



**BARD Research Proposals**  
**Guidelines and Regulations for Applicants**

*(Updated: June 2025)*

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**Guidelines and Regulations for Applicants**

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## BARD Research Proposals Guidelines and Regulations for Applicants

### Mission

BARD supports mission-oriented cooperative agricultural research projects of mutual interest to the United States and Israel. Proposals are expected to deal with an agricultural issue or problem and yield tangible results that could be implemented within a reasonable time after completion of the project. Projects cover all phases of agricultural research and development. The outcomes of BARD-funded research must be accessible to the public.

### Cooperative Research

Cooperative research entails *active* collaboration between Israeli and American scientists. Upon request, BARD will assist scientists in finding collaborative partners. Please send a brief abstract by e-mail. Identify the main ideas of the proposed work and include a short CV.

### BARD Awards

This year (2025) there will be only one funding track within the main BARD Research Grant: The **Pioneer Track** - maximum requested amount is \$600,000 for a three-year award. In addition, researchers may submit applications for the **Aquaculture and Desert Farming** program and for **feasibility studies**.

BARD will support highly innovative, substantial, and unique proposals that have the potential of creating significant impact on agriculture, with tangible results, utilizing cutting-edge research technologies, that will bring upon a new direction, concept, or solution. Proposals must have clear practical benefits to both nations. For the September 2025 round of submission, BARD will receive applications in all research panels. (**Ag. Engineering; Animal Health and Animal Production; Aquaculture; Crop Health and Crop Production; Soil, Water, and Renewable Resources; Food Products; and Ag. Economics**).

**Please note that BARD will not consider research proposals involving cannabis substances; proposals involving hemp may be considered.**

- The maximum budget for each project will be \$600,000 for three years.
- The potential for follow-up development effort(s) should be clear in the proposal and will be a significant criterion in the evaluation of the potential impact of the proposal.
- Projects will be selected first and foremost based on innovation, scientific merit, the potential impact on current agricultural knowledge or practices, and the multi-disciplinary collaboration arrangements as described in the proposal.

### Aquaculture and Desert Farming

The submission of the proposal is exactly the same as the other BARD proposals. Investigators should indicate on the submission pages if the proposal is appropriate for consideration in this category.

### Feasibility Studies

BARD will consider funding a one-year proposal when the request is for an opportunity to establish a basis for further research or to provide preliminary results for a particularly innovative idea or concept. Feasibility study applications must follow the same guidelines as all other proposals and adhere to the same submission dates. Continuation of a one-year feasibility study originally submitted as such requires the submission and approval of a final scientific report before a new proposal can be submitted. The maximum amount that can be requested for a one-year feasibility study is \$180,000.

**All grant recipients will be subjected to the grant management and reporting guidelines. Timely submission of reports is required.**



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### BARD Priority Areas

While BARD will continue to fund agriculturally relevant and scientifically meritorious work in all disciplines of agriculture, the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and Board of Directors have determined the following areas as priority areas for the coming years:

- **Improved efficiency of agricultural production**, including sustainable development and engineering, enhancing nutritional value, efficient use of resources & agricultural waste, economic evaluation of policies, regulation, and labor; use of functional genomics & proteomics to protect and produce traits supporting increased crop yield and genetic optimization in animals, focus on heterosis opportunities & consequences.
- **Plant, animal, and agricultural environment defense**, including pest and host genetics, invasive species & emerging diseases, early stress detection and rapid point of care methods, development of safe and bio-secure biological, physical, & chemical control measures.
- **Agricultural production challenges in increased marginal conditions**, including climate disorder & abiotic stress factors such as drought, salinity, high temperatures, nutrient, and soil stress.
- **Food quality, safety, and security**, including improved assessment and detection methods, nutritive value and post-harvest treatment, reduction of food loss & waste, enhanced supply chain quality and technologies, functional foods, development of alternative quality protein sources including plants, fungi, algae, insects, & tissue.
- **Soil & water, quality, and quantity**, including efficient use of low-quality water (grey, black, saline), improved economic return for water in agriculture, crop response to soil & water quality & their constituents, impact of nutrients and agricultural chemicals on water quality.
- **Agricultural engineering/Precision agriculture**, including sensors, instrumentation, & control systems; robotics and artificial intelligence; mechanization for improving labor efficiency; biological engineering, biotechnology, nanotechnology.
- **Sustainable agri-environmental management**, including sustainable ag-based energy systems for reduced energy costs, bioconversion technologies, agricultural feedstock, controlled environment and urban agriculture, renewable resources and ecosystem services, circular bioeconomy, reducing agricultural waste.

### Eligibility

Affiliates of public or private non-profit research institutions that demonstrate the necessary research and development capabilities are eligible for funding. Proposals must be submitted through such legally constituted institutions.

### BARD postdoctoral fellows

For one year following the conclusion of the BARD fellowship, recipients are not eligible to submit a BARD research proposal either as the principal investigator (PI) or as co-principal investigator (Co-PI) affiliated with an institution in the mentor's country. Fellows are eligible to submit as a PI or Co-PI only if affiliated with an institution in their own home country, or as collaborating investigators (requesting less than \$40,000 per year) with affiliation from either country.



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### Investigators

**Principal Investigator (PI)** is the person whose name appears *first* on the cover page of the proposal. The PI is mutually agreed upon by the cooperating scientists and is responsible for the submission of scientific reports, administration of the grant, notification of changes in the work plan and maintaining contact with BARD. The affiliated institution of the PI becomes the *Principal Institution* and signs a research agreement with BARD.

**Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI)** is the person whose name appears *second* on the cover page of the proposal. The Co-PI is the senior member of the investigating team in the *other* country.

**Collaborating Investigators** are all other investigators, in either country, who are listed on the cover page.

**Early Career Scientists** (no more than 5 years from the end of postdoc training or first institutional appointment) should indicate so in the appropriate place on the proposal Cover Page.

### Concurrent Funding Policy

BARD will **not** fund concurrent projects to any given investigator. This restriction applies only to PIs and Co-PIs, and to Collaborating Investigators who request more than \$40,000/year of the research budget.

New proposals may be submitted during the final year of an ongoing project. However, if approved, funding of the new proposal will not begin until the conclusion of the ongoing project -- i.e., the submission of the final scientific and fiscal reports and their approval by BARD no later than October 31<sup>st</sup>. The ongoing project, whether related or on a different topic, will not be granted any extension. New projects must be initiated no later than December 1<sup>st</sup> of the award year.

- A PI or Co-PI may submit more than one proposal in a given year, provided that the proposals pursue different topics. However, if multiple proposals from the same PI or Co-PI (not necessarily together) are deemed worthy of funding, only ONE of these will be funded.
- Scientists planning to submit more than one proposal must inform all scientists involved in all proposals of this intention. BARD will also inform to submitting scientists, upon receipt of the proposal(s), that a member of their team has also submitted additional proposals for consideration in the same year and that only one of these can be funded.
- BARD will however allow concurrent funding of an investigator who was awarded a BARD standard grant and wishes to apply for a new grant that qualifies for the Aquaculture and Desert Farming. To clarify this point, a scientist who is a PI or Co-PI of a BARD standard grant (\$310,000) that has a termination date after Dec 31, 2026, can still apply for a new grant only if the proposal qualifies for Aquaculture and Desert Farming. Anyone with any Pioneer grant (\$600,000) or NIFA-BARD Aquaculture and Desert Farming grant that has a termination date after Dec 31, 2026 cannot apply for a new grant.



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### Revised Proposals

Revised proposals are previously submitted proposals that were not funded. Indicate the BARD-assigned number of the previous proposal in the appropriate box on the online Cover Page. The addition of a new investigator, in itself, does not indicate a 'new' proposal. BARD reserves the prerogative of defining a given proposal as 'revised' or 'new'. This will be done by comparing the content of the current proposal with the earlier submission. In case the substantial difference is not immediately apparent, BARD will seek a subject-matter expert to provide an expert opinion on the issue.

Unapproved proposals may be revised and resubmitted only once. PIs or Co-PIs may consult with the Executive Director before submitting a revised proposal. The decision whether to submit a revision should be based on the evaluation material, particularly on panel summaries, recommendations, and quadrant number. Revised proposals require including a 'Declaration of Revision' (see 'The Proposal' for details).

Below are frequently asked questions regarding revised submissions:

#### **Do revised proposals receive special consideration?**

No. All proposals are reviewed and prioritized relative to all others in the *current* submission, regardless of their status during an earlier submission.

#### **Are revised proposals more or less likely to receive funding?**

Our statistics indicate that a revised proposal has the same chance of success (or failure) as any other in its current round of submission.

#### **Are the same evaluators involved in both the original and the revised proposal?**

Yes and no. Revised proposals are resent to some of those original reviewers who had substantive criticisms regarding a given aspect(s) of the original proposal. Such reviewers receive a copy of their original review and are specifically requested to consider whether the issues they raised have been satisfactorily addressed. The revised proposal is also sent to new reviewers. Investigators can request that the revised proposal not be resent to specific reviewers. This request should be sent to BARD at the time of submission.

#### **What are the most important points to consider in revision?**

- Specific criticisms made by panels and ad hoc reviewers regarding the original proposal.
- Addition of new preliminary results that impact and strengthen the original presentation.

### Continuation Proposals

Continuation proposals are those which relate to one or more previously supported BARD project(s) involving participation of at least one of the original investigators. Such proposals may be directly related to the previous project or may represent a natural progression in the research efforts of the lab(s) involved and thereby contain innovative hypotheses that are built upon the previously funded project. Indicate the BARD number of the previous project (available from the BARD office). If the previous project has not yet terminated, please refer to the "concurrent funding policy" above or consult with BARD regarding possible restrictions. Continuation proposals require the inclusion of a 'Declaration of Continuation' (see 'The Proposal' for details).



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### Regulatory Agency Requirements

Proposals and grants must adhere to the policies and regulations established by the regulatory agencies of the country in which the research is to be conducted. Exchange of GMO, exotic species and other materials between countries may require special authorization. The consent of the authorized officer of the research authority indicates that these policies and regulations were met.

### The Proposal

Please carefully follow the instructions on our website. Use the online forms where indicated. Prepare each document/item separately as Word document and then upload each item as a PDF file.

Format requirements:

- English, line spacing of 1.5, font equivalent to 12.
- Allow at least 3 cm for header and footer for each page, and 2.5 cm on both sides.
- Do not number the pages! This will be done automatically following the upload of your PDF files.

Upload the following items:

- **Cover Page** (use online form) Enter contact details for PI, Co-PI and Collaborators, including Research Authority contact details. Note: The length of the Proposal Title should not exceed 20 words (or 135 characters).
- **A List of Abbreviations** used in the proposal is to be included in the Cover Page.
- **Budget Tables** (use online forms) BARD pays each institution directly. Present a separate budget for each funded institution and year of the grant period. Round annual totals to the nearest \$1,000 and individual budget items to the nearest \$10. **First year budget may not exceed 36% of the total budget**, unless specifically allowed in advance. Overhead expenses may not exceed 20% of the total direct costs. **See detailed instructions below under "Description of Budgets", pages 7-8.**
- **Abstract** (use online form) Do not exceed one page and refrain from abbreviations. Clearly state the research problem, the objectives, the proposed methodologies, and the expected contribution to agriculture/environment.
- **Declaration of Revision** Maximum 2 pages (if relevant) (PDF) Authors of revised proposals are expected to address the changes presented in the revised proposal (maximum two pages). Reviewers and panels will take this declaration into account while evaluating the new proposal. Carefully consider and address reviewer and panel comments on the original proposal, and integrate results achieved since the original submission that can strengthen the revised proposal.
- **Declaration of Continuation** Maximum 3 pages (if relevant) (PDF) Authors of proposals for continued funding should address the *innovation* in the new proposal, e.g., how it continues a line of research in a laboratory (maximum of two pages), and how it brings to the table new issues, important challenges, and cutting-edge science. Authors should briefly describe the status and achievements of the previous project(s), including jointly authored papers and/or other publications resulting from the previous BARD project. Clearly justify the requested budget. It is



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generally assumed that less funds are required for a project that will be conducted in an already well-established laboratory in a previously funded research area and often by an already established team.

- **Detailed Description of the Research Plan/Proposal body (PDF) - Maximum 16 pages** (Do not number the pages!) Figures, photos and any additional *material*, text, tables, etc., are counted within the 16 pages limit.

Include the following items, numbered logically to suit the best presentation of your proposal:

- I. The research problem and its general background.
  - II. The research objectives.
  - III. Hypotheses and their rationale.
  - IV. Preliminary results.
  - V. Research plan:
    1. Strategies, procedures and methodologies used in addressing the questions asked.
    2. Specific experiments to be conducted and a discussion of their potential pitfalls and possible alternatives.
- Upload a **single PDF** file containing the following 5 items (maximum 6 pages):
    1. **Description of the expected results and their relevance to agriculture, and to BARD's mission and priorities.** Describe how the results will address the agricultural issue or problem and how the research will yield tangible results that can be implemented. **Review the common current practices used to address the problem today and how your expected results would contribute to a better solution.** Indicate the approximate time of implementation.
    2. **Timetable of the Work Plan.** Describe the division of the research tasks between the Israeli and U.S. participants for each year of the project. A graphic or tabular presentation is recommended.
    3. **Table of Measurable Targets**  
Establish clear and structured milestones and timeline table. For each major phase of the research program include milestones which should be accompanied by specific, measurable targets that will serve as indicators of progress and successful completion. These milestones and targets must be presented in a timeline format, demonstrating how the project will be managed across its full duration. The timeline should include approximate dates or periods for each milestone.
    4. **Details of Cooperation.** The proposal must be jointly prepared and should clearly indicate the anticipated collaborative endeavors between the partners, including the work to be done in each country and the responsibility of each collaborator. Explain how the cooperating scientists contribute their expertise to the joint effort. Quality of Cooperation is scored by reviewers and panels in their evaluation of the proposal. The highest value is given to synergistic cooperation.





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*Types of cooperation* are defined below:

- **Synergistic:** Each scientist contributes a specific expertise, facility, or equipment that the other partner cannot contribute and without which the final realization of hypothesis testing could not be achieved.
  - **Complementary:** Each scientist performs essentially the same research using different (biological) systems or methods, thus widening the scope and strengthening the validity of the results.
  - **Supportive:** Collaborators with essentially the same expertise divide the research tasks between the laboratories.
  - **Publications:** Since the requirement of U.S.-Israel cooperation is a unique feature of BARD, it is expected that publications emanating from the research will reflect the collaborative nature of the research and be jointly authored.
5. **Facilities:** Briefly detail the facilities to be dedicated to the project in each funded institution.
6. **Data Management Plan** Specify how the data will be stored and disseminated.
- **Relevant Bibliography (PDF)** Include all authors, full title, date, journal name, volume number and page numbers. **When referencing citations in the text of the proposal, use author(s) names, not the number in the list.** *In press* articles can be referred to in the relevant bibliography, with the note that copies can be obtained from relevant journal web addresses.
  - **Curriculum Vitae (PDF)** Do not exceed two pages per investigator. Provide a brief professional biography. Include academic background, research experience, recent, relevant publications, inventions or patents and other relevant achievements.
  - **Letters (PDF)** specifically confirming the use of additional materials, expertise, facilities, know-how, etc. for those who are not listed as PI/Co-PI and Collaborators, may be included. General letters of support for the idea or concept **are not** allowed.
  - **Budget Justification Maximum 3 pages (PDF)** Upload a detailed budget justification for each funded institution. BARD will not consider requests for additional funding in the life of the grant. You are expected to incorporate the cost of living and other increases in the initial computation of the grant. Provide a detailed breakdown and justification when requesting substantial funds particularly regarding equipment and operating costs. (A table for each institution will be generated by the website)

### Budget Table (To be completed online)

A separate budget table needs to be completed online for each institution. It is a 2-stage process, first one completes the yearly totals and sums for each category. Upon completion each institution will have to itemize the major budget items in a separate form. A table for the project and each institution is generated from the website and automatically incorporated into the proposal.

1. **Personnel Services/Salaries:** PIs, Co-PIs and Collaborating Investigators are not entitled





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to receive salaries from the BARD grant. Support personnel can receive salaries and social benefits in proportion to the time devoted to the research project except those who are tenured employees at the recipient institution. List support personnel and their role in the project. Indicate the percentage of time to be devoted to the project by each person including PI and Co-PI.

2. **Non-expendable equipment:** BARD allows the purchase of specific items of equipment that are essential to conducting the research. The maximum allowable budget for equipment is \$50,000. Itemize equipment costing over \$5,000 and justify its purpose for this project. Capital expenditures above \$15,000 must be purchased and received up to four months before the ending date of the project.
3. **Operating expenses:** Include computer services specific to the project, lab materials and supplies (glassware, chemicals, animal costs), outside contractors, local travel, project-specific publication costs. Registration of intellectual property rights is limited to \$30,000 per project. Itemize using these categories for expenses costing over \$1,000.
4. **Foreign travel:** BARD allows one trip to each country per project (two trips only). Each trip abroad should not exceed thirty days. The purpose of the trip is for the investigators to meet. Prior approval must be obtained from BARD if the trip is for a different purpose, or if someone other than the PI or Co-PI will be traveling. The amount requested for foreign travel should cover the cost of the ticket (round-trip/coach) and per diem expenses. In one-year feasibility studies, only one overseas trip is allowed. **No increases to the foreign travel budget will be allowed during the project. We recommend a budget of \$6,000 per trip.**
5. **Overhead expenses** may not exceed 20% of the total direct costs.

**Note:** BARD funds are expected to be used in a timely manner. In the course of the research, unused budget balances in years 1 and 2 may be transferred to the following year, but any substantial changes in the use of the allocated budget must be authorized in advance by BARD.

### Online Authorization by Research Authorities

Research Authorities will receive, prior to the submission deadline, an e-mail with specific instructions, giving them direct access to BARD's Authorization procedure. Authorizations will be given a deadline of additional 14 days beyond the submission deadline. The Research Authority's authorizing office will review the proposals submitted by investigators affiliated with their institution. BARD will accept a proposal for consideration only following its authorization by the institution's authorizing officer via the online procedure.

### Useful Suggestions for a Successful Proposal

1. The **Abstract** should offer concise information to those in the evaluation process who will not see the full proposal. Prepare a well-thought abstract referring to all four



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topics listed under "The Proposal"/"Abstract" (above).

- ❓ The **most important aspects** of a proposal are scientific merit, innovation, relevance to a specific issue or problem in agriculture, and quality of collaboration. The review process focuses on the evaluation of these aspects. Argue them well and present them thoroughly.
- ❓ Present **clear objectives, well-founded hypotheses and work plans** that address the stated objectives.
- ❓ The most **common criticisms** are 'vague', 'overly ambitious', 'lacking preliminary results' or 'unfocused'.
- ❓ Remember that BARD is a **mission-oriented** funding agency: its aim is to solve a specific agricultural or related environmental problem, within a reasonable time frame.
- ❓ Emphasize the **collaborative aspect of the proposal, including the plan to jointly publish the results**.
- ❓ Careful **proofreading** is essential for professional evaluation of the proposal. Pay attention to correct citations of the literature, **spelling**, and quality of pictures and graphs.

### Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated in one of the review panels stated below. Investigators can suggest a panel, but BARD will make the final assignment based upon panel makeup and relevance to a primary discipline.

- Agricultural Economics
- Animal Production
- Animal Health
- Crop Production
- Crop Health
- Food Products - Quality, Safety, Security
- Soil & Water Environment & Renewable Resources
- Agricultural Innovation & Engineering Technologies
- Aquaculture

(Note: the Aquaculture and Desert Farming proposals will be assigned to the appropriate panel from the list above).

Panels evaluate proposals simultaneously and independently in the United States and in Israel. Panel members are scientists competent in the relevant area of research. Each panel participates in the selection of outside reviewers to evaluate each proposal. The *ad hoc* reviews assist the panels to formulate their recommendations regarding the proposals. Both panels receive all the reviews. Panel members score and prioritize all proposals in their panel in the final step of their evaluation and provide a funding recommendation. Each country's panel prepares a written recommendation for each proposal that is based upon consideration



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of the following factors:

- ❖ scientific and technological merit of the proposal
- ❖ feasibility of the objectives
- ❖ relevance to the stated current priorities of BARD
- ❖ anticipated benefits to agriculture or to related environmental issues in both countries
- ❖ quality of the collaboration between the investigators
- ❖ suitability of the investigators and their facilities
- ❖ requested budget in relation to the research plan
- ❖ justification for continuation (when relevant)

### **Suggested/Restricted reviewer names**

Investigators can submit both a short list of potential reviewers for BARD's consideration and a short list of persons/reviewers to whom the proposal should not be sent. In both cases, the list must include specific names (to avoid any conflict of interest don't share name of colleagues from your institution), and e-mails. This short list should be sent by e-mail to [mali@bard-isus.com](mailto:mali@bard-isus.com) on the submission date. BARD, however, reserves the right to send the proposal to the most qualified reviewers.

### **The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

TAC prepares a comprehensive portfolio of recommendations for all the proposals in the submission that is based upon the evaluations and recommendations of the panels in the two countries. This recommendation includes an interdisciplinary priority ranking of the proposals. The Executive Director presents this recommendation to the Board of Directors for its consideration and decision regarding funding.

### **The Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors makes all funding decisions.

### **Notification of Awards**

The Executive Director advises all applicants and their affiliated research officers, in writing, of the decisions of the Board of Directors towards the end of May/beginning of June of the year following the submission. Favorable decisions indicate the amount and duration of the grant and any conditions of support.

### **Initiation of Awards**

Following notification of the award, the PIs will prepare an amended budget summary (if required) in accordance with the approved award amount. A single Start Date is determined, and an Agreement is sent for signature to the Principal institution followed by Letters of Agreement to the Cooperating Institution(s). For further details, see BARD's Grant Management Guidelines on the website [www.bard-isus.org](http://www.bard-isus.org)

Evaluating applications is a complex process, BARD aims to acknowledge and process your submissions in a timely manner. If you are experiencing technical difficulties or require assistance with your application, please contact us at [news@bard-isus.com](mailto:news@bard-isus.com). BARD reserves the right to reject proposals that have existing public funding, do not align with BARD priorities, or are not properly submitted.