



**13 November 2023**

Dear Colleagues,

On 30 June 2020 Science New Zealand and INRAE in France signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and on 30 March 2023 agreed to a joint linkage programme to support and encourage exchange and collaboration in areas of mutual interest and benefit to both organisations.

**We are excited to now open the first call for joint linkage activity, with travel to occur in 2024. Proposals are sought by 19 December 2023 CET (see attached template for details).**

We anticipate awarding around 10 projects with a value of around 5,000 euros per project provided both from Science New Zealand and INRAE (which means around 10,000 euros per project). The funding will cover only travel related expenses (flight and living expenses; not salary or operating) for short to medium stays with the aim of undertaking collaborative activities. This is based on a typical period of about two weeks, but it may be less, or up to a month.

**The main objectives of the programme include:**

- Supporting science excellence and impact through international collaboration.
- Supporting development of early to mid-career researchers to develop international networks.
- Providing support for joint Science New Zealand and INRAE teams to develop activities that can target other sources of funding. For example a good target is the International Associated Lab (LIA) initiative established by INRAE and endorsed by Science New Zealand. (<https://www.inrae.fr/en/international-associated-laboratories-lia>); or in due course Horizon Europe.

**The MOU identified the following areas where the partners wish to encourage collaboration:**

- Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
- Healthy and Sustainable Diets including quality of food products
- Carbon neutral & climate resilient agri-food, forestry and natural ecosystems
- Sustainable soil, landscape and water resources
- Circular bioeconomy
- Indigenous people's aspirations for land development and sustainability
- and other areas and disciplines, or other related activities as may be of mutual strategic interest and benefit.

**Submitting a proposal**

We are now inviting submissions for the first year of joint linkage activities to be jointly supported by Science New Zealand and INRAE.

Submissions should be jointly written by Science New Zealand and INRAE collaborators, in English, and submitted to both coordinators:

- Jean-Francois Hocquette [jean-francois.hocquette@inrae.fr](mailto:jean-francois.hocquette@inrae.fr) for INRAE
- Anthony Scott [ce@sciencenewzealand.org](mailto:ce@sciencenewzealand.org) for Science New Zealand.

We especially encourage early career researchers to apply, but all submissions will be considered.

Priority will be given to new projects or to submissions by collaborating teams with excellent outputs. If teams are already collaborating they will need to highlight what will be deepened or renewed in the established collaboration.

**Process and timeline:**

Proposals should align with the priorities of the programme listed above. We ask that you submit your proposal on the attached template by **5.00pm, Tuesday 19 December 2023 (CET) / 6.00am, Wednesday 20 December (NZST)**.

Applicants will be advised of results in early February 2024.

INRAE and Science New Zealand will individually review the applications and assign priority; a committee from the two organisations will then reconcile the proposed applications and confirm those that are accepted. This will be done at the end of January/early February 2024, to allow time for successful applicants to arrange the mobility.

It is anticipated but not a requirement, that the New Zealand partner will make the initial visit to France before 1 July 2024. This is due to the financial year for New Zealand ending 30 June 2024. However, the initial JLC will run through the whole of 2024.

A further call for the 2023-24 year will be issued in June 2024 for the year commencing 1 July 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact the coordinator from either INRAE or Science New Zealand should you have any questions or require clarification.

Best regards,

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