



**BCFN YES!**  
**YOUNG EARTH SOLUTIONS**  
**2017**  
**RESEARCH GRANT COMPETITION**

**Introduction**

The Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition (hereinafter “BCFN Foundation” or “BCFN”) is a center for analysis, study and proposals. Its objective is the in-depth study of significant topics linked to food and nutrition on a global scale. It works by gathering experiences and qualified skills worldwide and fostering an on-going, open dialogue using a rigorously multidisciplinary approach.

Learn more at: <http://www.barillacfn.com>

**Mission**

The BCFN Foundation is strongly committed to addressing the future challenges of food. The Foundation is focused on reducing hunger, fighting food waste, and promoting healthy lifestyles and sustainable agriculture. In 2014, the BCFN Foundation has called upon national governments, international organizations and civil society to sign a Protocol on Food, Nutrition, and Sustainability – the Milan Protocol – aimed at promoting concrete and coordinated actions to address the main issues related to the sustainability of the global food system.

In 2015, with the help of the BCFN Alumni –young thought leaders from 20 countries representing five continents – the BCFN Foundation drafted the Youth Manifesto on Food, People and the Planet. The document resulted from an intense workshop in which the young pictured change through seven key roles for the food system: policymakers, farmers, activists, educators, the food industry, journalists and researchers.

The BCFN YES! Competition was first launched in 2012 as an international competition 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 PhD and postdoc researchers for a sustainable agri-food system.



## Scope and Approach

The BCFN Foundation 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.

It is provided for young researchers 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 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 and healthy and sustainable nutrition.

## Potential 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)**. Among others, we consider the following areas of particular interest:

- Sustainable and healthy diets;
- Urban food systems and policies;
- Resilient agriculture, land use change and agroecology;
- The nexus between climate change, energy and food;
- Sustainable water management;
- Food supply chains;
- Ecosystems and ecosystem services;





- Healthy lifestyles;
- Food waste reduction;
- Food policy development;
- Food security: availability, access, utilization, stability;
- Communication technologies and networks;
- Youth and women's involvement in agriculture.

The BCFN wants to support studies that are innovative, have a promise of major impact, or can meet global research needs. The funding shall be applied to a one-year investigation. 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 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> 2011 included, are eligible.**

**All the Participants must be under the age of 35 at the date of December 31, 2017.**

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 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;
- 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;
- 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;
- Poor quality in the writing;
- Poor organization of material;
- Lack of specificity on required elements;
- Lack of appropriate instrument samples;
- 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**

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.

### **Publication and intellectual property rights**

The BCFN Foundation encourages that results of the research will be submitted in an internationally recognized scientific journal.

BCFN recommends that the research team or their research institutions will not delay this submission for publication of a research manuscript/paper funded by the BCFN Foundation for more than forty-five (45) days after the manuscript/paper is completed.

BCFN encourages also that an acknowledgement of support by BCFN YES! Research Grant Competition– BCFN Foundation will be included 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.

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

The Recipients shall present a **preliminary report** at the February 2018 first BCFN Advisory Board Annual Meeting.

Upon submission by the Recipients to the Advisory Board of the BCFN Foundation of **quarterly 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 2017;
- The second tranche (10,000 €) after BCFN advisory board meeting - July 2018

During BCFN Advisory Board meeting in July 2018, Recipients must give an updated project presentation, 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.

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 2018, 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 2018, 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 are encouraged by BCFN to submit results of the funded study to (at least) one of the Scientific Journals selected by the BCFN Foundation for possible publication prior to submission to other publications. The BCFN recommends that the support of the BCFN Foundation will be mentioned in any publicity or presentation and other publications (proceedings included) based on the funded study.





The Recipients will present a final report at the 2018 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.

### **Deadline.**

The submission requires application (completed in each part) on the BCFN website ([www.barillacfn.com](http://www.barillacfn.com)).

Completed proposals must be submitted through the BCFN web site by **June 28, 2017 11:59 p.m. CET**.

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 compile the ranking of all project ideas submitted and will select, **by September 2017, 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 8<sup>th</sup> BCFN International Forum on Food and Nutrition in Milan, which will take place on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The Foundation BCFN will reimburse 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 8<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 2017 at the sole discretion of the Jury' Panel, made up of the 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.