

Call for Proposals

REF: #01-2021 **Proposal Due Date:** 25-12-2021

Overview: “The Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Food Security in the Desert” has been established by Ben Gurion University of the Negev at the Jacob Blaustein Institutes for Desert Research (BIDR) to promote interdisciplinary studies on water and food security in arid and semi-arid areas. Partners and supporters of the center are [Vertical Field](#) and [Watergen Ltd.](#) Vertical Field has developed an innovative vertical agriculture system made up of modular soil beds and Watergen is the pioneering Israeli company of atmospheric water generator (AWG).

Project Goals: “The Moshe Mirilashvili Center for Food Security in the Desert” aims to support researches dedicated to food and water security in drylands with a yearly budget. Additional budget can be provided (see submission requirements).

Scope of Work: The proposals should focus on one or more of the following topics:

- Fog/dew harvesting (e.g. absorbent surfaces, separation of airflows)
- Effect of microbial processes in the air on membranous processes
- Electricity generated from renewable energy for indoor agriculture
- Data-Driven agriculture including low-cost sensors and machine learning algorithms
- Continuous monitoring of growing conditions for high throughput monitoring
- Crop quality - from farm to fork (before and/or after harvest)

Budget Amount: up to 25,000 USD/year

Submission Requirements: The proposals should be up to 2 pages and submitted by researchers at the BIDR. Proposals must include background, scope and objectives, timeline, infrastructure required, expected outcomes and research milestones.

In addition, each researcher can add a supplementary page in which he/she can elaborate on how additional funding (beyond 25,000\$ per year) can improve the study and ensure faster results. The additional funding required and a revised timetable should be clearly stated.

Evaluation Criteria: The proposals will be received and evaluated by the Advisory Committee. The criteria of evaluation are relevance, scientific excellence, and feasibility.

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