

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE AWARDING OF 1 RESEARCH GRANT - OPEN
SELECTION BASED ON ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND ORAL EXAM AT CREA
(COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ECONOMICS) - RESEARCH CENTRE
FOR CEREAL AND INDUSTRIAL CROPS
CODE: ASS-CI_BANDO-02-2020**

The Director of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops

HAVING REGARD to Legislative Decree n. 454 of October 29th, 1999, concerning the "Reorganisation of agricultural research activities as per art. 11 of Law n.59 of March 15th, 1997", in particular art. 1, establishing the Council for Agricultural Research - CRA;

HAVING REGARD to Law n. 190/2014 of December 23rd, 2014 (2015 Stability Law) art. 1, sub 381, which embeds the National Institute of Agricultural Economics INEA into the Council for Agricultural Research CRA, which took the name of "Council for Agricultural Research and Economics";

HAVING REGARD to the commissioner's decree with which, starting from 3 July 2015, it indicates that the abbreviation of the public authority to be used for the abbreviated representation is "CREA";

HAVING REGARD to the Decree by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies n. 19083 of December 30th, 2016, CREA prot. n. 10230 of March 14th, 2017, approving the "Plan for the improvement of organisational and financial efficiency aimed at the merging, reduction and rationalisation of CREA structures";

HAVING REGARD to the commissioner's decree n. 57 of April 6th, 2017, with which the establishment, starting from 1 May 2017, of the new twelve CREA research centers as provided for in the aforementioned was arranged "Plan for the improvement of organisational and financial efficiency aimed at the merging, reduction and rationalisation of CREA structures";

HAVING REGARD to Commissioner's Decree n. 88 of April 27th, 2017, with which the "Disciplinary of the first organization - year 2017" was approved;

HAVING REGARD to the Charter of the Centre for Agricultural Research and Economics published on the Official Journal of the Italian Republic, General Series, issue n. 231 of 3.10.2017;

HAVING REGARD to the the D.P.C.M. in agreement with the Minister of Economy and Finance of 24 December 2019, with whom it was renewed at the Cons. Gian Luca Calvi "for a further six months and in any case no later than the appointment of the administrative bodies" the

role of CREA Extraordinary Commissioner conferred with D.P.C.M. April 18, 2019, registered with the Court of Auditors on May 6, 2019 at no. 881;

HAVING REGARD to the resolution of the CREA Board of Directors no. 18 of March 8th, 2019, with which the General Manager f.f. was appointed of the CREA and the subsequent Decrees with which the commencement and renewals of the assignment were arranged and, most recently, the Commissioner Decree of December 20th, 2019, no. 106 of extension to 30 April 2020, unless further extensions;

HAVING REGARD to Law n. 240/2010 and, in particular, art. 22, regulating the awarding of research grants by Universities, Institutions and Public research and experimentation centres;

HAVING REGARD to the Decree by the Ministry of Education, University and Research of March 9th, 2011 n. 102, concerning the determination of the minimum annual amount of research grants awarded according to calls for applications pursuant to art. 22 of Law n. 240 of December 30th, 2010;

HAVING REGARD to the Decree by the Ministry of Education, University and Research of July 09th, 2009, concerning the equivalence of university degrees obtained pursuant to former university regulations, to Ministerial Decree n. 509/1999 and to Ministerial Decree n. 270/2004 for participation in open selections;

HAVING REGARD to "Regulations on the awarding of Scholarships, Research Grants, Ph.D. grants and funding of research and educational activities to be carried out abroad", approved via Provision of the Board of Directors n. 80/2018 of 26.10.2018;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that pursuant to art. 22 sub 8 of Law n. 240/2010, research grant contracts do not imply any employment relationship between the beneficiary of the grant and the Institution and do not allow access to permanent positions within it;

HAVING REGARD to Project PON "COMETA", funded by Decree MIUR 1741 of 5.7.2018, which provides for the possibility to activate educational and training instruments;

HAVING REGARD to the official request of 10.01.2020 by Mr. Luigi Morra, in his quality of scientific coordinator, and by Mr. Massimo Palumbo, in his quality of scientific referent of the above project for the Acireale laboratory and tutor, requesting the Director of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops to start a procedure for the awarding of 1 research grant of the duration of 12 months concerning *"Study of thistle cultivation in marginal areas with hot-arid climate, in relation to compost applications, for the improvement of economic and environmental sustainability"*;

HAVING REGARD to the Director's Provision n. 50 of 04.02.2020 approving the call;

PROVIDES FOR THE FOLLOWING

Art. 1 Number of grants

An open selection is called for the awarding of 1 research grant. The selection shall be based on the evaluation of the applicants' qualifications and the results of an oral exam, according to the following criteria:

Acronym of the project	Topic	University Degree (university regulations prior to Ministerial Decree 509/99)	University Degree pursuant to Ministerial Decree 509/99	University Degree pursuant to Ministerial Decree 270/04	Institution and Tutor
COMETA	Study of thistle cultivation in marginal areas with hot-arid climate, in relation to compost applications, for the improvement of economic and environmental sustainability	Agricultural Science; Environmental Sciences; Agricultural Sciences and Technologies; Food Science and Technology; Forest and Environmental Sciences; Agro-industrial Biotechnology; Biological Science	77/S Agricultural Sciences and Technologies 78/S Food Science and Technology 74/S Rural and Forestry Science and Management 82/S Sciences and Technologies for the Environment and the Territory 7/S Agricultural Biotechnology 6/S Biology	LM-69 Agricultural Sciences and Technologies LM-70 Food Science and Technology LM-73 Forest and Environmental Sciences and Technologies LM-75 Sciences and Technologies for the Environment and the Territory LM-7 Agricultural Biotechnology LM-6 Biology	CREA Acireale (Italy) Dr. Massimo Palumbo
Knowledge and expertise					
Management of experimental field tests through their programming, crop management, the conduct of phenological and bio-agronomic surveys, the taking of soil or plant samples, the determination of the main production and quantitative parameters. Knowledge regarding the evaluation of low input cultivation systems; the processes and efficiency of use of crop inputs; the management of aridocultures, such as the thistle, in marginal environments; the economic and environmental sustainability of biomass crops. Knowledge on thistle culture: biology and botanical characteristics, cultivation techniques, environmental needs, adversity. Ability to record and process the data collected and knowledge of statistics applied in agriculture and biology for the processing of experimental data. Ability to elaborate written texts for the production of project reports and the drafting of scientific articles in Italian and / or English. Written and spoken English language. Any other language chosen by the candidate (between French, German and Spanish).					

Art. 2

Duration, financial conditions and legislative references

The duration of the research grant is 12 months. Based on the availability of financial resources, such term may be extended provided it does not exceed the project's final deadline.

The total amount of the research grant is EUR 22.672,00 (gross), to be issued in instalments at the end of each month. This amount includes INPS (National Welfare Institute) duties to be paid by the research grant beneficiary; it does not include the duties to be paid by the Institution as per art. 2, sub 26 and the following subs of Law n. 335 of August 8th, 1995 and subsequent amendments and addenda. The tax benefits provided for by art. 4 of Law n.476 of August 13th, 1984 subsequent amendments and addenda are applicable.

All travel expenses, included the ones borne by the research grant beneficiary, shall only be reimbursed upon submission of travel receipts, as per the current rules and regulations.

CREA provides insurance coverage for injury and civil responsibility risks.

The awarding of the research grant is subject to the inclusion of the amounts due into the CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops budget.

Art. 3

General eligibility and compatibility criteria

The selection is open to Italian and foreign citizens who, on the day of the application deadline, meet the following requirements:

1. university degree (pursuant to Ministerial Decree 509/99, 270/04 or previous university regulations);
2. good knowledge of spoken and written English;
3. good knowledge of spoken and written Italian (for foreign applicants);
4. possible knowledge of a second foreign language (besides the English one) to be chosen between French, German and Spanish.

Those who participate in the selection can participate:

1. being younger than 35 years of age;
2. not having entered fixed-term contracts, employer-coordinated freelance work contracts, agency-coordinated contracts, professional consultancy and work contracts with CREA;
3. not having been the beneficiary of CREA research grants/scholarships whose duration, if added to the duration of the current research grant, exceeds 35 months. This condition may result in exclusion, because the duration of the research grant cannot be shortened.

Academic and professional qualifications obtained abroad must be equivalent to the ones required in Italy and be duly recognised by the Italian competent authorities.

CREA permanent employees and the categories of individuals specified in sub 1 art. 22 of Law 240/2010 are not eligible for participation in the current selection procedure.

The following conditions are not compatible with the awarding of the research grant offered by this call:

- a) being the beneficiary of other scholarships of any nature, grants and other subsidies of a similar nature, except funds provided by national or foreign entities financing complementary research to be carried out abroad, in the field of activity specified by the research grant awarding agreement, at the same time as the research grant provided for by this call;
- b) attendance of university courses (3-years or 5-years), grant-supported Ph.D. courses in Italy and abroad; the awarding of the research grant implies unpaid leave from work for the employees of public administration bodies.

The selection is open to all applicants: admission is determined according to the requirements mentioned above. These requirements shall be verified by an expert panel whose decision is irrevocable.

CREA may, at any moment, decide to exclude applicants from the selection for failure to meet the specified requirements. Any such decision must be duly justified and shall be notified by registered mail with proof of delivery.

Art. 4

Application and deadline for submission

The application shall be written on plain paper according to the form provided in **attachment 1** of this call. The application and all relevant qualification certificates and documents may be submitted by hand or registered mail with proof of delivery to **CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops - Corso Savoia 190 - 95024 Acireale (CT) Italy**; alternatively, they may be submitted by certified e-mail (ci@pec.crea.gov.it), strictly within **20 days** from the date of publication of the call in the Official Journal of the Italian Republic – IV Special Section – Selection procedures. Any delay in submitting the application shall cause exclusion from the selection procedure.

All applicants shall personally undersign their application; signatures shall not be authenticated. Failure to sign the application may result in exclusion from the selection procedure.

The date of delivery of applications is proved by:

1. for applications submitted by hand: the stamp and protocol date of the Research Centre;
2. for applications submitted by mail: the stamp and date of the post office receiving the application;
3. for applications submitted by certified e-mail: the date of reception by the recipient.

The applicant's name, surname and address and the code of the research grant application must be written on the envelope containing the application form and related documents.

CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops waives any responsibility for any failure in notifying applicants in case the applicant has provided an erroneous or incomplete address, failed to notify any changes of the address provided in the application form or to do so in a timely fashion, or in case of delays by the mail service or other third parties, unpredictable or force majeure events, failure to return the proof of delivery (in case of submission by registered mail).

Applicants shall specify the address of delivery of any notifications regarding the selection procedure in the application form.

The current call and related attachments shall be published in the CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops Centre official list and shall also be made available on the website of CREA, www.crea.gov.it, Tenders and competitions / Competition notices - Work / Training section.

Art. 5

Declarations to be included in the application

In his/her application, the applicant shall declare under her/his own responsibility (false declarations may result in exclusion from the selection procedure):

- 1) her/his name, surname, place and date of birth, place of residence, domicile for the selection procedure (please specify the ZIP code and, if possible, include your telephone number and e-mail address);
- 2) the possession of Italian citizenship or of one of the Member States of the European Union;
- 3) that he/she has a good knowledge of Italian (foreign citizens);
- 4) that she/he has obtained the academic qualifications required by article 3 of this call. This declaration shall include the day of the awarding, the final score (Italian citizens), the name(s) of the University(ies) where the qualification(s) was(were) obtained. Applicants with qualifications obtained abroad shall specify whether they have been recognised as the equivalent of the qualifications required in Italy as per the relevant international agreements, pursuant to art. 332 of Consolidated Law n. 1592 of 31/12/1993 and as specified by Legislative Decree n. 115/1992;
- 5) that she/he has a good knowledge of any additional foreign languages (French, German, or Spanish) and is willing to undergo an additional oral exam;

- 6) that she/he has a good knowledge of English;
- 7) that she/he has not entered any fixed-term contracts, employer-coordinated freelance work contracts, agency-coordinated contracts, professional consultancy and work contracts with CREA;
- 8) that she/he is not the beneficiary of CREA research grants/scholarships whose duration, if added to the duration of the current research grant, exceeds 35 months. This condition may result in exclusion because the duration of the research grant cannot be shortened;
- 9) that she/he has not been convicted or found guilty of any criminal offence and is not currently the object of any criminal proceedings (if this is the case, please state the name of the criminal offence and the nature of the pending criminal proceedings);
- 10) that she/ he is (or is not) a permanent employee of the Public Administration;
- 11) that she/he shall notify any changes of residence or domicile in a timely fashion;
- 12) that she/he authorises the processing of her/his personal data, as per the General Data Protection Regulation di n. 679/2016 - GDPR.

The applicant shall declare that she/he is aware that false declarations are punishable by law (art. 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000). Failure to sign the applications or to include personal data or the required declarations in the application and failure to submit applications by the deadline indicated in Article 4 shall cause exclusion from the selection procedure.

By submitting the application, the candidate implicitly accepts that the duration of the scholarship may also be less than 12 (twelve) === months, depending on the expiry date of the reference project.

Art. 6 Documents to be included

The following documents are to be attached to the application form. Failure to attach these documents **may result in exclusion** from the selection procedure:

- a) a complete photocopy of a valid identification document;
- b) the applicant's university degree, with final degree score and the score of each individual exam;
- c) qualifications and certificates concerning the applicant's post-university professional scientific activity as a researcher carried out in Italy or abroad;
- d) the applicant's scientific and professional curriculum (on plain paper, with date and signature);
- e) publications or articles in press accompanied by a certificate stating acceptance;
- f) a list of all documents, qualifications, certificates and publications submitted (**att. 2** with date and signature).

All documents, qualifications and certificates can be submitted as original documents, certified copies or as copies accompanied by a declaration in substitution of attested affidavit (**att. 4**) pursuant to art. 19 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000.

If documents, qualifications and certificates are not submitted as original documents or copies, the applicant must submit a personal declaration of certification (**att. 3**) as per art. 46 of Presidential Decree 445/2000.

CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops reserves itself the right to verify that all documents and declarations are true or to request the original documents before entering the research grant contract.

Once the deadline has expired, it will not be possible to replace the qualifications or documents already submitted.

The application form and the attachments must be duly signed; failure to do so may cause the application to be considered null and void.

Art. 7

Expert Panel for the selection and evaluation of applicants and merit rankings

The members of the Expert Panel shall be appointed via a provision by the Director of the Research Centre funding the research activities (except in the cases provided for by Art. 1, comma 2, par. 2). The Panel is composed of three members: one is selected among the experts registered in the official list of consultants published on the Agency's website and fulfilling the functions of Chairman; another among CREA's permanent employees working as a professional Researcher or Technologist Expert in a different Research Centre from the one where the research grant beneficiary is to work; the third expert is the scientific coordinator of research.

The total score is 30 and scores shall be assigned according to the following criteria:

- **22 scores** for academic qualifications, to be assigned as follows:

a) university degree final score	<u>max 4 scores</u>
b) publications max 5 publications given by the applicant	<u>max 10 scores</u>
c) qualifications and certificates in the research field: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ph.D.• post-university qualifications and research assignments of at least six months• research grants, scholarships	<u>max 8 scores</u>

- **8 scores** for the oral exam. The oral exam shall revolve around the subjects related to the research grant. During the exam, the applicant's knowledge of English, basic IT skills, any second languages and Italian (for foreign applicants) shall also be tested. Only applicants who are assigned a minimum score of **6** shall pass the exam.

The criteria for the evaluation of academic qualifications shall be determined by the Panel during their first meeting.

The evaluation of academic qualifications shall precede the oral exam and the English test. The results of the evaluation of academic qualifications shall be published before the date of the oral exam on the Council official site, in the training/work section. The date and place of the oral exam shall also be published on the website.

The publication of the outcomes is to be considered an official notification of exclusion of any applicants due to lack of requirements.

In order to sit the oral exam, applicants must provide a valid identification document.

Once the oral exam is complete, the Panel shall draft the merit rankings according to each applicant's total score, which consists of the sum of the score assigned to the academic qualifications and the oral exam score.

The merit rankings shall be officially finalised by the Director of the Centre which has published the call: to this end, in case several applicants have been assigned the same score, the youngest applicant shall be awarded a higher position in the rankings.

The Director of the Centre shall publish the merit rankings on the official website of CREA, www.crea.gov.it, Tenders and competitions / Competition notices - Work / Training section.

Art. 8

Awarding of the research grant and termination

The Director of the Research Centre which has published the call for application shall verify the procedure has been properly carried out, approve the Panel's proceedings, finalise the merit

rankings and officially announce the research grant awardee. The research grant beneficiary shall be officially notified the awarding of the research grant via registered mail with proof of delivery or by certified electronic mail.

Within 15 days from the reception of this notification, the awardee of the research grant must provide the **Director of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops with a declaration of unconditional acceptance of the research grant according to the terms established in this call**, sent via registered mail with proof of delivery or by certified electronic mail.

The research grant is awarded via a private contract entered into by the Director of CREA-Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops and the individual selected according to the final merit rankings, who shall be summoned to sign the contract.

Upon signing, the research grant beneficiary shall:

- 1) officially declare, under her/his own sole responsibility, that for the entire duration of the funding she/he shall not receive any other subsidies of any nature, except funding by national or foreign entities for complementary research activities to be carried out abroad;
- 2) submit the documents certifying unpaid leave from work in case the research grant beneficiary is an employee of a public administration body.

In case the awardee renounces the research grant, the applicants in the following positions of the merit rankings shall be awarded the grant. The merit rankings shall remain valid for the entire duration of the research grant.

Should the awardee fail to officially accept the research grant by the established deadline, her/his right to funding shall be forfeited.

In addition, should the research grant beneficiary fail to start and/or carry out the research activities as per the terms and conditions set forth by the contract, she/he shall lose her/his right to funding. In this case, the contract is to be considered immediately terminated.

The awarding of the research grant shall not, in any case, be considered as an employment contract and it does not imply access to official positions within CREA.

The research grant beneficiary may terminate the contract by giving at least 30 days' notice.

The research grant beneficiary undertakes to comply with the internal rules regulating the activity of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops.

Art. 9

Interruption and loss of funding

1. Funding is suspended in case the research grant beneficiary takes compulsory maternity leave or sick leave exceeding 30 days.
2. The interruptions mentioned above shall not imply forfeiture of the right to complete the research activities; however, funding shall cease until research is resumed, except in the cases provided for by art. 22, sub 6 of Law 240/2010. In these cases, the duration of the contract is extended by a period corresponding to the period of funding suspension.
3. If the research grant beneficiary starts carrying out research activities then ceases to do so on a regular and continuous basis for the entire duration of the grant without justifying such behaviour; in case of serious and reiterated breaches of the grant contract conditions or, finally, if the research grant beneficiary proves not suitable for the task, the research grant can be terminated by a provision enacted by the Director of CREA – Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops, upon justified request by the scientific research coordinator (Tutor).
4. Should the research grant beneficiary become unable to complete the research task for personal reasons and renounce her/his right to funding before completion, she/he shall notify the Director of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops and research tutor in a timely fashion.

Art. 10

Research activity and evaluation

The activities to be carried out by the research grant beneficiary shall be determined according to a plan jointly agreed by the awardee and the person responsible for the research line.

The scientific coordinator ensures that the research activities related to the grant are carried out properly and reports to the Director of the Research Centre on the activities carried out by the beneficiary via a written report to be submitted on an annual basis.

The research grant beneficiary shall send the scientific coordinator a report on the activities he/she has carried out on an annual basis. The report shall be evaluated by the Director of the Centre, based, among other considerations, on the report by the scientific coordinator.

Art. 11

Return of documents

Applicants may request to be returned the submitted documents (all related expenses shall be borne by the applicants themselves) within six months from the publication of the merit rankings. Documents shall be returned unless the Panel's decision is subject to appeal. After six months, the CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops shall make use of these materials according to its own needs.

Art. 12

Processing of personal data

Personal data provided by candidates in their application forms are processed as per the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation n. 679/2016 – GDPR, solely for selection purposes and connected to the awarding of this research grant.

The Director of CREA - Research Centre
for Cereal and Industrial Crops
(*prof. Nicola Pecchioni*)

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