approaches or methodologies, instrumentation, or interventions novel to one field of research or novel in a broad sense?

12.1.1.2. Expected Impact (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- How significant is the envisaged outcome in addressing priority issues, including QNRS, in areas that are critical to Qatar, in terms of:
 - The potential for the proposed activity to benefit society or advance desired economical and societal outcomes?
 - The expected benefits of the proposed research activity to Qatar?



- Plans to disseminate and exploit the project's results?
- Extent to which end-users may realistically benefit (co-funded research) from the research.
- Plans to utilize project outcomes in future studies?

12.1.1.3. Work Plan (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- Is the plan for carrying out the proposed activities well-reasoned, well organized, and based on a sound rationale? Does the plan incorporate a mechanism to assess success?
- The breakdown into consistent work packages
- Timeline and time-allocation for work packages
- Coherence and effectiveness of the project organization, including appropriateness of the allocation of tasks and resources
- The organizational aspects of the project and the methods of coordination

12.1.1.4. Qualifications and complementarity of the Research Team (Excellent; Very Good; Good; Fair; Poor)

- How well qualified is the research team inside and outside Qatar and are their designated roles suitable to conduct the research?
- Assess the LPI's capability to coordinate the project and the research teams.

12.1.1.5. Budget

- Appropriateness of the budget in regard to the work plan and effort planning.
- Evaluation of the adequacy of co-funding commitments, if any.
- Are the proposed outcomes and outputs appropriate for the amount of effort and funding?

12.1.1.6. Research Compliance

- Protection of human subjects.
- Inclusion and protection of children.
- Vertebrate animals.
- Biohazards.

The table below shows the weights of the peer review criteria.

Criteria #	Criteria name	Weight
C1	Intellectual Merit	25
C2	Expected Impact	35
C3	Work Plan	20
C4	Qualifications and Complementarity of the Research Team	20

12.1.2. Programmatic Review

Following the peer-review evaluation, top-scoring proposals will be shortlisted based on the shortlisting procedure at [link](#). Subsequent to that, expert panels will perform a programmatic review under the supervision of QNRF/MME. The programmatic review is designed to assess and compare all proposals in a given specific research priority area. It takes into account the peer reviewer's comments, as well as programmatic and strategic goals of QNRF/MME related, but not limited to:

12.1.2.1. The strength of the alignment with the FS call objectives and the specific research Theme

- Do the project objectives address the research themes of this call.

12.1.2.2. The quality of the collaboration and the co-funding commitment



- The extent of knowledge-creation inside Qatar and of knowledge-transfer and potential for technology-transfer to Qatar.
- The quality and extent of collaboration among researchers inside Qatar.
- If relevant, the quality level of involvement of research end-users, their capacity to utilize the research outcomes and their ability to benefit from them.
- If applicable, the quality and extent of any co-funding commitments.

12.1.2.3. The potential impact on Qatar and the the broader commercial market and TRL level (if applicable)

- The relevance of the project to Qatar’s development with respect to industrial development, socio-economic, health and environmental aspects and the ability to address end-user needs, as well as the potential to create positive international scientific visibility for Qatar.
- The extent to which the project provides a solution addressing research needs of end-users in Qatar.

12.1.2.4. The past performance of the LPI and participating PIs

- Prominence in the respective field of research, scientific background and track record (quality of publications/patents, technical expertise), proven ability as an independent researcher to carry out the research projects, research team leadership and project management experience.
- The quality of the outcomes and impact of prior QNRF funded research performed by the LPI and participating PIs.

12.1.2.5. Previous QNRF funding in this area of research

- Does the project duplicate/overlap with previous and existing grants in the QNRF portfolio?

12.1.2.6. The composition of the local research team

- Participation of local industry, academic and/or governmental entities. Local capacity building (training of graduate students in the project/involvement of RAs, Post-Docs, and junior researchers in the project), the level of commitment by local institutional participants (resources, effort).

12.1.2.7. Budget

- Appropriateness of the budget as related to the objectives of the project.
- If relevant, end-users’ contribution to the budget (co-funding)

At the end of the review and ranking processes, proposals are categorized in terms of their competitiveness. The final funding decision will group proposals as shown in the table below:

	Group	Evaluation Outcome	Description
Shortlisted – Programmatic Review	A	Highly Competitive	The proposal was evaluated to be an excellent project during the review process (with minor to negligible weaknesses) and is, therefore, considered “highly competitive” for funding. (Funding decisions are based on the available budget).
	B	Competitive	The proposal was evaluated to be a very good project during the review process (with moderate to minor weaknesses) and is, therefore, considered “competitive” for funding. (Funding decisions are based on the available budget).
	C	Not competitive	The proposal was considered “not competitive” for funding, due to moderate to significant weaknesses identified by the review process.



Not shortlisted	D	Not shortlisted	The proposal was not shortlisted and is considered “not competitive” for funding due to significant weaknesses or shortcomings identified by the review process.
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Section 13. Pre-funding

13.1. Awarded proposals will go through a pre-funding stage, which starts after the award announcement, and continues for approximately eight weeks. During pre-funding, the submitting institution will be notified about the requirements (possible budget reduction, budget details, timeline changes, etc.).

13.2. During the pre-funding phase, the LPI needs to provide requested information related to the data management plan.

See more information on the pre-funding stage in the “Institutions Responsibilities and Post Award” document available at [link](#).

Section 14. Post-Award

For rules and regulations related to fund management, payment schedule and reporting, please refer to the Award Management Guide (AMG) document available at [link](#).

Section 15. Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements

The proposed research must meet all the requirements of applicable Ministry of Public Health policies for the protection of human subjects from research risks, and data and safety monitoring (when applicable). Please refer to the Research Ethics and Regulatory Requirements document available at [link](#).

Section 16. Research Integrity

For further information regarding research integrity and other related policies, please see the Research Ethics Guide (REG) at [link](#).

Section 17. Intellectual Property Policy

QNRF will follow the Qatar Foundation (QF) IP policy. Please consult the QNRF website for details on the applicable intellectual property policy <http://www.qnrf.org/en-us/Funding/IP-Policy>.

Section 18. Data Management Plan Policy

This policy supports the development of a robust environment for the sustainable management, use and reuse of QNRF funded research data in collaboration with Qatar National Library (QNL).

QNRF recognizes the importance of data management to protect its investment in research and development by ensuring that research data are findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable (FAIR) which will:

- 1) expedite the scientific process;
- 2) reduce duplication of effort;
- 3) support reproducibility and research integrity;
- 4) optimize availability and reuse of research outputs; and
- 5) facilitate the preservation of the scholarly record of Qatar.

LPIs of the awarded projects should submit the data management plan during the pre-funding phase according to the templates that will be available on QNRF website. The Data Management Plan Policy is available at [link](#).



Section 19. Inquiries

For any inquiry regarding this CFP and the electronic proposal submission process, please use the QNRF **Support link** on the website (<http://support.qnrf.org/index.php?/Tickets/Submit>). Applicants can choose the appropriate department and specify the topic of their query for further information. QNRF's response may be made publicly available in the Q&A section of the QNRF website. For information regarding using resources please use www.mme.gov.qa. For any further enquiry regarding using MME resources, please use arfcsecretary@mme.gov.qa.

Section 20. Research Support Resources

This section describes a number of available research support resources whether within QNRF or inside Qatar. For more details, please refer to the "Research Support Resources" at "[link](#)".

For information about the MME available resources please refer to **Appendix A**.

These resources include but not limited to:

- Qatar Biobank (QBB) Data and Samples
- Asset management (for available equipment)
- QNRF Researcher Network (QRN)
- QNRF Awarded projects



Appendix A. MME Resources

Researchers participating the food security call can benefit from accessing and getting the necessary services relevant to the project from the facilities, and different resources in the MME. List of resources is available below:

Overview of facilities at Agricultural Research Department

Facility	Location	Contact	Contact's phone and email	Brief overview of the capacity and equipment
Department of Plant Tissue Culture - Research Unit	Mesaimeer- New-Environmental Lab Building	Kamila Al Romaihi	Kamila Al Romaihi kiromaihi@mme.gov.qa 44263285	Approximate surface area:100 m2 Consists of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two tissue incubation rooms • A preparation laboratory • A plant laboratory The department is home to devices and equipment including plant tissue culture incubators, sterilizers, microbial isolation equipment and a plant production system
Department of Biotechnology	Mesaimeer- New-Environmental Lab Building	Amina Abdullah Al Malki	Amina Abdullah Al Malki aamalki@mme.gov.qa 44263284	The department consists of four laboratories: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two DNA extraction laboratory • A Polymerase chain reaction and electrolytic migration laboratory • A Biotechnology Lab The department is home to advanced equipment to extract DNA from plant and animal organisms and microorganisms, in addition to a polymerase chain reaction system and a genetic analysis instrument to analyze genetic samples and study DNA.
Department of Animal Research	Al Shahaniya	Dr. Raslan Abu Romia	RAbuRomia@mme.gov.qa 77006157	1. Biotechnology Laboratory: 2. Artificial insemination laboratory 3. Sheep, goats, cane, and deer barns
Genetic Resources Department - Genetic Bank	Mesaimeer- New-Environmental Lab Building	Nadia Al Mahmoud	44263571 nomahmoud@mme.gov.qa	The department covers an area of 250 m2 It consists of:



				<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A reception room and a seed and grass specimens processing area 2. Herbal samples preparation laboratory 3. Laboratory to test seed quality and health, equipped with microscope 4. Herbal specimens storage unit 5. Seed storage units <p>The department is equipped with devices and equipment including an autoclave, germination rooms, stereomicroscope, light microscope, incubation chambers, incubators, and cryopreservation units (short and long term-herbal samples storage units)</p>
Plant Research Department: 1. Laboratory of diseases and plant protection	Mesaimeer Entrance of the General Organization for Standardization	Dr. Mohammed Mahmoud Mazen	Tel: 00 974 4426 1554 Mobile no.: 00 974 33166350 mmmetwally@mme.gov.qa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The department comprises three laboratories -The first laboratory is reserved for the isolation of fungi and the diagnosis of fungal diseases. It contains an insulation room, incubator, oven, microwave, refrigerator, a heater with a magnetic switch, water bath, microscope, sensitive balance, and refrigerator to save isolates. -The second laboratory is reserved for soil microbiology. It contains an insulation room, cones to separate nematoda, refrigerator, water bath, Microscope, pH meter, two incubators, and a heater with a magnetic stir. - The third laboratory contains a microscope with a camera and a computer - binocular. - A joint division also contains a sterilizer - A shared room for washing utensils and glassware.
2- Pesticides Quality Control Laboratory	Mesaimeer Entrance of the General Organization for Standardization	Dr. Sayyed Faraj, laboratory expert	EFarag@mme.gov.qa 44261748	The laboratory has all the chromatographic, spectroscopic and physical examination instruments to determine the quality of a



				product, but the equipment is currently in the pesticide laboratory at Hamad port
3-Soil and Water Laboratory 4-Laboratory of plants, fodder and fertilizers	Mesaimeer Entrance of the General Organization for Standardization	Mohamed Darwish Al Far	Mohamed Darwish Al Far Farmdfar@mme.gov.qa 55802376 44261846	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conducting all chemical and physiochemical analyzes of soil and water in addition to nitrogen, phosphorus, micronutrients, heavy elements. - Fodder, fertilizer and plant analyzes including the analysis of moisture, dry matter, protein, nitrogen, ash, purity, impurities, other grains fiber - fat), phosphorus, potassium and organic matter. - The laboratory currently tests the protein content of barley and chow samples provided by the Tender Department at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and soil nitrogen as required by the Environmental Monitoring department. When other laboratories are equipped, other tests will be conducted.
Agricultural Research Station	Dukhan - Zekrit	Mohammed Ibrahim Abu Bakr	moimohamed@mme.gov.qa talfo12@gmail.com 50393374- 66313135	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The total area of the farm is 122500 square meters, of which 61250 square meters are divided into 18 fields (50 x 50 meters) in addition to a nursery. - Machines and equipment: salinity and pH measurement equipment, EC Meter – PH Meter, Tensiometer, Auger and neutron probe. - Workers: five workers in addition to cleaning operatives
Rawdat Al Faras Research Station	North Road Exit (59) Al Zubara Junction behind Al Zubarah Services Complex	Saleh Al Yafei 55060709 Mohammed Al - Qadri 55396051	smyafei@mme.gov.qa	Research of palm trees, and pastoral and wild plants - drying - liquid pollination - seeds
Al Ghashimiyah Research Farm	Al Ghashamiya	Dr. Mohamed El Amin 55331747	meffed@hotmail.com	A fenced farm spanning an area of 156936 square meters dedicated to the national project for the rehabilitation and development of rangeland in Qatar comprising three wells and an electric generator. A tender is currently underway



				to award infrastructure works in addition to research at the Rawdat al Faras farm.
Al-Atouriya Research Station	Al-Atouriya	Engineer Khairo Farhan Zenika 55900218 Engineer Omar Lagbar 55115595	k_frhan@yahoo.ie alajbar@gmail.com	Al-Atouriya Research Station is located in Al-Atouriya area, 55 km from Doha. It covers an area of 80880 square meters. It contains refrigerated and non-refrigerated protected houses and open fields. <u>Station tasks:</u> Conducting research experiments on vegetables and cooperation with local and international entities in order to develop agriculture in Qatar

- For Animal Resources enquiries, please contact Dr. Muzzamil Ata (44261643 – 33250386)
- For Fisheries Resources enquiries, please contact Dr. Mohamad Abdallah (55569085)

