

# Seed and Plant Sciences Partnership Program

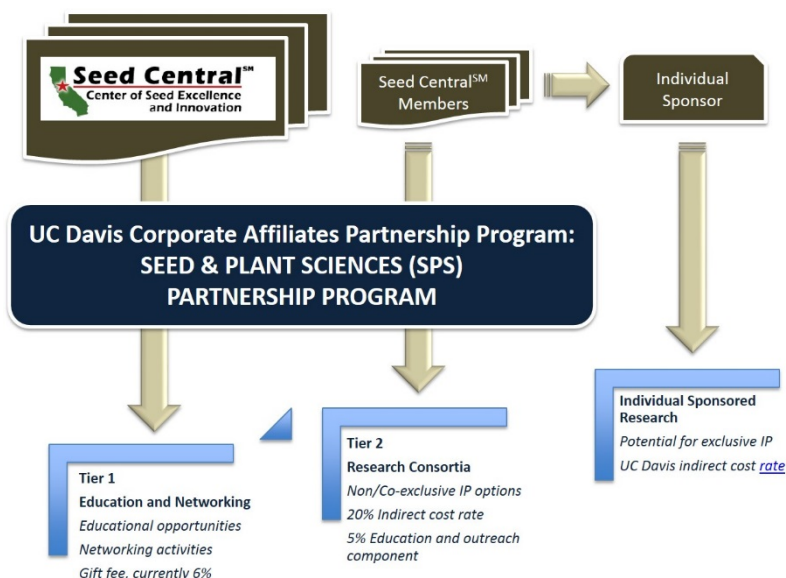
Approved by UC Davis Office of Research, December 2017

## About the Seed and Plant Sciences Partnership Program

The Seed and Plant Sciences (SPS) Partnership Program is coordinated by the Seed Biotechnology Center (SBC) within the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The SBC and SeedQuest ([www.seedquest.com](http://www.seedquest.com)) have jointly created Seed Central (a California non-profit mutual benefit corporation) to energize the seed industry cluster surrounding UC Davis. Its members are seed and food industry companies and organizations in California, the U.S., and overseas. The SPS Corporate Affiliates Partnership Program (CAPP) is designed to facilitate interactions between UC Davis and Seed Central members.

The SPS CAPP offers two tiers of participation customized to the research, educational and outreach objectives of Seed Central members.

- **Tier 1** offers Seed Central members opportunities to interact with UC Davis through educational and networking activities focused on issues relevant to the seed industry. Tier 1 membership fees are provided by the members in the form of a gift to UC Davis, and are collected by Seed Central on behalf of UC Davis. All gifts are subject to a gift fee that is currently 6%. Tier 1 also is the starting platform that gives Seed Central members access to Tier 2 consortia.
- **Tier 2** provides a mechanism for creating corporate consortia to sponsor and conduct collaborative research following a scope of work collectively agreed upon by the participating consortium members and UC Davis, which may accelerate commercialization of new discoveries. Members must be currently participating in Tier 1 in order to access Tier 2 benefits. Seed Central members who choose to engage in each Tier 2 research consortium will provide full direct costs associated with the agreed upon research, and will receive a reduced indirect cost (overhead) rate and options for negotiating co-exclusive or non-exclusive intellectual property (IP) rights.
- **Individual Sponsored Research** An interested company may enter into a separate agreement for a specific research project supported by the individual company, following UC Davis policy and regulations governing corporate-sponsored research, including sponsor's commitment for payment of full direct and federally negotiated indirect costs of conducting the research. Per general UC policy, the sponsor contractually has the option to negotiate with the aim of receiving licenses for commercialization of the resulting intellectual property. Individual sponsored research agreements with UC Davis can be accessed without membership in Seed Central.



## Tier 1: SPS Education and Networking

### Benefits

- Participation in Seed Central's networking programs, including interaction with UC Davis students, faculty and staff as participants and presenters.
- Assistance in recruiting highly skilled UC Davis graduate and undergraduate students for internships or employment opportunities offered by Seed Central's members.
- Facilitation of discussions between UC Davis and industry members leading to Tier 2 research consortia.

### Criteria

- Active Seed Central membership provides access to Tier 1 benefits.

## Tier 2: SPS Research Consortia

### Benefits

- Same benefits as Tier 1, plus:
- A single point of access to corporate relations services, which will facilitate and guide Seed Central members who wish to establish Tier 2 research consortia.
- Collaborative funding of pre-competitive research in areas of interest to Seed Central members.
- Seed Central members participating in each research consortium collectively decide on project objectives and how the research funds will be used.
- Option for negotiating co-exclusive or non-exclusive intellectual property (IP) rights:
  - All Tier 2 partners in a consortium will receive the same intellectual property benefits.
  - Technology jointly developed by UC Davis and Tier 2 industry members will be jointly owned.
  - Shared rights to co-exclusively license technologies developed under the aegis of the SPS consortium.
- Pre-publication access to research resulting from the consortia projects.
- Opportunity to participate in joint proposal submissions to federal programs, such as SBIR/STTR, I/UCRC and GOALI, which encourage university-corporate partnerships.

### Criteria

- Must be an active Tier 1 member.
- Two or more unrelated sponsors contribute to the same project.
- Use of Tier 2 research contract template.
- Tier 2 activities are assessed a reduced indirect cost rate, currently 20%.
- Education and outreach component\* (see below) is a 5% direct cost of total Tier 2 research consortium budget.

#### Examples of Potential Tier 2 Research Consortia:

**Molecular Markers for Breeding:** *DNA sequencing and development of DNA markers associated with an array of traits (e.g. disease resistance, quality, nutrition) in diverse crops.*

**Biotechnology Services:** *Opportunity to access transformation services and segregate conventional and transgenic research at different sites.*

**Collaborative Research Lab:** *Focused pre-competitive research in cell biology (e.g., doubled haploids, tissue culture, transformation), bioinformatics and other topics of interest.*

**Foods for Health:** *Interdisciplinary research focused on technologies to improve the nutritional content of foods and their ability to promote health.*

**Customized Consortia:** *Tailored research focusing on industry needs.*

## Individual Sponsored Research Benefits

- Ability to define a specific research project that meets the defined needs of a company
- Sponsor will have first option to negotiate an exclusive or non-exclusive license (at the sponsor's choice) to new intellectual property developed through the specific sponsored project.

## Criteria

- Projects are subject to UC Davis' federally negotiated indirect cost [rate](#) applicable to conducting funded research, currently 57% through June 30, 2018.

## \* Education and Outreach template for Tier 2 projects:

For the purposes of the UC Davis Seed and Plant (SPS) Partnership Program's Education and Outreach component, \_\_\_\_\_(name)\_\_\_\_\_, the SPS's Academic Liaison, an employee of UC Davis, shall be noted as the Collaborator on education and outreach activities listed as a line item in the research project budget. The Collaborator shall oversee education and outreach activities related to the SPS Partnership Program, which may include a combination of one or more of the following: student internships, student professional classes, industry shadowing experiences, outreach of university programs to industry members, priority access to corporate relations services, and development of future SPS projects. The education and outreach component will be 5% of the direct costs of the budget for Tier 2 projects.