

# ***FY 2022-23 RFP: Mississippi Center for Enhancing Utilization and Safety of Catfish and Other Aquatic Foods***

The Director of the Mississippi Center for Enhancing Utilization and Safety of Catfish and Other Aquatic Foods (formerly MS Center for Food Safety and Post-Harvest Technology or FSI) is inviting interested scientists to submit proposals for the FY 2022-23 funding cycle to participate in the research and transfer technology in support of USDA-ARS national program priorities, with a focus on the quality, safety and food product utilization of catfish and other aquatic foods. Funding of selected projects is contingent on Federal appropriation and award from USDA-ARS.

Research emphases should contain an application component that addresses one of the following to objectives:

- 1). Detect, characterize, and eliminate the pathogens, toxins, chemicals, allergens, and biologics that are accumulated in catfish and other aquatic food products as affected by production environment and food processing and packaging methods.
- 2). Apply advanced scientific and engineering principles to enhance manufacturing efficiency, meat and protein yield, food quality, shelf-life storage stability and product innovations and add value to bycatch and byproducts for expanding markets and/or increasing profitability of the aquatic food industry.

Applicants are encouraged to review the attached USDA-ARS Catfish Workshop Summaries held in 2018, and review the Action Plans of National Programs 108 and 306 of USDA-ARS to understand the specific areas of research interest before preparing proposals. Applicants are required to discuss with Project Director, Dr. Chang, prior to preparing a full proposal. A one-page summary of project title, objective and approaches is needed for the discussion.

Both single PI and multidisciplinary projects are acceptable. Collaboration with USDA-ARS scientists is required. Projects not directly working on catfish aquaculture/aquatic products must describe the potential applications to enhance the quality/safety or utilization of aquatic foods.

Awards are intended to be seed grants for new and innovative research. Funds are intended to build capacity for success in peer-reviewed science in terms of refereed publications and external competitive grants. For continuing projects, a description of how the previous awards have been used for obtaining competitive funding is required. To be eligible for funding in this 2022-23 cycle, successful applicants in the previous funding cycles must provide evidence of proposal submission to a nationally competitive program. For new projects to be awarded in this cycle, it is mandatory that the project director submits a nationally competitive grant after the first year of the project. Therefore, a description of future proposal submission targets (with names of funding agencies) of national funding programs is required.

### **General Information:**

- Maximum funding period is twelve months. Proposals that show potential, productivity, and impact may be considered for multi-year funding provided funding is available, and performance is acceptable.
- Graduate student stipends are allowed but tuition remission is not. ***It is the recipient's responsibility to provide tuition remission support for graduate assistantships funded under this program.***
- Awards are projected to initiate on July 1, 2022, and will end one year after initiation.
- No carry-over funding is allowed, unless a no-cost extension is requested and approved by Dr. Chang.
- Annual report, a 6-month progress report (word document), and publication listings are required when requested. Reports not submitted in a timely manner will result in funding termination. Progress reports should be submitted to Dr. Sam Chang at [sc1690@msstate.edu](mailto:sc1690@msstate.edu)
- Leveraging of additional funds is strongly encouraged.

### **Proposal specifics:**

- Proposal cover sheet (*see attached format*)
- Description of the Proposal - - maximum five pages (*see attached format*)
- Budget (*see required template attached*)
- Budget justification
- **A two page CV documenting grants and journal publications in the last three years, particularly from the current or recently funded projects from this program.**
- Submit an electronic copy in MS Word and Excel to Dr. Chang's e-mail address at [sc1690@msstate.edu](mailto:sc1690@msstate.edu), with a copy to Ms. Maryann Latham ([maryann.latham@msstate.edu](mailto:maryann.latham@msstate.edu)) and a copy to Ms. Janice Nichols ([jrn72@msstate.edu](mailto:jrn72@msstate.edu)).
- An Internal Approval Sheet must be included in the submission. Make sure to use the latest version of the IAS, which can be found on OSP's website, [www.osp.msstate.edu](http://www.osp.msstate.edu).
- **Proposals are due June 20, 2022, by 5:00 pm.**

### **Budget specifics (required template attached): Budgets submitted with calculation or other errors will be returned for correction before the proposal is considered for funding.**

- Funded projects are projected to begin on July 1, 2022.
- Salaries are limited to post-doctoral, GRA (highly encouraged), and wages, **ONLY**.
- **NO** faculty salary
- Fringe is calculated for each type position according to budget guidelines found on OSP's website
- Tuition costs **are not allowed**. Tuition remission for graduate students funded under FSI must be provided by PI's discretionary funds. PI will need to gain prior approval from her/his Department Head for tuition contribution -and provide a banner account in which tuition will be charged.
- Health insurance for graduate students is allowed.
- Up to \$55,000 per project.
- Commodities must include a detailed list of expense items and price per item.
- Contractual must include a detailed list of expense items and price per item.
- **NO** equipment is allowed. Some equipment purchased from this program housed in the

Seafood Food Research Laboratory and FSNHP department may be shared by the awardees. Please consult with Dr. Chang for the types of equipment available for research and to schedule use of such equipment.

- **NO** foreign travel
- **NO** indirect costs
- Cost Share is not required. The parent fund will provide the cost share.

***FY 2022-23 MS Center for Food Safety and Post-Harvest Technology Initiative—Cover Page***

**NEW PROJECT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CONTINUATION: YEAR** \_\_\_\_ **OF** \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE:**

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:**

**CO-INVESTIGATOR(S):**

**USDA-ARS COLLABORATOR(S):**

**FUNDING REQUESTED:**

**DURATION:**

## **PROPOSAL DESCRIPTION FORMAT:**

Introduction (including work that has been done by PI and by others in the field, problems to be solved, significance, and justification)

Objectives

Approach/Work Plans

Anticipated Outcome

Potential Impact (including technology development, applications in the industry, and other tangible impacts)

Description of publication and grant activities: For new projects, a description of planned publications and plans for obtaining competitive funding and the names of specific funding agencies. For previously funded awardees, list each of the funded project(s) by title and date, and provide publications; and evidence of external proposal submissions and any awards received based on the findings from previously FSI-funded projects.

Literature Cited

**Limit your proposal narrative to a maximum of five pages (excluding the cover sheet and literature cited pages).**

A two-page CV.

Proposals should be single-sided, single-spaced, no less than 12-point type and 1” margins.

**Please note:** Review Criteria will emphasize project innovation (originality is the most important criteria), scientific significance to the particular field of study, justification, clarity of objectives, approach/work plan to achieve each objective, and potential impact to the industry. PI’s research background and qualifications, team building with USDA-ARS scientists, previous FSI-awarded project performance (publications, external grant proposal submission, timeliness of progress reporting and submission, outreach activity of research findings to the aquaculture, agriculture or food processing industries), and fund leveraging will also be considered.