

## **“Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change”**

**The European Joint Programming Initiative “Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change” launches its first joint call. Today the Joint Programming Initiative “Agriculture, Food Security and Climate Change” (FACCE-JPI), jointly led by France, through its National Institute for Agricultural Research (INRA) and the UK, through the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), announced the opening of a call for proposals for a pilot action on “A detailed climate change risk assessment for European agriculture and food security”. By aligning national programmes around grand societal challenges, joint programming sets a new dimension to European research. Member States/Associated Countries will work together around a common vision and strategic research agenda, making significant contributions to research by avoiding duplication, filling gaps and creating critical mass.**

The projected increase of world population to about 9 billion people by the midcentury leads to an increasing demand for food, feed, fibre and bio-fuels. This will happen in a changing climate and under a more stringent environmental regulation and requires continuous assessments of the changes in yield potentials and yield gaps for addressing ways to close gaps and reduce negative externalities for the environment. In this context, the FACCE-JPI, which was adopted in October 2010 for launching by the European Council, aims to address the challenge of providing sufficient high quality food through sustainable agriculture in the context of climate change and involves twenty European countries overall.

Today, the JPI launches the pilot action entitled **“A detailed climate change risk assessment for European agriculture and food security”**, in collaboration with international projects. This initial action will address the modelling of impacts of climate change and the reduction in uncertainties in climate change scenarios. It will be carried out using the instrument of the “FACCE Knowledge Hub”<sup>1</sup> bringing together major European research groups from 17 countries, fostering interactions and synergy between European modellers in the areas of crops, livestock and trade to look at how climate variability and change impact on these models.

The duration of the Knowledge Hub will be 3 years for a first phase, followed by an evaluation with a perspective of a two year extension, subject to a successful review and budget availability. In the first stage, interested research groups will send a letter of intent in English, expressing their willingness to join the Knowledge Hub. The letters of intent must be submitted to the Call Office (see below) by September 7, 2011 (01:00 pm CET) through the FACCE call ESS (electronic submission server) system.

Call text available at:

FACCE JPI website: <http://www.facejpi.com>

The instrument “FACCE Knowledge Hub” is developed by the FACCE-JPI to foster the transnational co-operation, collaboration and communication of the research communities in the field of FACCE and to contribute to optimising research outcomes by facilitating a better networking and information exchange of all actors. A Knowledge Hub is a network consisting of selected research groups from JPI member countries within a defined area of research.

For further information:

European Commission website:

[http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/areas/programming/joint\\_programming\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/areas/programming/joint_programming_en.htm)

For general enquiries about FACCE JPI please contact the Secretariat:

[SecretariatJPI@paris.inra.fr](mailto:SecretariatJPI@paris.inra.fr)

Heather McKhann (INRA) +33 (0)1 42 75 92 78

Gabriela Pastori (BBSRC) +44 (0)1793 413363