

Foundational Agrivoltaic Research for Megawatt Scale (FARMS)

PCFO IGAP Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) Snapshot

May 16, 2022

<u>Agency:</u> Department of Energy	<u>Bureau:</u> Solar Energy Technologies Office
<u>Application Deadline:</u> Letter of Intent: 06/01/22 Concept Papers: 06/22/22 Full Applications: 08/30/22	<u>Max Award:</u> \$2 million

Description

The Foundational Agrivoltaic Research for Megawatt Scale (FARMS) funding opportunity will award \$8 million in funding for projects that examine how agrivoltaics can scale up to provide new economic opportunities to farmers, rural communities, and the solar industry. Agrivoltaics is defined as agricultural production, such as crop production, livestock grazing, and pollinator habitat that exist underneath solar panels and/or in between rows of solar panels.

Eligible Recipients

1. U.S. citizens and lawful U.S. permanent residents
2. For-profit entities
3. Educational institutions
4. Nonprofits
5. State, local, and tribal government entities
6. Department of Energy/National Nuclear Security Administration federally funded research and development centers (FFRDCs)

Matching Grant Requirements

- 20% cost share requirement for research and development projects
- Reduced 10% cost share requirement for projects where:
 - The prime recipient is a minority serving institution of higher education; domestic nonprofit entity; or U.S. state, local, or tribal government entity; and
 - The prime recipient performs more than 50% of the project work, as measured by the Total Project Cost.

Eligible Projects

Projects will conduct technical research on the impacts of agrivoltaic systems on agriculture and solar energy and use the results of that research to build widely applicable tools and resources that make agrivoltaic opportunities more accessible to farmers and solar developers.

Areas of Interest:

- Integrated agriculture-energy impact studies: Projects will study how agrivoltaic designs impact both agriculture production and energy production. Project teams must include members with experience in experimental design for both agriculture and solar. Projects must also articulate the mechanism by which new research findings will be disseminated to the relevant communities
- Socioeconomics of agrivoltaics: Projects will study the social and economic barriers, opportunities, and impacts related to agrivoltaics. Projects must include representatives from relevant organizations in agricultural economies and team members with social science expertise that is sufficient to address the questions being explored.
- Resources for scalable and replicable agrivoltaics: Project activities in this area of interest will build resources that lower the barrier of entry to agrivoltaics. Projects must include a long-term maintenance plan for the produced resources and must disseminate resources to key stakeholders. Types of activities that fall under this area of interest include design software, validation testbeds and methodologies, and standardized guidance for establishing agrivoltaic sites.

New or Existing Program

New program

Tips for Being Competitive

Applicants must articulate a vision for agrivoltaics that achieves benefits for agriculture, rural communities, and the solar industry. Applicants should also review the goals for this funding opportunity established by the Solar Energy Technologies Office and communicate how their proposed project aligns with these goals.

Labor Requirements

A primary objective of DOE's multi-billion dollar research, development and demonstration investments is to cultivate new research and development ecosystems, manufacturing capabilities, and supply chains for and by U.S. industry and labor. Therefore, in exchange for receiving taxpayer dollars to support an applicant's project, the applicant must agree to a U.S. Competitiveness provision requiring any products embodying any subject invention or produced through the use of any subject invention will be manufactured substantially in the United States unless the Recipient can show to the satisfaction of the Department of Energy (DOE) that it is not commercially feasible.

Examples of Prior Award Recipients

N/A

Agency Contact

agrivoltaics@ee.doe.gov or EERE-ExchangeSupport@hq.doe.gov

Upcoming Webinars and Information Sessions

Information from the previous webinar, held on May 12, will be provided under the [funding opportunity's page](#).

**Types of Partners
Required**

All projects must present a plan to engage with partners or organizations representing interests of local communities and the agricultural sector. For projects related to deployment, proposals must include partners that enable real-world testing and verification of the proposed method or technology.

Total Allocation

\$8 million

**Link to Grant
Opportunity**

- [FARMS Funding Opportunity page and Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#)
- [FARMS Funding Notice](#)