



The Florida Senate

Local Funding Initiative Request

Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1890

1. **Project Title**
2. **Senate Sponsor**
3. **Date of Request**

4. Project/Program Description

The efficacy and on-farm compatibility of foliar applied biorational next-generation plant defense primers will be evaluated for Florida's specialty crop industry. Target crops and diseases will include citrus (citrus greening, citrus canker), sugarcane (sugarcane rust), tomato (bacterial spot, target-spot, early blight), watermelon (gummy stem blight, CYSDV, downy mildew), sweet corn (southern corn leaf blight, southern rust), cucumber (anthracnose), snap beans (anthracnose, rust), and avocado (laurel wilt). Contract research organizations, universities, and local farms based in Florida will conduct trials.

5. **State Agency to receive requested funds**

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	750,000
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
Total State Funds Requested	750,000

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	750,000	50%
Matching Funds		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	750,000	50%
Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026	1,500,000	100%

8. **Has this project previously received state funding?**

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (YYYY-YY)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. **Is future-year funding likely to be requested?**

a. **If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.**

b. **Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.**

Phyto Genesis Corp is raising \$1m in the first half of 2025 to fund research and field trials that will support this project. We also plan to raise \$10m in the second half of 2025 to fund safety studies and regulatory applications for federal and state agencies.



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Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

10. Status of Construction

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning
 Design
 Construction
 N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.

12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended

Spending Category	Description	Amount
Administrative Costs:		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	Executive Leadership Salary \$150,000 Benefits \$30,000 Total: \$180,000 *.25 (allocation)	45,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel for team members to FL research sites = 21,500 Laboratory Expense: 7,000 x 12 = 84,000* .25 (allocation) = \$21,000	42,500
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	Operations Manager: \$5k X 12 months = 60,000 *.25 (allocation) = \$15,000 Context- Ag Consultant \$15k x 12 months = 180,000 * .25 (allocation) = \$45,000	60,000
Operational Costs		
Salary and Benefits	Sr PhD Scientist: \$108,000*.25 (allocation) \$27,000 Sr PhD Scientist: \$108,000*.25 (allocation) = \$27,000 Research Specialist: \$78,000*.25 (allocation) = \$19,500 Research Technician: \$66,000*.25 (allocation) = \$16,500	90,000
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Travel for team members to FL research sites.	25,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	FL Contract Research Organizations = 450,000 Research Greenhouse Contract \$7500 x 12 months = \$90,000*.25 (allocation) = \$22,500 Agronomist: \$5,000 x 12 months= 60,000 *.25 (allocation) = \$15,000	487,500
Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)		750,000

13. Program Performance



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a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

Access the efficacy and on-farm compatibility of foliar applied biorational next-generation plant defense primers to control key disease in specialty crops.

b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

Phyto Genesis will design and execute trials with Florida-based university staff, contract research organizations and local farms. Phyto Genesis will provide biorational products used for testing.

c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

Biorational control strategies, including foliar treatment schedules and rates to control key plant diseases on specialty crops.

d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

Florida specialty crop farms and consumers.

e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?

Reduction in environmentally damaging pesticide use. Reduction in the spread of key specialty crop diseases. New technologies and treatments to create an environment where the management of disease is possible with significantly fewer chemical inputs.

f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?

Phyto Genesis will employ its project management system and track milestone schedules in order to meet deliverable and performance measures. If we fail to meet those deliverables or measures, we will provide a report outlining the deficiency and an actionable plan to correct and deliver to project requirements. Activities not executed will be subject to not being funded.

14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?

a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):

15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:



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b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:

16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):

17. Requester Contact Information

a. First Name **Last Name**

b. Organization

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number **Ext.**

18. Recipient Contact Information

a. Organization

b. Municipality and County

c. Organization Type

- For Profit Entity
- Non Profit 501(c)(3)
- Non Profit 501(c)(4)
- Local Entity
- University or College
- Other (please specify)

d. First Name **Last Name**

e. E-mail Address

f. Phone Number **Ext.**

19. Lobbyist Contact Information



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a. Name

b. Firm Name

c. E-mail Address

d. Phone Number

The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.