



BARD

The United States-Israel
Binational Agricultural Research & Development Fund



Introducing the BARDFood Security Technology Accelerator Pilot Program

February 2026

Webinar Agenda

Introduction

- Welcome & Overview of BARD
- Mission & Program Context

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- Key Deadlines & Timeline

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- Research Focus Areas

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BARD in a Nutshell

Who we are



Established in 1977, BARD is a competitive funding program that supports collaborative agricultural research in areas of mutual interest to the U.S. and Israel.



Our Mission

To support **beneficial, mission-oriented, strategic and applied research of agricultural, food and nutrition challenges, jointly conducted by American and Israeli scientists.**



What we do

BARD runs several **funding programs** for all phases of agricultural research and development, including research grants, graduate student fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships, senior researchers and workshops. **BARD also supports academia-to-industry collaboration targeted to help investigators commercialize their research outputs (in partnership with the IIA and USDA-NIFA).**



What makes us unique

A long-term effective and synergic collaboration of scientists, working jointly to develop **applicable solutions** for both countries. BARD's income derives from interest on an endowment, **in equal parts by both governments.** Matching funds double the dollar value.



The U.S.-Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD)



BARD runs competitive funding programs that support collaborative agricultural, food and nutrition R&D in areas of mutual interest to the U.S. and Israel.



**Agricultural
Research
Service**



**Ministry of Agriculture
and Food Security**



Ministry of Finance

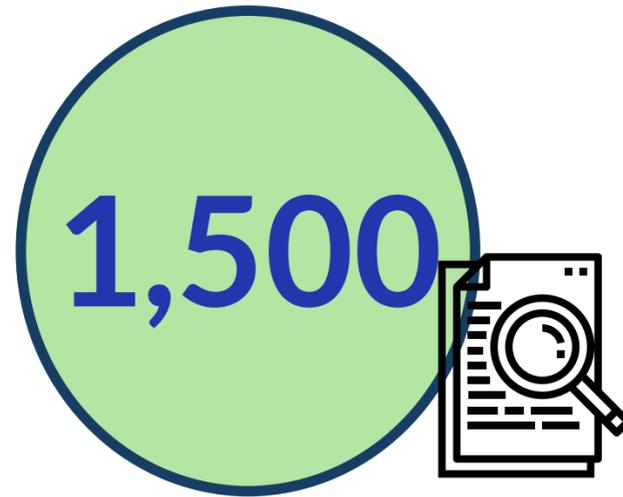


**The United States – Israel Binational
Agricultural Research & Development Fund**

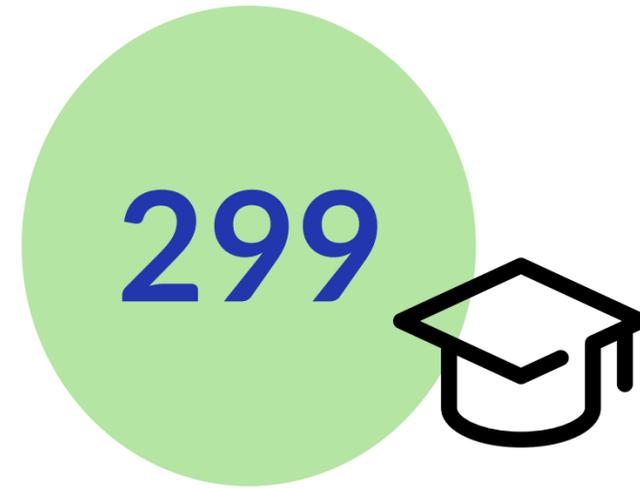
Strengthening International Ties

An external review showed:

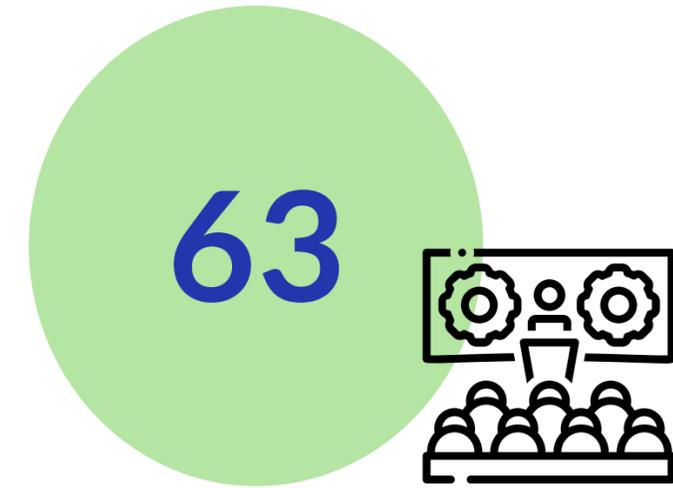
\$3 billion contributed to U.S. and Israeli economies in human resource capacity building



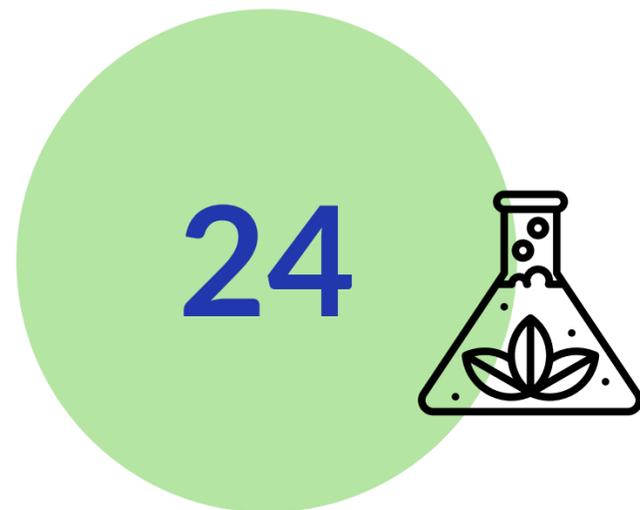
Number of BARD research projects



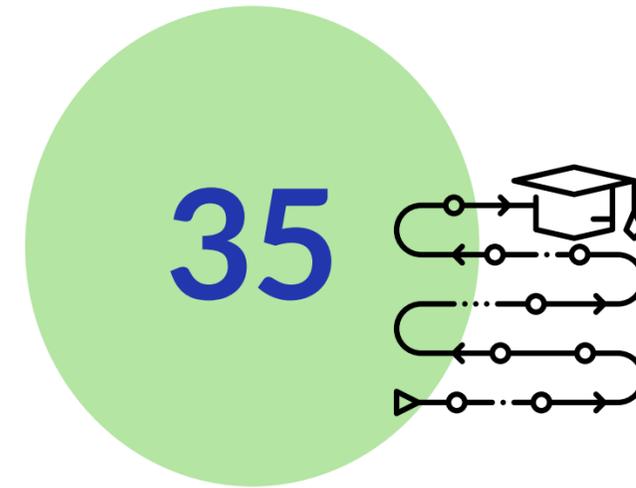
Postdoctoral fellows



Scientific workshops



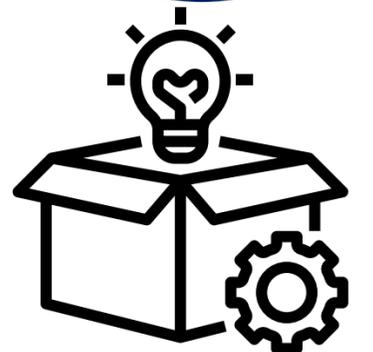
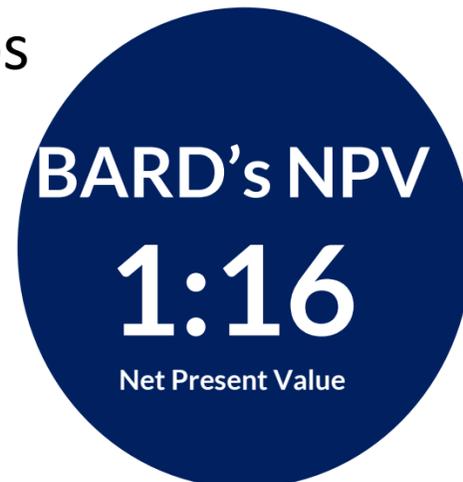
Senior research fellows



Graduate student fellows



Total BARD Investment (\$M)



Why are we conducting this pilot?



The Gap

High-quality innovations remain in labs



The Shift

Industry integrated from day one



The Vision

Faster time-to-market for research outputs to become Agri-food solutions and services



Program Overview



**Academia – Industry
Collaboration**



\$1 M grant for 2 years



**Technology Readiness
Level (TRL) 3-6**



**Matching funds from
Industry partner
(10%-30%)**



**U.S. and Israel
Partnership**

Pre-proposal deadline : March 31, 2026

Full proposal deadline : June 25, 2026



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Application Timeline

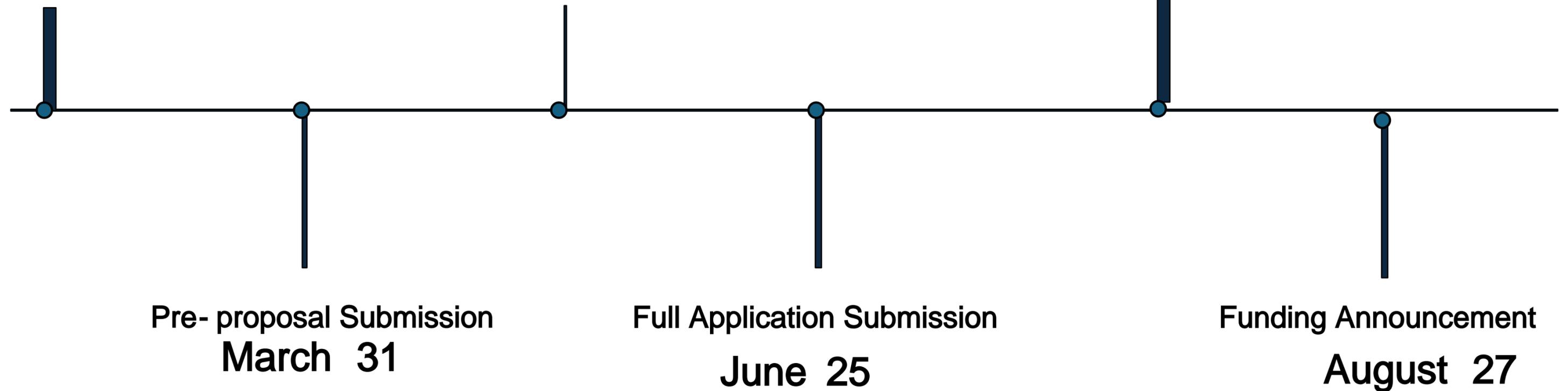
Form Your Consortium

Assemble a group of at least 4 partners; define project objectives

Cleared for Full Proposal / Not Cleared

Grant Evaluated

Expert Selection Committee, High Governance Committee, BARD BOD



The United States – Israel Binational
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Use the Full Proposal Guidelines
to help with submission

Eligibility

- **Project type:** Must involve collaboration between academia and industry both from **Israel and the U.S.**
- **Technology stage:** Projects must fall within TRL 3–6.
- **Innovation:** Must demonstrate significant technological innovation with strong potential commercial and social impact.
- **Activity coverage:** Grant may support R&D, dissemination, and commercialization activities.
- **Risk-sharing requirement:** Partners must participate in a shared-risk, shared-reward structure.



Research Priority Areas

Climate Resilience – Developing and adopting new crop varieties, vertical farming, and greenhouse technologies to ensure production under harsh environmental conditions (including crop genetics, water management aspects and AI and precision agriculture).

Crop and Animal Health - Advancement of novel technologies and management strategies to detect, prevent, and mitigate diseases and pests in plants and animals

AI-powered Precision Farming and Digital Agriculture- Leveraging artificial intelligence, sensors, and data analytics to optimize inputs, monitor crops, and improve farm decision-making for enhanced yields and sustainability.



The Consortium

	Academic Partner	Academic Partner	Industry Partner*	Industry Partner*
#	1+	1+	1+	1+
Country	US	Israel	US	Israel

***A consortium may include 2 academic partners and 1 industry partner, if the industry partner can demonstrate strong commercialization capabilities.**



The Consortium

Academic Partners

Public or private non-profit research institutions. Such as -

- Institutions of higher education accredited by the Council of Higher Education (CHE) and/or funded by the Planning and Budgeting Committee (PBC) in Israel, or the equivalent U.S. bodies.
- Research institution, non-profit organization, or any other registered entity that demonstrates R&D capabilities, proper financial accounting, and regulatory compliance with national authorities.

Industry partners

organization actively engaged in industry and/or commercial activities and possessing the capability to commercialize technologies. Such as -

- Cooperatives, farmers' associations
- Startups, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), established corporations, or other commercial organizations legally registered in Israel and / or the United States.



The Pre-Proposal

Purpose of the Pre-Proposal

- Assesses alignment with eligibility criteria and strategic objectives of the BARD Accelerator.
- Determines whether the applicant will be invited to submit a full proposal.

Document Requirements

- Submit a PDF presenting the project overview.
- Must include all required sections.
- Maximum length: 7 pages (excluding references & CVs).
- Formatting: Arial or Calibri, size 11.
- **Consortium MOU**

Follow the guidelines on our website



The Grant

Grant Distribution

Industry partners may receive up to 50% of the total grant; academic partners may receive up to 100%.

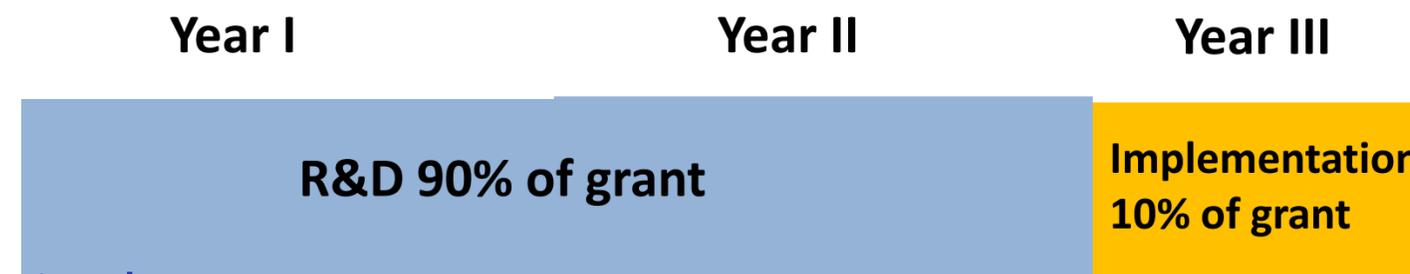
Grant Payment Schedule

- BARD pays advance payments for each milestone budget, directly to each partner.
- The first payment, 10% of the grant will be paid at the start of the project and deducted from the next payment.
- The following payments are contingent on the approval of the fiscal and technical reports of the previous milestone.

Concurrent Funding Policy

You may apply while receiving another grant (e.g., IIA) if:

- The grants do not fund the same work package.
- Matching funds are not committed to another grant.



The Grant

Complementary Funding

Matching funds by industry partner, are calculated in two parts:

1. **Fixed** Industry Partner contribution per TRL: **3 – 10%, 4-17%, 5- 23%, 6 – 30%**
2. **Variable** Industry Partner contribution as % of their share of the grant - for each step above TRL 2, the industry partner adds 15% of their grant

Example

Grant to Academic partners	Grant to Industry Partner	Total Grant	TRL	Fixed		Variable			Total Project Budget
				Fixed Industry Partner contribution per TRL	Industry Partner Contribution per TRL USD	Industry Partner contribution %	Variable Industry Partner contribution as % of their share of the grant	Industry Partner Contribution to their grant %	
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	3	10%	100,000	15%	15%	0	1,100,000
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	3	10%	100,000	15%	15%	30,000	1,130,000

Up to **70%** of declared matching funds may be counted as in-kind contributions



Guideline – Appendix B

Grant to Academic partners	Grant to Industry Partner	Total Grant	TRL	Fixed Industry Partner contribution per TRL	Industry Partner Contribution per TRL USD	Industry Partner contribution %	Industry Partner contribution to their grant	Industry Partner Contribution to their grant %	Total Project Budget
A [\$]	ΣC [\$]	$G=A+\Sigma C$ [\$]	n	P [%] $P=(n-2)*p$ $-(n-3)*(p/3)$		q [%]	Q [%] $Q=(n-2)\times q$	$Q*\Sigma C$	T [\$] $T=G*(1+P)$ $+Q*\Sigma C$
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	3	10%	100,000	15%	15%	0	1,100,000
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	4	17%	166,667	15%	30%	0	1,166,667
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	5	23%	233,333	15%	45%	0	1,233,333
1,000,000	0	1,000,000	6	30%	300,000	15%	60%	0	1,300,000
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	3	10%	100,000	15%	15%	30,000	1,130,000
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	4	17%	166,667	15%	30%	60,000	1,226,667
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	5	23%	233,333	15%	45%	90,000	1,323,333
800,000	200,000	1,000,000	6	30%	300,000	15%	60%	120,000	1,420,000
500,000	500,000	1,000,000	3	10%	100,000	15%	15%	75,000	1,175,000
500,000	500,000	1,000,000	4	17%	166,667	15%	30%	150,000	1,316,667
500,000	500,000	1,000,000	5	23%	233,333	15%	45%	225,000	1,458,333
500,000	500,000	1,000,000	6	30%	300,000	15%	60%	300,000	1,600,000

The Grant

Repayment Terms

Conditional Grant – repaid to BARD by Industry partner/s, only if grant outcome generates revenue:

1. **3%** (companies with less than \$2 M gross sales) / **5%** annual royalties
2. Up to **10 fiscal years** from the first gross sales-generating year
3. Grant outcome is defined as "product" under the full submission proposal and appears as appendix in the funding agreement (CPFA)



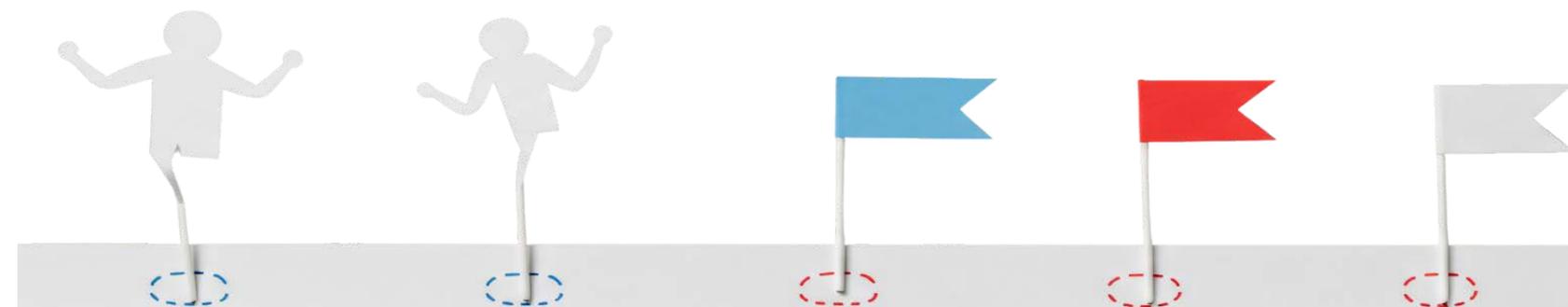
Budget & Milestones

Milestones payments

- Grant funds are paid in advance per milestone.
- If a milestone is not achieved, the next milestone payment is withheld.

Key Budget Guidelines

- Personnel & Salary Eligibility (capped) -
 - Academic support staff (non-tenured) may receive salary + benefits, proportional to the scope of their work on the project, up to 50% of their salary.
 - Industry Partners may receive up to 100% salary coverage for employees directly involved in the project.
- Equipment may account for 10%–30% of total direct project costs, based on each partner's TRL funding share
- Total travel budget should not exceed \$40,000 per project
- Overhead shall not exceed 20% of direct expenses



Project Life Cycle Overview

Evaluation & Selection Process

- **Initial screening** → Evaluation Committee review (innovation, commercial potential, collaboration, feasibility, alignment, potential impact)
- Selected applicants invited to submit **Full Proposal**
- Consortium **interview & presentation**
- Committee oversight and suggestions
- **Final** funding decision by BARD **Board of Directors**

Project Implementation & Monitoring

- Milestone-based Reporting Technical and Fiscal Reports
- Ongoing monitoring and support
 - Amendments to the project plan (if required)



Evaluation Criteria

- 1. Scientific and Technological Innovation (25%):**
The degree of innovation and advancement demonstrated in the project's scientific and technological approach.
- 2. Commercial and Application Potential (20%):**
The project's target market size and likelihood of success in the market and its practical applicability.
- 3. Consortium Collaboration (20%):**
The strength and effectiveness of collaboration among Consortium Partners.
- 4. Implementation Plan Feasibility (15%):**
The feasibility of the implementation plan will be carefully assessed.
- 5. Impact on the Call for Proposal Theme (15%):**
The project's alignment with and contribution to the central theme outlined in the Call for Proposal.
- 6. Social and Environmental Impact (5%):**
The potential positive effects of the project on society and the environment.



Post-Award Follow-Up

Grant re-payment: annual fiscal reports

Publications, commercialization, or scale-up tracking

Alumni engagement

Program evaluation and refinement



Available Resources

[Full program guidelines](#)

[The pre-proposal guidelines](#)

[The full proposal guidelines](#)

[The Cooperation and Project Funding Agreement](#)

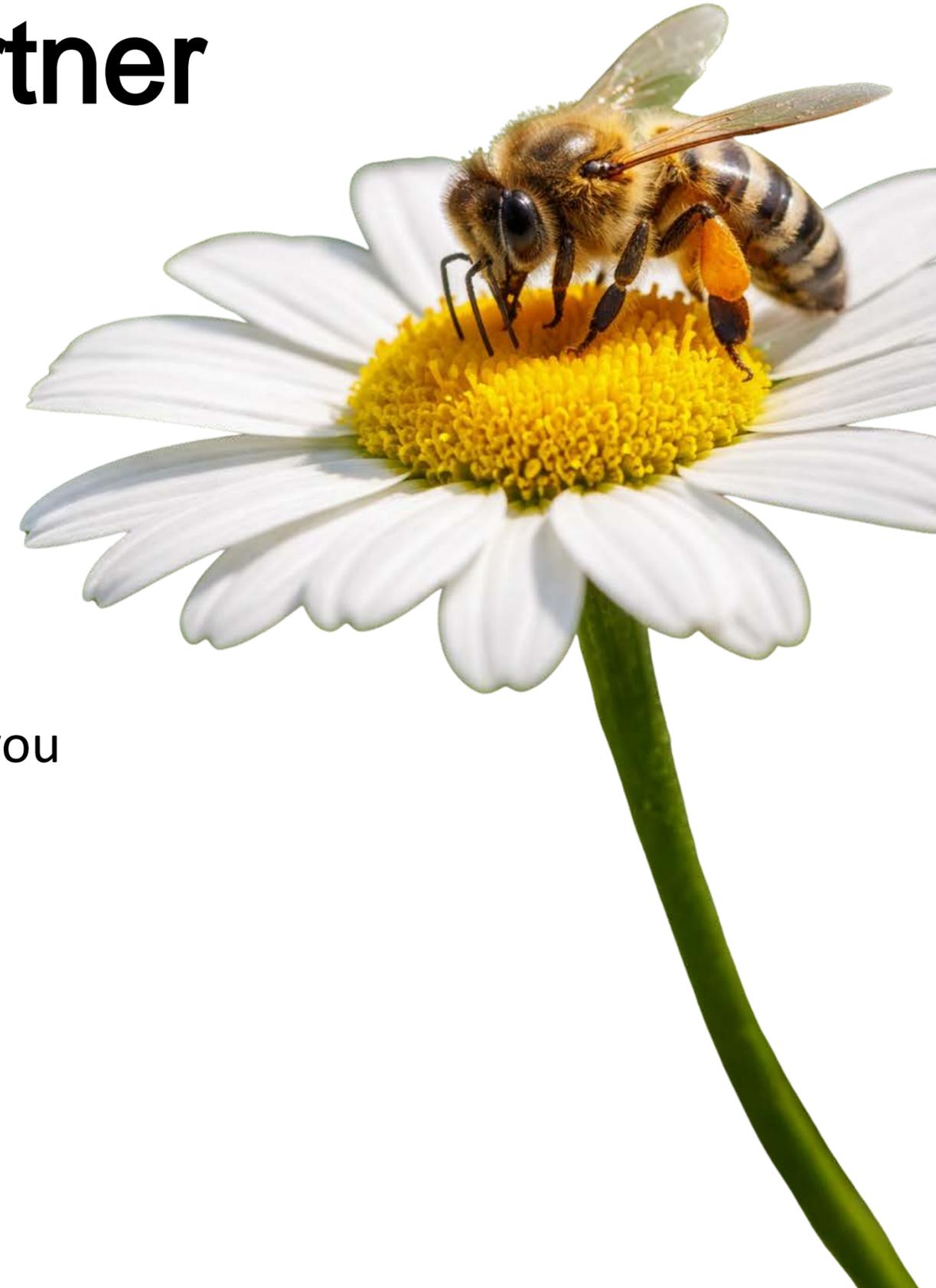


Looking for a Partner

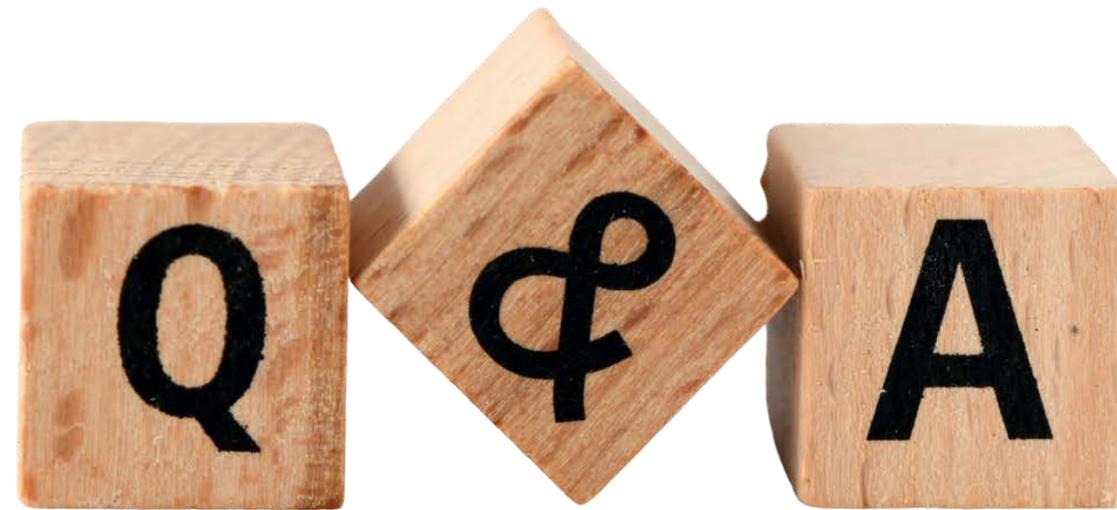
**Looking for a partner in the US or Israel?
Reach out - we'll try to help**

Sarai@bard-isus.com

Please specify your background and the type of collaborator you are looking for (industry partner/ academic partner)



Questions





Sarai@bard-isus.com



www.bard-isus.org/funding-opportunities



The United States – Israel Binational
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thank
you