ARLA FOOD FOR HEALTH

2022 call for applications

Content

1. Introduction

Arla Food for Health (AFH) is pleased to announce the call for research applications to be funded in 2022.

AFH is a public-private research partnership between top ranked universities and the food industry, all of them engaged within food and health sciences: University of Copenhagen, Aarhus University, Arla Foods amba and Arla Foods Ingredients. The common vision is to **Discover health effects of dairy and dairy ingredients.**
The partnership is based on the conviction that collaboration through independent research activities, both nationally and internationally, is crucial to address global health challenges.

The ambition is to push boundaries and foster world-class dairy science that subsequently can be translated into new nutritional solutions with positive impact on global health, thereby benefiting both society and AFH partners.
The partners are committed to create impact and disseminate the scientific insights acquired through the projects. Moreover, the partnership includes a targeted and coordinated public outreach that can serve as basis for a science-based nutrition and health dialogue with external stakeholders, including authorities, NGOs, universities, and other industries.

To achieve this, AFH grants 10 mill. DKK every year to support research projects within the research strategy. AFH emphasizes the scientific quality of the proposed research projects. Typically one to two projects receive funding every year. However, there is no preferred budget size, every project is evaluated in its own right. These funds can be seed money that enable initiation of projects that aim for additional funding from public or private foundations. Thus, the content of the applications can be described as an element in a larger and more ambitious research project. It is important to highlight if funding has been obtained from other parties and whether it is planned to apply for additional funding. Finally, we urge applicants to create synergy with already ongoing AFH projects if possible and when relevant.

Previously AFH funded projects can be seen at https://arlafoodforhealth.com/funded-research/.

2. Topics for 2022 call for applications

Research applications must be aligned with the overall AFH research strategy, as specified at the webpage: https://arlafoodforhealth.com.

In 2022, AFH will once again prioritize projects that bring together food and health sciences. There is increasing awareness that the nutrient content of foods is not the sole factor influencing health effects. Other variables like the format and the structure of the food and the way food is processed may just be as determining factors. Thus, collaborative multidisciplinary approaches are at demand to establish this understanding.

Within this frame, the following research questions are meant as inspiration for this year's call for applications.

- **Gut Health.** How does the intake of various dairy foods and milk components affect the gut structure, absorptive function, microbiota, and immune function? And further: how does this affect other gut health aspects, such as bioavailability of micro- and macro nutrients, inflammatory processes in the gastrointestinal tract, epithelial morphology and function, gut interaction with other organs, visceral pain and other health related outcomes? We encourage that studies aimed at understanding the microbiome are designed to address causality between the microbiome and host metabolism and health. "Dairy foods and milk components" are to be perceived broadly as including different finished dairy products (fermented or fresh in different formats – e.g. high or low fat version), as well as fractions of dairy products used as components in other foods.

- **Under and overnutrition.** How does dairy foods and milk components affect hunger and satiety, caloric intake, weight management and linear growth? For instance, which nutrients in dairy drive neuroendocrine signals to the brain that coordinate appetite regulation and energy expenditure? And does the matrix in which the nutrients are delivered affect the neuroendocrine response?

- **The role of dairy in a sustainable diet.** How to define a sustainable diet has gained broad attention in recent years and is becoming more central in the public debate. There is an overall understanding that the diet must be nutritionally adequate, affordable, culturally acceptable while leaving behind the smallest possible footprint. Knowledge is required to specify what sustainable high performance diets may look like. How could diet conversion rate (the ratio of inputs to outputs) and/or diet efficiency (the ratio of outputs to inputs) be calculated and included in sustainable diet recommendations going forward, thus including human beings and digestive excretions as part of the system. We encourage that studies aimed at understanding the above are designed to include comparison of diets high and low in plant-based ingredients in one or more relevant target ages or physical activity segments.

3. The application process and important dates

Like previous years, the 2022 call includes an optional consultancy based on a one-page research proposal. This is an opportunity for guidance and discussion of the research projects, that serves to improve the quality of the applications. The experience from previous years is that the external Scientific Advisory Board scores the scientific quality of the applications that take advantage of this opportunity higher compared to applications that do not.

Guideline for a one-page research proposal:
The one-page research proposal must be submitted via email to abmoe@arlafoods.com. Deadline for submission is 6th of May 2022. Maximum submission of 1 one-page research proposal per principal investigator. Feedback will be received 23rd of May 2022. **Disclaimer:** *Submitting the one-page research proposal and aligning the application after the feedback is not a guarantee for funding. The feedback should be seen as a consultation and feedback at an early stage in the application process strengthening the further work with the project proposal.*

The one-page research proposal must contain:
1. Project title: As concise as possible.
2. Research area: In overall terms.
3. Project description: Conception and design of the studies, including research questions, hypotheses and methodological approach. References and preliminary results attached as appendix.
4. Information on principal investigator and additional applicant(s): Name, University and field of expertise.
5. A suggested research collaboration between Aarhus University and University of Copenhagen.
6. A clear description on how the research brings new knowledge within dairy and health.

Submission of applications:
The AFH call is a one-stage application process (with an optional one-page research proposal consultancy, as described above). The applications can include proof-of-concept studies or additional activities to ongoing projects, where these specifically address the topics highlighted in the call. Collaboration between AFH partners is important to cover different aspects of food and health sciences. Finally, it is a prerequisite that the principal investigator is affiliated to one of the AFH partner universities. International partners can be included in the research projects to bring expertise and opportunities to the projects.

The submission deadline for the application is the 14th of October 2022 at 16:00 CET.
The applications must be submitted via email to Andreas Buch Møller at abmoe@arlafoods.com.
If you are experiencing any technical problems or your query is not answered, please contact Andreas Buch Møller at abmoe@arlafoods.com or on mobile +45 91316686.
Please read the guidelines for the application before submitting your proposal.

Review process

First, the applications will be reviewed by the external independent Scientific Advisory Board and ranked according to scientific quality and relevance.

Hereafter, the Steering Committee conducts an internal review to assess if the application: i) is within the scope of the call, (ii) has a strategic fit to AFH, (iii) has business relevance, (iv) includes a partnership (projects including three or more of the AFH partners will gain priority), (v) includes a high-quality communication plan. The Steering Committee takes the final decision on projects to be funded.

The director of AFH communicates the funding decision to the principal investigators, including any requirement for amendments to the selected applications before end of 2022.

Key timelines for the Arla Food for Health 2022 applications:

• April 8th	Announcement of 2022 call for applications (online event)
• May 6th	Deadline optional one-page research proposal
• May 23rd	Feedback on optional one-page research proposal
• October 14th	Application deadline
• December	Decision on funding communicated
• Q1 2023	Finish research project agreement

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4. Guidelines for applications

The application should be written in English and not exceed 5 A4 pages, excluding references. The application must include the following elements (in this order):

1) Project title - As concise as possible, including project acronym.
2) The project's main objective (max 3 lines).
3) Project summary (max 20 lines).
4) Project duration - Expected start and end dates.
5) An estimate of the project's total budget and the amount AFH is applied for: attach a budget (budget template available on website). Considering that AFH funding is seen as seed money, please indicate other funding opportunities from public or private foundations that will be, or already are, applied for to fully finance the project.
6) Information on principal investigator and co-applicant(s):
    i) Details of the principal investigator and co-applicants (name, title, email, phone, address).
    ii) If the project has been discussed with Arla scientists, you are welcome to state their names. However, they are not regarded as applicants.
7) Bank details and accounting contact:
    i) Bank - name and registration and account number.
    ii) Accounting contact (name, address, phone, e-mail).
8) Project description:
    i) The hypotheses of the project.
    ii) Project content - description of the project design, work packages, methodology, research facilities, and milestones etc.
9) Foreseen project outcome, including:
    i) Why is it relevant for the dairy industry?
    ii) Short description of the innovation aspects, innovation potential, scientific and commercial perspectives. What new knowledge will the proposed research provide?
    iii) What difference can the project make to people's health?

10) Assessment of the risk of project failure and mitigating procedures.
12) Contribution to education - short description of the project's educational elements.
12) Publication plan.
13) Communication plan. Short description of potential messages, target audiences, relevant platforms and channels to be used. Furthermore, where appropriate, describe communication and interaction with wider policy and health authorities to facilitate that new research findings are included in decision-making processes and practices. Up to 40,000 DDK can be allocated for communication in the budget. Please contact your local communication expert for help and guidance*.
14) Include main CVs in appendix (not included in the 5 pages). Please specify role in project and man months committed during the lifetime of the project:

i. A 2-page CV of the principal investigator (incl. project management experience)
ii. A 1-page CV from co-applicant(s)
iii. A maximum of 5 CVs should be provided

15) Commitment letters from host institutions in the project (e.g. head of department). There is no need for a letter of interest from Arla.

* If AFH decides to fund the proposed project, the communication plan will be further developed. In this process the principal investigator should seek further guidance and support from the local communication experts of Aarhus University and University of Copenhagen:

Claus Bo Andreasen and Lise Bundgaard
DCA – Danish Centre for Food and Agriculture
Aarhus University
Email: clausbo.andreasen@dca.au.dk and lise@dca.au.dk

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Department of Nutrition, Exercise and Sports
University of Copenhagen
Email: kma@nexs.ku.dk

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5. Further Information

Interested applicants are welcome to consult AFH director Peter Wejse regarding application topics, test products, and business relevance on mail pewej@arlafoods.com or mobile +45 72177819. Already established contacts to Arla can also be used for this purpose.