

**BCFN YES! YOUNG EARTH SOLUTIONS**  
**2018**  
**RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION**

**Introduction**

The Barilla Center for Food and Nutrition Foundation (BCFN) is a private non-profit apolitical institution established in 2014 as the natural evolution of a previous think tank within the Barilla Group initiated in 2009. The multidisciplinary research team includes professionals from different fields. The Advisory Board guarantees for the Foundation's activities, and is composed of scientists and internationally renowned experts.

**Mission**

The mission of the BCFN is to contribute to addressing urgent issues related to the food system and the state of global nutrition by advancing knowledge, fostering dialogue between stakeholders, raising awareness of citizens and supporting young researchers. The activities of the BCFN are aimed at promoting wellbeing on a worldwide scale, publishing open-access scientific content to help everybody make conscious choices every day about food and nutrition, health and sustainability.

The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by the 193 member states of the United Nations guide actions of governments, international agencies, civil society and other stakeholders to guarantee long-term prosperity for people and the planet. From ending poverty and hunger to guaranteeing health and well-being, to responding to climate change and preserving life on land and under water, to fostering innovation and education, to assuring the inclusion of women and youth, to more responsible production and consumption patterns, food lays at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda and connects all SDGs. The BCFN aims to support the achievement of the SDGs through research, dissemination and public engagement in Food, Nutrition and Sustainability, with a multidisciplinary approach.

The BCFN YES! Competition was first launched in 2012 as an international contest for young university students, to give their ideas on food sustainability a place within the International Forum on Food and Nutrition. In the following editions it has evolved towards a research grant competition for concrete research proposals submitted by young PhD and postdoc researchers for a sustainable agri-food system.



## Scope and Approach

The BCFN focuses on young talents by supporting higher education and interdisciplinary research, to advance the knowledge base in food and sustainability.

The BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition invites young talents to submit research proposals for a **Research Grant of 20,000 €**. A maximum of three research proposals will be awarded the BCFN YES! Research Grant.

The Research Grant is intended to support researchers in the early stage of their career, who are pursuing or have completed a PhD, participating as individual or as a team. The BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition encourages the participation of teams from different disciplines and/or countries who wish to combine their expertise in innovative approaches.

Thus, the objectives of the BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition are:

- To encourage young scientists to undertake research in the field of challenging issues related to food and nutrition;
- To foster collaborative investigations;
- To open new and innovative areas of research and creating next generation of experts in the field of food and nutrition;
- To promote an evidence based and comprehensive analysis on the current concerns in the field;
- To determine solutions for improved food security, sustainable agriculture and healthy nutrition for building more resilient livelihoods, contributing to global health, preventing and mitigating the impact of climate change and address migrations.



## Topic Areas

The BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition offers the opportunity to put into action **concrete proposals that will have the objective of making more sustainable the agri-food system (in terms of environmental, social, health and/or economic aspects) and coherent with the BCFN research projects.** Research proposals are to be proposed in one or more of the following areas:

**1. Sustainable and healthy dietary patterns<sup>1</sup>. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:**

Healthy and sustainable diet promotion; nutritional education (individuals, schools, university, workplace); consumer behavior change; food, environmental and agricultural policy analysis; food policies and initiatives (national and urban level);

**2. Sustainable agriculture<sup>2</sup>. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:**

Women in agriculture; youth in agriculture; climate change mitigation and adaptation; urban agriculture; sustainable value chains; food waste and food losses prevention and reduction; agroecology, conservation agriculture and traditional knowledge; sustainable intensification; assessments of environmental impacts; large scale land acquisitions and displacement; land rights and rural development;

**3. Food security<sup>3</sup>. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:**

Energy, nutrient and micronutrient deficiencies; food access; food utilization (feeding practices, food preparation, diversity of the diet and intra-household distribution of food); food security and migrations; smallholder livelihoods, right to food.

The BCFN wants to support studies that are innovative, have a promise of major impact, are result-oriented and look at food systems and food value chains with a systemic approach, preferably, where relevant, blending scientific knowledge with local knowledge. Country case studies and identification of best practice are strongly encouraged. The funding shall be applied to a one-year investigation.

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1 For details on BCFN projects on this topic, please see Double Pyramid 2016

<https://www.barillacfn.com/en/publications/double-pyramid-2016/>

2 For details on BCFN projects on this topic, please see the Food Sustainability Index

<http://foodsustainability.eiu.com/>

3 For details on BCFN projects on this topic, please see Food & Migration

<https://www.foodandmigration.com/>

The competition encourages **research ideas that might be considered groundbreaking with potential to be of high impact for the sustainability of the agri-food system and the implementation of the SDGs**, and the review will be weighted to this innovation factor.

**BCFN encourages submission of:**

- **Either new or ongoing research projects;**
- **Either unfunded proposals projects that are co-financed** by a research institute, trust, foundation, university, private companies, venture capital funds, angel investors. Details of research timeline and supplemental sources of financial support should be specified in the application form.

**Eligibility**

**Applicants who are pursuing or have completed a PhD degree, who are/have enrolled in the PhD program from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 included, are eligible.**

**All the Participants must be under the age of 35 at the date of November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**

**Eligibility criteria are unappealable and intend to favor young researchers in their early stage of their career.**

The BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition is designed for individual or multidisciplinary and/or cross-national research teams that **consist of a maximum of three components** (hereinafter “Participants”).

**Ethical Issues**

Some frontier research activities and methodologies may have ethical implications or may raise questions which will require sound ethical assessment in order to ensure that research supported by BCFN Foundation is compliant with the BCFN Foundation principles and its ethical code, available on [www.barillacfn.com](http://www.barillacfn.com).

**Research Integrity**

Cases of scientific misconduct such as fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or misrepresentation of data will be considered as breaches of fundamental ethical principles and may result in the rejection of proposals and the revocation of the research Grant recognized by BCFN.

## Evaluation Criteria

The BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition Jury will evaluate the proposals in two stages, with the assistance of additional members (experts in specific sectors) in those cases where the methodology warrants. The proposals will be judged on:

- Consistency with the topic areas and the BCFN Foundation's mission;
- Significance of the problem;
- Design of the study;
- Actionability, outcomes and impact;
- The investigator's qualifications (possession of the requisite skills);
- The appropriateness of the schedule and the likelihood that the work will be accomplished on time;
- Budget allocation;
- Innovation;
- Scalability;
- Outreach potential;
- Completeness of the application.

The Jury will favor projects for which the BCFN Research Grant is decisive in advancing the study.

**The BCFN does not provide individual feedback on why an application is unsuccessful.**

However, there are generic reasons why many of the applications received do not pass through to the next stage. The most important of these reasons are:

- Lack of adherence to submission requirements;
- Lack of consistency with the topic areas listed;
- Poor quality in the writing;
- Lack of specificity on required elements;
- Weak or lack of actionability, outcomes and impact;
- Lack of appropriate theoretical framework.
- Weak or lack on information in timeline and budget.
- Project proposal does not follow the submission template.



The BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition Jury reserves the right to select no winning proposal if in its judgment none of the proposals are considered satisfactory in relation to the mission and requirements herein stated.

### **Legal statements and intellectual property rights**

Each Participant must issue a signed statement to the benefit of the BCFN Foundation, in compliance with the forms provided on the website by BCFN for this, declaring and **guaranteeing that the Research Proposal is original** and has been conceived and developed legitimately, through text, data, images and information collected and used in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations. In particular, each Participant, by participating in the initiative and submitting the Research Proposal guarantees that the Research Proposal and project **does not violate any intellectual property rights or other third-party rights** and that there are no third-party rights to it that could in any way restrict or compromise its **disclosure or publication in any media by the BCFN Foundation** or third parties appointed by the latter for the purposes connected to this initiative.

**The BCFN Foundation does not retain or own any exploitation rights to any intellectual property developed under the BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition by the Participants**, made exception for the right of the BCFN to publish and spread the Research Proposal (with explicit citation of the author), by any means and support and without any territorial or time limitation, for the purposes connected to the present initiative and for its institutional purposes, with exclusion of any commercial exploitation of the same.

### **Obligations of the BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition Recipients**

The winners of the BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition (hereinafter Recipients) shall present a **preliminary report** in January 2019.

Upon submission by the Recipients to the Advisory Board of the BCFN Foundation of **biannual reports** documenting the progress of the Research, BCFN Foundation will pay the grant in two periodic installments as the research progresses:

- The first tranche (10,000 €) after the winning ceremony – December 2018;
- The second tranche (10,000 €) after BCFN Advisory Board meeting - July 2019

By July 2019, Recipients must provide an updated research project report, showing all the goals achieved during the first six months of the project: status of the project, budget expenses, progresses of the research (from January to July) and the next steps for the second half of the year. Recipients will be provided with specific reporting guidelines.

The payment of the second tranche is **under evaluation of BCFN Advisory Board and the Jury**: only if the research documentation will meet the requirements in July 2019, the second part of the grant will be awarded.

The BCFN Advisory Board will evaluate the research progression at the end of the year, when the recipients will provide a report that summarizes what has been achieved.

**At the end of 2019, The Foundation reserves the right – at its sole discretion and in the ways that BCFN will evaluate as the most appropriate - to further support the research project with its own or third parties resources.**

**The Recipients will present an update of the research project at the 2019 BCFN Annual International Forum.**

The Recipients must inform the BCFN Foundation if research funding from other sources is obtained, in addition to those provided by the BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition.

In the case of simultaneous submissions, please provide the BCFN Foundation with the names and contact information of these other foundations or associations to which you are applying.

### **Publication**

The BCFN Foundation requires that results of the research are **submitted in an internationally recognized scientific journal** and in a **call for papers for an international scientific conference or symposium**, during the 12 months following the award.

BCFN requires also that an **acknowledgement** of support by BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition– BCFN Foundation will be included **for two years** in all publications resulting from work carried out under the grant.

The BCFN Foundation is expressly released from any liability, responsibility, damage and/or disputes that may arise in relation to the use of the Research Proposal as well as in relation to any activity conducted by the Participant under the grant.



## Deadline

The submission requires application completed in English, in each part **exclusively** on the BCFN YES! website ([www.bcfnyes.com](http://www.bcfnyes.com)). Completed proposals must be submitted through the website by **June 14, 2018 11:59 a.m. CEST**. Proposals and documents submitted by email will not be accepted.

A confirmation e-mail will be sent out to the Participants upon submission of the proposal.

## Timeline

**Stage One.** The BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition Jury will review all research proposals submitted and will select, **by September 2018, the best finalist projects (up to a maximum of ten)**. The **finalist Participants** will be **contacted by e-mail** and asked to confirm their attendance to the **9<sup>th</sup> BCFN International Forum on Food and Nutrition in Milan**, which will take place **on November 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. The BCFN Foundation will cover the travel expenses incurred by Finalists, provided they have been duly approved in writing beforehand by the BCFN Foundation, and subject to the submission of proper supporting travel documents by the Participants.

**Stage Two.** At the time of the final evaluation scheduled to take place during the 9<sup>th</sup> BCFN International Forum in Milan, the finalist Participants will give a presentation before the Jury's panel and the Forum's audience, using the method defined by BCFN.

**Stage Three.** A **maximum of three** best projects amongst the finalists selected by BCFN will be proclaimed the "winners" of the BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition 2018 at the sole discretion of the Jury' Panel, made up of the BCFN YES! Jury, members of the Advisory Board of the Foundation BCFN and by other experts in topics related to food and nutrition, appointed by the Advisory Board.

