



DESIGNING FUNDING MECHANISM TO STIMULATE BALANCED PARTNERSHIP

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Experience from DURAS and Agropolis Fondation

Designing funding mechanism to stimulate balanced partnership

OUTLINE

- Introduction
- Basic considerations
- Designing the funding mechanism
- Closing remarks

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Basic considerations

- Nature of the initiative
- Objectives
 - ▣ Why come up with a funding mechanism?
 - ▣ What do we want to achieve?
- Target
 - ▣ Who are our target stakeholders?
- Type of support available
 - ▣ How much are talking about?
 - ▣ What can we provide?

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DURAS

Nature of the initiative

- 3-year programme funded by MAEE-France; €4M
- Co-implemented with GFAR and Agropolis International
- 3 components
 - Support to GFAR's Facilitation Function
 - Developing regional agri-information systems
 - Implementing Competitive Grant Scheme
- Governance
 - Steering Committee
 - Scientific and Partnership Committee

CGS Objective

- To encourage innovation (and scaling-up) through multi-stakeholder ARD partnership

Target

- All ARD stakeholders, particular attention to historically disadvantaged groups (i.e., CSOs)

Support available

- Up to €150K over 30 months

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French foundation for scientific cooperation

Objective

- To promote and support high-level research and training-through-research and international partnerships in agricultural sciences and Sustainable development
- To mobilize international scientific network and ensure cutting-edge science that responds to critical development challenges related to plants
 - ▣ Increasing demand for plants for food and non-food uses
 - ▣ Interaction between climate change and crops
 - ▣ Prevention and management of risks related to crop and food systems

Governance

- Board of Trustees and its Bureau
- Science Council

Target

- 31 research units specializing in plant research
- Senior and Junior scientists/researchers working in plant sciences

Support available (€5L to €3M)

- Fellowships
- Research Grants (Platform, Flagship, Small grants)
- Scientific/thematic Events

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Designing the
funding
mechanism :

ELIGIBILITY +
CRITERIA

- Eligibility considerations
 - Who are eligible to apply?
 - Lead proponent, associate partners
 - Composition of the project team
 - Geographic coverage?

- Selection/evaluation criteria
 - What are most important elements of a project you wish to fund?
 - Feasibility? Transferability? Innovativeness? Partnership?
 - Weight of each criterion (equal? Differentiated?)

- Submission format
 - Open format? Application Form?
 - Electronic form vs paper form

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Eligibility

- Lead from the South; Min. of 2 Southern countries (from France's Priority geographic zone)
- Involvement of at least 3 types of stakeholder groups, one should come from the CSO
- Ideally with French or European partner



Eligibility

- Involvement of at least 1 research unit from the Foundation's scientific network
- Proposal focuses on at least one of the following thematic focus: Integrative Plant Biology (IPB) or Socio-technical Dynamics of Innovations (STDI)



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DURAS

Evaluation criteria

- Over-all project design and feasibility
- Partnership Quality
- Appropriateness and innovativeness
- Socio-economic considerations
- Environmental and sustainability considerations



Evaluation criteria

- Scientific quality – originality, innovativeness, feasibility
- Fostering strong linkages
 - ▣ Interaction across disciplines and regional development/research issues
 - ▣ Partnership strengthening, in particular with Southern and Mediterranean areas
- Contribution to international attractiveness and visibility
- Relevance to socio-economic and sustainable development issues
- Added value of the Foundation's funding

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Designing the
funding
mechanism :

PROCESS

- Proposal review
 - Programme Committee? External evaluators?
 - Paid VS. *pro-bono*: Pros and cons
- One-stage vs. 2-stage evaluation
- Results
 - Successful applications - When to start negotiation process?
Flexibility of the contract?
 - Unsuccessful applications - How and what to communicate?
Evaluation report (level of detail?)
- Timeline
 - From launching to project start – 3 months? 6 months?

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Proposal review

- Scientific and Partnership Committee members ; *gratis*

2-stage process

- Pre-proposal stage, qualified one received €5K support for proposal dev't

Results

- 302 CN; 24 FPs; 12 projects funded
- Email notice of results; published online
- Detailed feedback provided
- Proponents asked to address comments in revising the proposal

Timeline

- 6 months (from launch to results)



Proposal review

- External reviewers (paid); Science Council members study evaluation report (SHS expert in big projects)

2-stage or 1-stage process depending on the type and amount of support requested

Results

- Email notice of results; published online
- Detailed feedback provided (accepted and rejected proposals)
- Proponents asked to address comments in revising the proposal

Timeline

- 3 to 6 months (from launch to results)

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Designing the
funding
mechanism :

M&E

- Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
 - Frequency – Quarterly? Semi-annually? Annually?
 - Type : Report submitted in e-form ?
 - Milestones and deliverables – specified in the contract; level of flexibility?
 - Sharing and learning mechanisms



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DURAS

- Variables to monitor discusses and agreed during Launching Workshop
- Quarterly, Mid-term, Final Project Report
 - “Traffic Light “ system
 - Critical Success Factors
- Project site visits (Project Coordinators + SPC members)
- Documentation workshop
- Annual Project Workshop



- Frequency of Progress Reporting identified jointly with the Lead Investigator
- Mid-term, Final Project Report
 - “Traffic Light “ system
 - Agreed milestone and deliverables
- Interaction with Science Council members (presentations and exchange, lab visits)
- Representation/participation of the Foundation in committees and key/strategic events


Challenges (DURAS)

Pre-proposals received by lead proponent (%)

Proponent stakeholder	Th1	Th2	Th3	Th4
NARIs	58 %	49 %	40 %	29 %
FOs/CBOs	0%	1 %	1 %	8 %
Universities	26 %	20 %	24 %	24 %
NGOs	6 %	20 %	27 %	35 %
Agri-SMEs	0 %	0 %	6 %	3 %
IARCs	9 %	6 %	0 %	0 %
Others	1 %	4 %	2 %	1%
<i>Total</i>	<i>100 %</i>	<i>100 %</i>	<i>100 %</i>	<i>100 %</i>

- Ambitious over-all objective
- 12 funded projects each one involving
 - At least 3 stakeholder groups
 - At least 3 countries
 - Different currencies
 - Different languages
 - Different cultures
- Different actors = different expectations
- Very small project coordination unit (1.5 FTP)
- Short project duration given nature of project



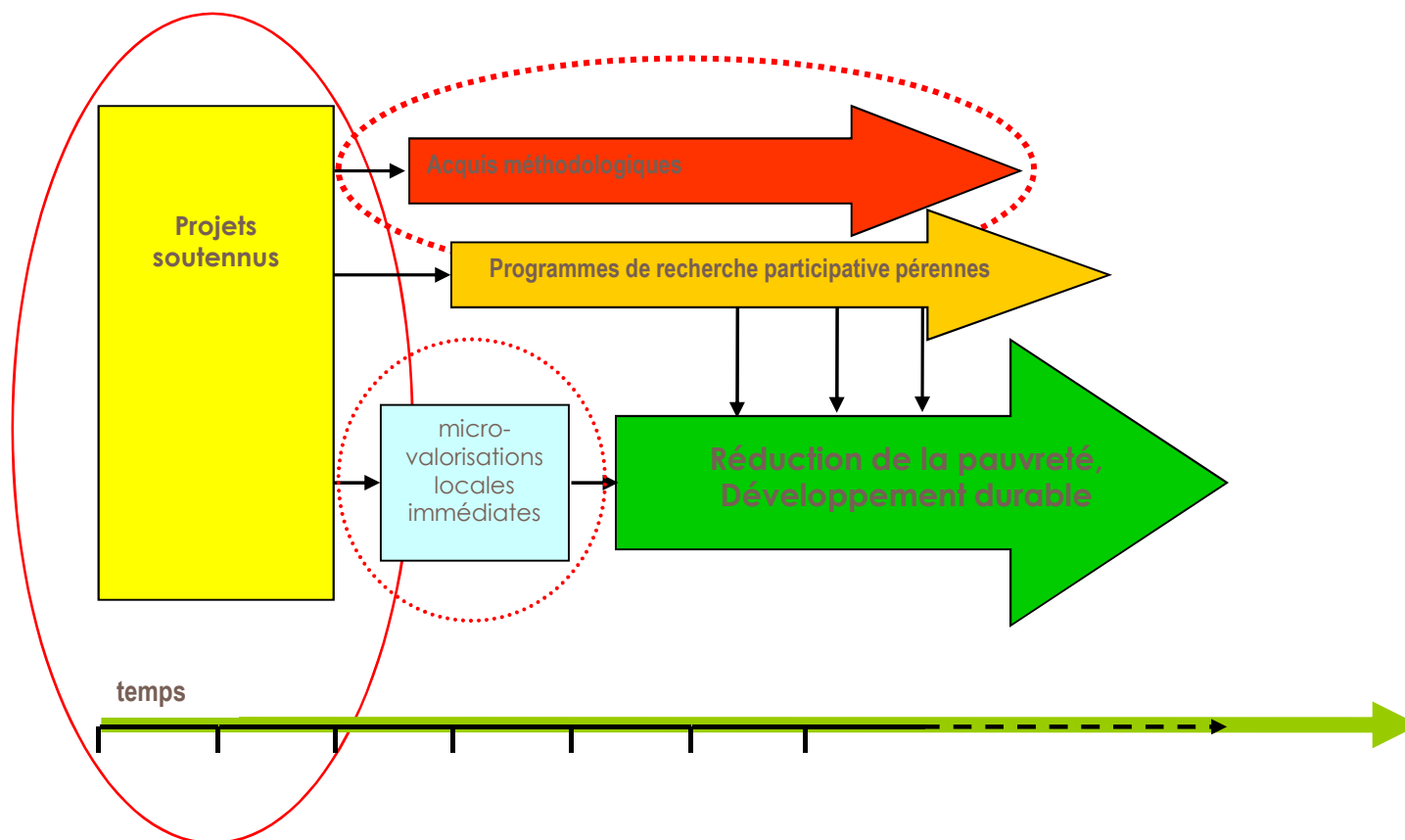


In DURAS,
partnership building
was never a secondary (or additional) activity
but rather as
the central element of selected projects

.... a condition to receive funding.

In Agropolis,
We are *struggling* how to better involve
non traditional actors and researchers in the
“formal” research process.

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Merci pour votre attention !