

Seed Money for Projects

Rules

1. Program Objectives

The objective of the CentrEau Seed Money Program is to promote the emergence of collaborative and cross-sectorial research projects in the field of water by giving seed money to researchers (financial leverage).

2. Financing

At least, three (6) non-renewable \$ 20,000 envelopes are available each year.

These amounts are to be used to cover research-related expenses:

- At least 10 % should serve as scholarship supplements for graduate students working on the project;
- Maximum 90 % can be used, in accordance with the [FRQ general rules](#) and the [FRQNT strategic clusters rules](#), for:
 - o salary of highly qualified personnel (technicians, research staff and students)
 - o equipment and materials
 - o scholarship supplements
 - o travel expenses
 - o professional fees
 - o knowledge and technology transfer costs

3. Eligibility Conditions

To be eligible, the project must:

- Involve at least 2 researchers who are regular members of CentrEau, coming from 2 different institutions.
- Relate to at least 2 research areas of CentrEau, including the axis Governance and water management;
- Be part of a larger project for which a grant application (to a funding agency) is planned (the CentrEau seed money must be used as a financial lever).

In exchange for financial support from the Seed Money Program, researchers agree to:

- Submit an application for funding (financial leverage) for this project to granting organizations as soon as possible (NSERC/SSHRC, FRQ, Mitacs, ministries, municipalities, etc.) and inform the Scientific Director;
- Manage and organize the data at the end of the project to facilitate data sharing.
- Identify themselves (affiliation) to CentrEau – Quebec Water Management Research Center.
- Thank CentrEau and use its logo during activities linked to the project.
- Thank the FRQNT and use its logo when possible.
- Present a poster or a conference at an event organized by CentrEau.

4. Selection Criteria

The Scientific Committee will select the recipients of the envelopes from among the eligible applications. The research project must:

- Be new (not yet started or has started for a maximum of six months at the date of submission of the application).

- Encourage inter-institutional collaboration (participation of a minimum of two regular members from two different partner institutions). The project must be in line with CentrEau's research program;
- The project can be in line with the themes highlighted in CentrEau's scientific planning:
 - Human and environmental health;
 - Sustainable and intelligent agriculture;
 - Hydroclimatic issues;
 - Green infrastructures;
 - Reduction of contaminants and nutrients in watercourses;
 - Valorization of water resources;
- Be large-scale (indicators: number of institutions involved, number of researchers and/or students involved, size of the proposed project).

The Committee will pay particular attention to:

- Diversity, equity and inclusion of researchers and HQP.
- The diversity of research areas, institutions and disciplines involved.

The following will be considered as assets:

- The involvement of a CCTT;
- International perspectives of the project
- Where links have been made to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

5. Application

There will be two to three calls for projects per year. Researchers must submit their demand to info@centreau.org with a 3-pages (max) document including:

- A summary of the research project.
- A description of how the project fits with CentrEau's scientific programming.
- The scope of the project for society.
- The start and end dates of the project.
- Deliverables and global timeline.
- A budget breakdown for the \$20,000.
- The name of the principal investigator (PI) and a list of researchers and students (if possible) involved in the CentrEau grant application.
- Names of researchers and HQP (if possible) involved in the subsequent grant application to a granting agency;
- The name of the granting agency to which the subsequent application would be submitted;
- EDI: how equity, diversity, and inclusion are ensured in the team (we are not looking at the composition of the research team, but rather whether the necessary conditions for EDI have been put in place. See the [toolbox on our website »](#)).

Applications will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee. The response will be sent to the PI by email as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of researchers to submit their applications as soon as possible.

6. Transfer of the funds

Financial support will be provided through an inter-institutional transfer of funds that will flow through the institutional representative of the PI's institution (or multiple transfers of funds if the researchers involved each wish to obtain a portion of the funding).

7. Follow-up report

Six (6) months after the financial support is received, the PI must complete a [follow-up form](#) describing how the seed funding received has fostered the emergence of a promising, large-scale, collaborative and intersectoral research project and whether other funds (and in what amount) were obtained for the same project as a result of CentrEau funding.

At the end of the fiscal year, institutions that have received seed funding will be required to complete a financial statement on FRQnet.

8. Modification or cancellation of the application

Any person who has submitted an application must inform the Scientific Committee in writing of the abandonment, cancellation or modification of its original application before the conference is held. In case of a cancellation, the costs incurred, if any, are not reimbursed.