

# Plant and Seed Sciences Partnership Program

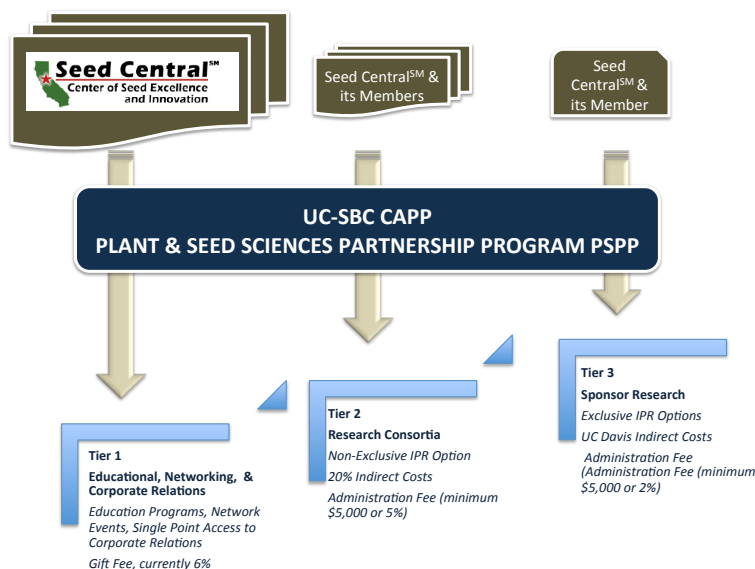
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## About the Plant and Seed Sciences Partnership Program

The Plant and Seed Sciences Partnership Program (PSPP) is coordinated by the Seed Biotechnology Center (SBC) within the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Davis (UC Davis). The PSPP is a Corporate Affiliates Partnership Program (CAPP) designed to facilitate interactions between UC Davis and Seed Central and its members. Seed Central, the seed industry cluster surrounding UC Davis, was created as an initiative of the SBC and SeedQuest. Seed Central is incorporated as a California non-profit mutual benefit corporation. Its members are seed industry companies and organizations in California, in the U.S., and overseas.

The PSPP offers three tiers of participation customized to the research and educational objectives of Seed Central and its members.

- **Tier 1** offers Seed Central and its members a mechanism to collaborate with UC Davis to create and deliver educational opportunities and networking activities focused on issues relevant to the seed industry. Under Tier 1, funds will be provided by the donor, and received by the University, in the form of gifts from each member/donor enabling University to continue its research in the general area of donor's interest, and will follow all rules and regulations governing receipt and use of gifts by tax-exempt entities such as the University. All gifts to the University are subject to "gift fee" which is currently 6% of the amount of each gift. Tier 1 also is the starting platform that gives Seed Central and its members access to Tier 2 consortia or Tier 3 individually sponsored research agreements, which has same rights and responsibilities as corporate sponsored research at UC Davis.
- **Tier 2** provides a mechanism for creating corporate consortia to sponsor and conduct collaborative research following scope of work collectively agreed upon by the participating members and the University, which may accelerate commercialization of new discoveries. Seed Central and its members who choose to engage in each Tier 2 research consortia will provide full direct costs associated with the agreed upon research, and will benefit from a reduced indirect cost (overhead) rates and option for negotiating co-exclusive or non-exclusive intellectual property rights (IPRs).
- **Tier 3** allows Seed Central and each of its members to take advantage of the PSPP corporate relations services to facilitate individual sponsored research agreements, fund projects specific to their respective interests and speed technology transfer. The agreements entered into with each interested member separately will be for specific agreed upon research in the member's area of interest, and will follow University policy and regulations governing corporate sponsored research, including sponsor's commitment for payment of full direct, and federally negotiated indirect costs of conducting the research. Under Tier 3, the sponsor contractually has the option to elect to negotiate with the aim of receiving licenses for commercialization of the resulting Intellectual property.



## Tier 1: PSPP Educational, Networking, and Corporate Relations Benefits

- UC Davis will assist networking programs by attracting students, faculty and staff as participants and presenters in Seed Central's networking programs.
- UC Davis will assist in recruiting highly skilled UC Davis graduate and undergraduate students for internships or employment opportunities offered by Seed Central's members.

- The PSPP will provide a single point of access to Corporate Relations services, which will facilitate and guide Seed Central and its members who wish to establish Tier 2 or 3 research consortia or sponsored research agreements.

## Costs

- Tier 1 Partnership contribution of \$5,000 annually and additional support from Seed Central for its activities and services in collaboration with UC Davis.
- Tier 1 contributions will be received as gifts to the Center, and will be assessed a gift fee which currently is 6% of the amount of the gift.

## Tier 2: PSPP Research Consortia

### Benefits

- Consolidation of funding of pre-competitive research in areas of interest to Seed Central and its members.
- Facilitation of establishment and administration of the Tier 2 research consortia.
- Seed Central and its members participating in each research consortium collectively decide on project objectives and how the research funds will be used.
- Industry members have pre-publication access to research resulting from the consortia projects.
- Pre-negotiated intellectual property rights for licensing technologies developed by PSPP, including:
  - All Tier 2 PSPP partners in a consortium will receive the same intellectual property benefits.
  - Technology jointly developed by UC Davis and Tier 2 industry members will be jointly owned.
  - Shared rights to co-exclusively license technologies developed under the aegis of the PSPP consortium or in some cases non-exclusive, royalty-free license options.
- Opportunity to participate in joint proposal submissions to federal programs, such as SBIR/STTR and GOALI, which encourage university-corporate partnerships.
- Facilitated guidance to establish Tier 3 research agreements.

### Costs

- Administration fee is a minimum direct cost of \$5,000 or 5% of total Tier 2 research consortia budget.
- Tier 2 activities are assessed a reduced indirect cost rate, currently at 20%.

#### Examples of Potential Tier 2 Research Consortia:

**Collaborative Research Lab:** *Focused pre-competitive research in cell biology (e.g., doubled haploids, tissue culture, transformation), bioinformatics and other topics of interest.*

**Molecular Markers for Breeding:** *DNA sequencing and development of DNA markers associated with an array of traits (e.g. disease resistance, quality, nutrition) in diverse crops.*

**Biotechnology Services:** *Opportunity to access transformation services and segregate conventional and transgenic research at different sites.*

**Foods for Health:** *Interdisciplinary research focused on technologies to improve the nutritional content of foods and their ability to promote health.*

**Customized Consortia:** *Tailored research focusing on industry needs.*

## Tier 3: PSPP Sponsored Research

### Benefits

- In addition to the benefits available under Tier 1 and 2, Seed Central and its members are able to establish closer links to the research programs on campus through Tier 3 project-specific research sponsorship agreements with individual sponsors.
- Technology jointly developed by UC Davis and Tier 3 industry members will be jointly owned.
- Tier 3 participants will have first option to negotiate an exclusive or non-exclusive license (at the sponsor's choice) to new intellectual property developed through the specific sponsored project.

### Costs

- Administration fee is a minimum direct cost of \$5,000 or 2% of the total Tier 3 research project budget.
- Tier 3 activities are subject to full University's federally negotiated indirect costs applicable to conducting funded research, currently 54%.