

## Seed Testing Research Foundation (STRF)

### Small-Scale Research Proposals

**INTRODUCTION:** The STRF Proposal Review Committee will consider funding small-scale projects that are quick, relatively inexpensive to complete, and answer a practical seed testing research question. The expected budget request should be between \$500 and \$1,000.

**REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must submit a one-page description of the project using the following template:

#### **STRF One Page Research Proposal Template**

**Date:** *[Enter date proposal is submitted]*

**Title:** *[Provide a brief title for the research proposal]*

**Purpose of Study:** *[In one or two sentences, describe the purpose of the study]*

**Justification:** *[Briefly describe the background and compelling reasons for conducting the research]*

**Research Design:** *[State the experimental design for the project]*

**Research Method:** *[Briefly describe the research work plan, including evaluation criteria]*

**Publication of Results:** *[Briefly describe how project results will be disseminated]*

**Budget:** *[Provide an itemized list of project needs and estimated cost]*

**Estimated Completion Date** (Note: A report is due 12 months after funding): *[Enter date project is expected to conclude]*

**Investigator Contact Information:** *[List name, address, phone, and email of the primary contact for the research project]*

An example proposal can be found on page 2.

**PROCESS:** As funds are available to support research projects, a Request for Proposals (RFP) will be advertised with a deadline for submission. All complete applications submitted by the deadline will be considered for awards. Applicants will be notified within 30 days of the deadline if the project is to be funded.

**SELECTION CRITERIA:** Applications will be reviewed by the Proposal Review Committee and scored based on alignment and intent (proposed project is in alignment with STRF's purpose of practical seed testing research); technical merit (work plan is novel, well-designed, and ready to be implemented at the time of the award); achievability (the project can be completed as described); and, budget (sufficient resources have been detailed to complete the project). Submitting entity is not required to be an AOSA or SCST member laboratory.

**AWARD PROCESS:** Awardees will be contacted by the Research Proposal Review Committee Chair to arrange payment. A progress report is expected at the mid-point of the project. Final results and financial report is due within 12 months.

**CONTACT:** Questions can be directed to the STRF Chair, Tim Gutormson (Tim.Gutormson@SoDakLabs.com; 605-692-2758) or the Proposal Review Committee Chair, Cindy Finneseth (Cindy.Finneseth@gmail.com; 859-494-6516)

## STRF Small-Scale Research Proposal Example

*Note: the project proposal is limited to a single page.*

**Date:** June 1, 2021

**Title:** Comparison of substrate methods for germination of cereal grains

**Purpose of Study:** Determine if TCS (on top of creped cellulose paper without a blotter and covered with a ½ to ¾ inch layer of sand) substrate method is equivalent to S (sand) or T (paper toweling) as a germination method for cereal grains. If TCS germination method is a suitable option for wheat, barley, rye, triticale, and sorghum, propose a rule change to the AOSA Rules for Testing Seeds to expand testing options.

**Justification:** Consistent germination moisture levels can be maintained by adding water to creped paper, followed by planting seed and covering with dry mason sand. Sand tests reduce light penetration resulting in less fungal mycelium growth and questionable seedlings.

**Research Design:** Randomized block design with four replicates, 10 seed lots, 3 media methods (T, S, TCS), and 4-6 laboratories.

**Research Method:** Participating laboratories will receive freshly harvested seed lots to test using 3 identified media methods. Response variables to be recorded are normal, abnormal, diseased seedlings, and dead/dormant seed. Once testing is complete, data will be returned to the investigator for compilation and statistical analysis for LSD and significant differences.

**Publication of Results:** Results, if supportive, will substantiate an AOSA Rule Proposal and be published in the newsletter. A poster presentation describing the study will be made at the annual meeting.

**Budget:** \$1,000 for postage to mail test packets to participating labs and to purchase seed.

**Estimated Completion Date:** August 31, 2022

**Investigator Contact Information:** Jane Doe, ABC Lab, 123 Seed Way, Washington DC 00000, (000) 000-0000; [jane.doe@seedlab.com](mailto:jane.doe@seedlab.com)



*The Seed Testing Research Fund (STRF) was established in 2002 to fund research and standardization of applied seed testing methods. The mission of STRF is to support applied research in seed testing, to promote standardization in laboratory seed testing, and to increase the benefits of seed analysis to the seed industry.*