

## **BBSRC AND BRAZIL**

- **BBSRC regards Brazil as a priority country for future collaborative activity**
- **There are number of complimentary mechanisms to encourage both bottom-up collaborations and partnerships in areas of strategic importance to BBSRC**
- **BBSRC also encourages UK - Brazil partnerships through external mechanisms and through our global travel schemes**
- **BBSRC currently has collaborative agreements with FAPESP, CNPq and EMBRAPA**

### **BBSRC support for facilitating international collaboration with Brazil**

BBSRC's International Relations Unit (IRU) strives to enhance BBSRC's influence and involvement at the forefront of international science, to exploit international funding opportunities in the interests of BBSRC's scientific community and to capitalise on international links, both at policy and scientific levels. It achieves this through a number of mechanisms.

BBSRC interactions with Brazil include visits and scoping studies to Brazil and welcoming Brazilian researchers and policy makers to the UK. In addition to two general schemes that can be utilized for promoting links with Brazil, BBSRC also has two specific schemes to promote longer term collaborative activity with Brazil (described below) and utilizes the RCUK-FAPESP lead agreement to facilitate joint research.

Full details of BBSRC international activities are on the BBSRC website at:

[www.bbsrc.ac.uk/international](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/international)

#### **Visits**

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/isis>

BBSRC's International Scientific Interchange Scheme (ISIS) provides a mechanism for initiating and pump-priming collaborations, which allows BBSRC-supported scientists to explore potential international linkages and funding opportunities. Since 1999 BBSRC has spent over £37k to fund 12 visits involving Brazil, which encompassed a range of scientific areas including animal disease and pest management.

#### **International Workshops**

[http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/international\\_workshops](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/international_workshops)

BBSRC sponsored workshops have created good international synergy, due to many having led to successful international research projects that have provided considerable added value to UK science. The workshops endeavour to match numbers of UK scientists with those in other countries, in order to identify areas of commonality and to explore the potential for international collaboration. The workshops also aim to provide some input to the formulation of policies in emerging areas of science and/or stimulate joint working with other countries that are active in a particular area. So far, BBSRC has funded 6 UK-Brazil workshops at a cost of over £69k. We expect to see an increase in applications for funds to conduct both visits to, and workshops with, Brazil in the coming years.

#### **The Brazil Partnering Awards (BPA)**

<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/brazil>

Partnerships with Brazil are producing benefits to the UK and the BBSRC community. It is therefore important that BBSRC continues to try to ensure that strong linkages are developed and sustained in the biosciences. The aim of the BBSRC-Brazil Partnering Scheme is to provide resources to leading BBSRC-supported research groups, which allow them to forge long-term relationships with Brazilian scientists in areas of research that are of direct relevance to BBSRC's current scientific strategy.

The primary objective of an award is to provide pump-priming, which enables UK research groups who are already funded by BBSRC to embark on creating links with Brazilian scientists. The overall aim is to build long-term partnerships that will ultimately lead to new collaborative research programmes. Awards cover activities such as exchanges of personnel, scoping studies and access to facilities and workshops. Similar BBSRC schemes operate with Japan, the US, India and China.

The BPA is jointly funded between BBSRC and Brazil's National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (CNPq), which is a national organisation for the promotion of scientific and technological research funded by the Brazilian Ministry of Science and Technology. BBSRC will typically provide up to £50,000 over four years to the UK side of collaboration, while CNPq will provide similar funding to the Brazilian partners. Funding is normally used to support researchers travelling in either direction, although no prescribed mechanisms have been set as to how the award should be used. Preference is given to applications that propose the exchange of early-career researchers, workshops in emerging areas of science and for visits to access facilities that are not available in the UK.

Since the first annual call for applications in 2011, 9 Brazil Partnering Awards have been funded, with a BBSRC contribution of over £339k. Details of these awards are attached.

### **RCUK - FAPESP Lead Agency Agreement**

[www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/international/fapesp-joint-funding-research.aspx](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/science/international/fapesp-joint-funding-research.aspx)

Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the State of São Paulo Research Foundation (FAPESP) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), in order to welcome, encourage and support collaborative applications that may cut across their national boundaries and involve international collaborative teams.

This groundbreaking MoU provides for a 'Lead Agency Agreement' whereby the relevant UK Research Council receives and assesses collaborative proposals from eligible applicants in both countries on behalf of both organisations. FAPESP nominated experts are involved with the peer review and decision making process throughout. This agreement removes the major obstacle of 'double jeopardy', where international joint research proposals are accepted by only one funding body

Since this scheme was implemented within responsive mode calls in 2010, 3 awards have been funded at a cost of £520k.

### **FAPESP Pump-Priming Award (FAPPA)**

[www.bbsrc.ac.uk/fappa](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/fappa)

To provide a springboard for applications under the above RCUK - FAPESP Lead agency agreement, BBSRC has developed the FAPESP Pump-Priming Award (FAPPA). Under this scheme, BBSRC funded researchers will be able to apply for funding of up to £35,000 over two years, in order to develop a collaboration with FAPESP funded partners and generate preliminary data to strengthen joint research applications. Support will be provided for collaborative activities such as visits and workshops. A maximum of 50% of the total value of each award is available for direct research costs. FAPESP will provide similar funding to Brazilian partners and applications will be assessed jointly between BBSRC and FAPESP.

Since the introduction of this open call in 2011, BBSRC have funded one FAPESP Pump-Priming Award worth over £14k. Details of the award are attached.

### **EMBRAPA and LABEX**

[www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/policy/2010/100331-pr-uk-brazil-partnership-embrapa-labex-launched.aspx](http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/news/policy/2010/100331-pr-uk-brazil-partnership-embrapa-labex-launched.aspx)

The Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation (EMBRAPA) is a £400M agri-business and research arm of the Brazilian Government. EMBRAPA aims to provide solutions for sustainable agricultural development in Brazil through the creation and transfer of technologies. As part of its international

strategy, EMBRAPA has extended its activities to the USA, Europe and Asia through its LABEX ("laboratory exterior") programme, placing experienced Brazilian research scientists in elite overseas institutions.

In March 2010, EMBRAPA established its first UK base at the BBSRC institute, Rothamsted Research. It aims to carry out state of the art research in a priority science area and to create new opportunities and links between UK and Brazilian scientists. This is not just within Rothamsted, but across other BBSRC Institutes and UK universities as well, connecting with the wider European Labex network.

### **Human Frontier Science Programme (HFSP)**

[www.hfsp.org](http://www.hfsp.org)

HFSP is an international programme which was initiated in 1989 and is supported by Australia, Canada, India, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, USA and the EU. It promotes international collaboration through research grants and fellowships in the life sciences. The UK subscription to HFSP (total budget almost US\$56M) is currently £1223k, split between the Medical Research Council (£962k) and BBSRC (£261k). Both Councils are represented on the HFSP Board of Trustees. HFSP continues to support UK and BBSRC-funded scientists by furthering collaborations, offering HFSP Fellowships and encouraging joint research projects.

### **EU Framework Programme**

[http://cordis.europa.eu/home\\_en.html](http://cordis.europa.eu/home_en.html)

Marie Curie Fellowships under EU Framework Programmes now offer the opportunity for fellows to come in to the EU (e.g. UK) from any other country (e.g. Brazil) - International Incoming Fellowships or to go out to other countries from the EU - International Outgoing Fellowships. Additionally, the current Seventh Framework Programme (FP7) provides the opportunity for non-EU involvement in the projects and activities funded under its 10 thematic programmes.

Marie Curie also supports the International Research Staff Exchange Scheme, which aims to create closer links between staff working in research organisations in Europe and their counterparts in other international partner countries. The scheme supports staff exchanges of up to 12 months per staff member.

For further details on any of BBSRC's international activities please contact:

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### **PREVIOUS AWARDS**

#### **Role of the endosomal sorting machinery in controlling AMPA receptor trafficking in the hippocampus**

£14,800

UK Lead Partner: Dr Sonia Correa, School of Life Sciences, University of Warwick

Brazil Partner: Dr Luis da Silva, Department of Cellular Biology, University of São Paulo

## PREVIOUS AWARDS



### 2011 Call

#### **Characterisation and exploitation of bacterial endophytes in C4 energy crops**

£35,601

UK Lead Partner: Dr Kerrie Farrar, IBERS, Aberystwyth University

Brazil Partner: Dr Heloiza Barbosa, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, University of São Paulo

#### **UK-Brazil Partnering award for FMD Vaccine Selection and Matching**

£48,001

UK Lead Partner: Dr Mana Mahapatra, Foot and Mouth Diseases Programme, Institute for Animal Health

Brazil Partner: Dr J Caetano, FMD Laboratory, National Laboratory of Synchrotron Light (LNLS)

#### **ARIES-Brazil**

£50,000

UK Lead Partner: Dr Caroline Relton, Institute of Human Genetics, Newcastle University

Brazil Partner: Dr Bernardo Horta, Post Graduate Programme in Epidemiology

#### **Brazil: Sustainable Soil Management for Improved Food Security & Bioenergy Delivery**

£42,950

UK Lead Partner: Dr Sacha Mooney, Division of Agricultural and Environmental Science, University of Nottingham.

Brazil Partner: Professor Alvaro Pires da Silva, College of Agriculture, University of São Paulo

#### **Brazil-UK Collaboration on Technologies for Wheat Improvement**

£49,420

UK Lead Partner: Professor Martin Parry, Plant Science Division, Rothamsted Research

Brazil Partner: Dr Walter Ribeiro, Embrapa

#### **An International UK-Brazil Collaboration using Synchrotron Radiation Circular Dichroism Spectroscopy to Study Protein Structure and Function**

£27,000

UK Lead Partner: Professor Bonnie Wallace, Department of Biological Sciences, Birkbeck College

Brazil Partner: Professor Ana de Araujo, Physics Institute of São Carlos, University of São Paulo

#### **UK - Brazil partnership on the chemical ecology of crop-plant/rust-pathogen interactions for underpinning novel crop protection strategies**

£30,000

UK Lead Partner: Dr Michael Birkett, Biological Chemistry Division, Rothamsted Research

Brazil Partner: Dr Clara-Beatriz Hoffmann-Campo, Laboratory of Chemical Ecology, Embrapa

#### **Brazil - Enhancing Fusarium head blight and brusone resistance through improved phenotyping and genotyping**

£27,700

UK Lead Partner: Dr Paul Nicholson, Department of Disease and Stress Biology, John Innes Centre

Brazil Partner: Dr Jose Fernandes, Embrapa Headquarters, Embrapa

#### **Brazil-UK: Supporting training and research in predictive microbiology, using ComBase and related software tools**

£29,000

UK Lead Partner: Dr Jozsef Baranyi, Food Borne Bacterial Pathogens Programme, Institute of Food Research

Brazil Partner: Professor Bernadette Franco, University of São Paulo