

Call for preproposal for ideas and solutions targeting food, water and energy security challenges.

The Kasser Joint Institute for Food, Water, and Energy Security is a partnership of Jewish National Fund – USA, the University of Arizona, and the Arava Valley in Israel, committed to leveraging knowledge and research to empower communities in their pursuit of sustainable solutions.

The Kasser Joint Institute is seeking new solutions, ideas, and methods targeting food, water and energy issues that can be implemented in developing countries and rely on the knowledge and experience of its partner institutions in the Arava region and the University of Arizona.

About the Arava:

The Arava Valley, located in the south of Israel, is a hyper-arid region with temperatures reaching 45 degrees Celsius in the summer, with less than 25 millimetres of rain during the year. For the past 50 years, under these challenging conditions, the residents of the Arava have managed to build a modern, vibrant community with an economy based on agriculture, food production industries, solar energy, water recycling, research, and academic programs. The research in the Arava targets challenges of hyper arid environments, water salinity and quantity, climate-based agriculture and alternative energy. The solutions developed in the region provide the groundwork on which to build global solutions to these issues.

About the University of Arizona:

Located in one of the most arid portions of the United States, the University of Arizona is recognized globally for its research related to broad aspects of arid lands including the natural environment and agriculture. Its water resources research has been ranked among the best in the world by the Shanghai Ranking. Water sustainability is a critical natural resource concern in Arizona, the western United States, and globally. The University of Arizona's focus on solutions to the challenges to food, water, and energy security includes work based at many colleges and research centers, including the College of Agriculture, Life and Environmental Sciences, Arizona Experiment Station, Water & Energy Sustainable Technology (WEST) Center, the Yuma Center of Excellence for Desert Agriculture, the Water Resources Research Center, and the Indigenous Resilience Center. The iconic laboratory Biosphere 2 serves as a unique platform for research in sustainability, including the role of the microbiome in agriculture.

Application process:

The application process is a two-stage process, starting with this brief pre-proposal followed by a detailed application for proposals that align with the scope of work and objectives of the Kasser Joint Institute.

One project will be selected annually and will be funded in the amount of \$50,000-\$100,000 a year.

Preconditions:

1. The solution is relevant to the Arava region in Israel and addresses a challenge from the Arava such as water salinity or potability, arid land agriculture, efficient water use, postharvest handling and storage solutions, market distance, and climate resilient crops.
2. The solution should address food security, water scarcity, salinity, or potability, and or sustainable energy and can be implemented in developing countries or communities struggling with such issues.
3. Projects must include a collaboration between the Kasser joint Institute's partners in the Arava and the University of Arizona such as: joint research, complementary services, etc.

Submission Deadline - April 18, 2024

Apply now

The partnering institutions:

Central Arava R&D Center <http://en.agri.arava.co.il/>

Southern Arava R&D Center <https://aravard.org.il/en/home/>

Dead Sea and Arava Science Center <https://www.adssc.org/en/>

Arava Institute for Environmental Studies <https://arava.org/>

Eilat Eilat Renewable Energy <https://www.eilateilot.org/>

The University of Arizona <https://www.arizona.edu/>

For more information on the work of the Kasser Joint Institute visit: <https://jointinstitute.jnf.org/>

For questions on this pre-proposal, contact Tania Pons Allon at tallon@jnf.org