
Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production

**Call text for research phase 2
National Research Programme NRP 69**

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Second Call of the National Research Programme NRP 69 “Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production”

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Second Call of the National Research Programme “Healthy Nutrition and Sustainable Food Production” (NRP 69)

1. Introduction

One of the greatest global challenges of the 21st century will be satisfying the growing demand for food as available resources such as land, energy and water become scarce. This will be paralleled by another challenge, the rise in chronic and degenerative diseases, of which a large part is diet-related. These conditions cause about one third of healthcare costs in Switzerland, i.e. CHF 20 mia. per year.

The main goals of this National Research Programme are to provide a practical base of knowledge about how healthy and sustainable eating can be promoted in Switzerland, how enough high quality and safe food can be made available at affordable prices and with minimal environmental impact. The outcomes of this NRP will thus contribute to inducing science-based improvements to current and up-coming necessary changes in policies related to agriculture and nutrition in order to respond to societal challenges (e.g. sustainability, public health).

2. Research foci of research phase 2 of NRP 69

Under phase 1 of NRP 69, the research council of the SNSF approved 21 research projects. These projects started in August 2013 and were funded for up to 36 months. Most of the goals of NRP 69 are covered by the selected projects ([link to list of phase 1 projects](#)). There are, however, selected questions not fully addressed by this 1st phase. Thus, the scope of phase 2 of NRP 69 is to fill these gaps by supporting a limited number of large interdisciplinary projects, preferably research consortia.

The central focus of phase 2 of NRP 69 will be on the following issues:

- Integration of topics along the food chain, from primary production to consumption (e.g. socio-economic, policy aspects)
- Integration of sustainability with public health: from sustainable production to sustainable consumption.

Projects building on the results from phase 1, or new projects exploring other important aspects such as nutrition in the elderly, consumer behaviour (e.g. influence of genetic makeup on consumer food choices) are encouraged as long as the central focus of the call is maintained.

The call is open to the scientific community active in Swiss research institutions, including but not limited to research groups active in phase 1 of NRP 69. An overall budget of 3.8 mio CHF is available for this 2nd phase, for projects lasting a maximum duration of 25 months. As per the implementation plan, the 2nd phase of NRP 69 will start on 1st July 2016.

The Steering Committee will select projects for phase 2 in a two-step procedure. First, letters of intention (LoIs) submitted until 30 October 2015 will be evaluated. Applicants of

selected letters of intention will be invited to submit full proposals by 1st March 2016. Further instructions on the submission of the full proposals will be communicated in due time.

3. Start and duration

The 2nd phase of NRP 69 will start on 1st July 2016 and end on 31st July 2018. Thus, maximum duration of the projects is 25 months.

4. Eligibility criteria

Priority will be given to interdisciplinary research consortia that have one or more of the following characteristics:

- Bring together scientists from a diversity of fields such as biology, agriculture, social sciences food sciences economics and/or public health;
- Integrate topics along the food chain, from primary food production to consumption, typically addressing economic aspects, or the link between public health and sustainability aspects;
- Develop knowledge and strategies that foster a sustainable and nutritious food supply in a way conducive to the creation of recommendations translatable into policies;
- Develop innovative products and processes with applications in food production, processing and consumption;

In addition to the priorities stated above, successful projects will directly address one or more of the three general key questions of NRP 69:

- How can healthy and sustainable eating be encouraged in Switzerland?
- How can enough and safe food products be made available at affordable prices?
- How can the production, processing and distribution of food be managed efficiently with the least impact on the environment?

5. Submission procedure

Applications must be submitted online via the mySNF portal. For submission, a user-registration is needed and can be obtained from the homepage of the mySNF website: www.mysnf.ch. Active user accounts are still valid. New user accounts must be opened at least two weeks before the submission deadline so that proposals can be submitted in good time.

Applications must be submitted in English. Applications (letters of intention and full proposal) must be submitted using the appropriate word.docx templates. These can be found on the mySNF portal.

Letters of Intention should list all research partners and include a brief research plan, potential outcomes and milestones (5 A4 pages, font 12). Estimated budget and personnel resources needed should be specified in the relevant containers of the mySNF submission form.

6. Evaluation procedure

The secretariat of division Programmes will check compliance of the applications with formal criteria such as completeness of application, adequate formal presentation and compliance with the submission deadline. Applications that do not satisfy these formal criteria will not be processed further.

Projects will be selected in a two-steps procedure. For more details, see table entitled “Schedule” below.

Both letters of intention and full proposals will be evaluated according to their fit with the overall goals of NRP 69 ([link to the implementation plan](#)) and with the eligibility criteria stated above. Standard NRPs and SNSF criteria also apply:

- Scientific quality: The application must reflect the state of the art in the field and meet international academic standards. In order to evaluate this, hypothesis, research questions, research design and methods must be presented clearly and logically.
- Originality: The application must contain an innovative component as compared to completed or running research projects in the field.
- Academic track record: Applicants must have a proven track record in the field of the application and meet personal and formal requirements for submission (see SNSF Funding Regulations below). The academic track record implies successfully completed research activities and high-level national and international publications.
- Feasibility: The proposed study must be shown to be feasible (e.g. in ethical terms or with regard to availability of and access to data, personnel recruitment and timely completion).
- Inter- and/or transdisciplinarity: Projects should address research questions that demand approaches crossing disciplinary boundaries or should involve the most relevant stakeholders.
- Application and implementation: The potential for practical application and implementation of results is a key element of National Research Programmes. Projects of high practical relevance are therefore given priority.
- Personnel and infrastructure: Adequate personnel resources and an adequate infrastructure must be secured for the project.

The SNSF Funding Regulations ([link](#)) also apply.

After external national and international peer-review, followed by a scientific assessment by the Steering Committee, selected full proposals will be submitted to the National Research Council for approval or rejection.

7. Schedule of the second call

The 2nd call for proposals will be implemented according to the following schedule:

Publication of call	15 July 2015
Deadline to submit letters of intention	30 October 2015
Decision on letters of intention	1 st December 2015
Invitation to submit full proposals	10 December 2015
Deadline to submit full proposals	1 st March 2016
Decision on full proposals	20 May 2016
Approval of project selection by the Research Council	14 June 2016
Start of research phase 2	1 st July 2016
End of research phase 2	31 July 2018

8. Contacts

For general questions concerning the submission and evaluation procedure, please contact the programme coordinator Marjory Hunt: marjory.hunt@snf.ch or 031 308 22 22.

For questions concerning salaries and eligible costs, please contact the Head of Finances, Roman Sollberger: roman.sollberger@snf.ch or 031 308 22 22.

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