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FA in Detail

The following examples illustrate aspects of actual research in this Domain. It is emphasized that they are examples and the scope of the Domain is not restricted to these areas alone. The Domain actively seeks innovative, interesting and interdisciplinary proposals that do not necessarily fit into a traditional category of research in food and agriculture.



The Biological Functions of Organisms

aims to advance understanding of the functions of organisms relevant to agriculture, food and nutrition, the domain welcomes proposals where fundamental science is an essential component of the topic. This includes biological science, animal science, veterinary science, plant science, microbiological science, soil science, genetics and breeding, agricultural system science or any other fundamental discipline related to food, agriculture & fisheries. Biotechnology - the use of the most recent techniques and applications that spring from their use - is also addressed.

Human Nutrition and the Food Chain covers the entire food chain leading to non-processed, semi-processed and processed foods and encompasses food and feed quality, food safety, functional foods, nutritional and consumer issues. It includes all the processes and techniques used in food technology that are needed to bring food to the consumer's fork.

Agriculture as a Human Activity addresses socio-economic aspects of food and agriculture and other relevant concerns, such as the relationships between agriculture, rural economy and rural development. Societal issues concerned with animal health (disease prevention in animals and people) and animal welfare are also included.

Agriculture and Environment includes issues such as sustainability, natural resources and conservation, biodiversity and genetic resources, biosafety, bioremediation, and bioenergy. Proposals may also address changes in European agriculture under the influence of major issues such as reform of the Common Agricultural Policy, global warming, world trade patterns and energy scarcity.

Since food and agriculture involve so many scientific disciplines, it is anticipated that successful proposals will vary widely in nature from closely focussed topics of a fundamental nature using the most innovative and up-to-date techniques (such as tools for genomics, proteomics and metabolomics) to interdisciplinary projects having a more holistic approach (such as new farming systems for the production of quality food).

Last updated: 07 June 2010



COST is supported by the EU RTD Framework Programme



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