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Call for pre-proposals

With this call for pre-proposals for scientific research, Cosun Nutrition Center wants to contribute to the scientific knowledge of *health and sustainability of plant-based nutrition.*

**About Cosun Nutrition Center**

Cosun Nutrition Center is a scientific knowledge center for plant-based nutrition and is part of the cooperative agri-food company [Royal Cosun](https://www.cosun.com/). Cosun Nutrition Center provides scientific information about plant-based food and food ingredients in relation to nutrition, health and sustainability to health professionals. In addition, Cosun Nutrition Center participates in scientific research on plant-based nutrition.

The communication of Cosun Nutrition Center is based on scientific facts and on (inter)national guidelines from independent advisory bodies such as those of the Health Council of the Netherlands and the European Food Safety Authority. The center cooperates with a Scientific Council which is responsible for the content and policy of scientific activities and communication.

For more information, visit [www.cosunnutritioncenter.com](http://www.cosunnutritioncenter.com).

**Budget**

For 2023-2024 Cosun Nutrition Center has a budget available of € 120.000,- for several research projects. For each project there will be a maximum budget of € 40.000,-. Matching from, for example, Dutch Research Council (NWO) or other public/private financial sources is preferred.

**Possible research topics**

All research topics on the association between plant-based nutrients and sustainability or health-related outcomes are welcomed. Possible research topics are:

* Plant proteins and/or carbohydrates in a sustainable diet.
* Communication and consumer behavior with respect to plant proteins
* The role of carbohydrates (i.e. sugars, starch and fibers) in metabolic diseases, physical and mental performance/health.
* The effect of carbohydrates (i.e. sugars, starch and fibers) on the microbiome and immune responses.
* Special sugars (e.g. d-allulose, L-arabinose) and their health effects.
* Risk-benefit assessment and public health impacts (cost-benefit assessment) of plant ingredients versus animal-based ingredients.

**Participation criteria**

* Multi-party collaboration (e.g. industry, other research institutions, government NL or EU, etc.);
* Publication in an international scientific journal and a publication in a Dutch professional journal for health professionals;
* Research must be conducted by researchers with an academic degree in the field of nutrition, a relevant health/medical specialization or consumer research/communication;
* As a part of our commitment to transparency, we will make the approved research proposal public (including the financial contributions of the various participants).

**Selection process**

The selection process consists of two phases. The submitted pre-proposals are assessed by the Scientific Council of Cosun Nutrition Center. Invitation to the full proposal phase is subject to a positive recommendation of the pre-proposal. The Scientific Council consists of experts, with expertise in the fields of nutrition, health and communication. Members of the Scientific Council are:

* *Prof.dr. Frans Kok (chair) – Emeritus Professor of Nutrition and Health, Wageningen University*
* *Prof.dr. Wim Saris – Emeritus Professor of Human Nutrition, Maastricht University*
* *Prof.dr. Wim Verbeke – Professor of Agro-food Marketing and Consumer Behaviour, Ghent University*
* *Prof.dr. Hans Verhagen - Visiting Professor Ulster University (Northern Ireland) en Technical University Denmark (DTU, Denmark)*
* *Prof.dr. M.D. Lisbeth Mathus-Vliegen – Gastroenterologist, Emeritus Professor Clinical Nutrition, Amsterdam University Medical Centers*

**Who can respond and how?**

Any researcher affiliated with a university or research institution respond. Send the completed pre-proposal form to: [harm.van.baar@cosunnutritioncenter.com](mailto:harm.van.baar@cosunnutritioncenter.com)

The Scientific Council then reviews the submitted pre-proposals and will select a limited number of proposals that can be further developed into a complete proposal.

**Deadline**

Pre-proposals can be submitted until December 18th, 2022.

**More information is available at:**

Dr. Harm van Baar, nutrition and health manager of the Cosun Nutrition Center.

[harm.van.baar@cosunnutritioncenter.com](mailto:harm.van.baar@cosunnutritioncenter.com)

Tel: 035-5433455

**PRE-PROPOSAL FORM**

1. **General information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name: |  |
| Contact details (e-mail / phone number): |  |
| University or research institution: |  |
| Educational background: |  |

1. **Project title**

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1. **Research idea, motivation and research question**

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| *Briefly describe what you would like to research, what your motivation is for this and which research questions you want to answer (max. 300 words).* |

1. **Research methodology**

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| *Briefly describe the scientific approach and the methods and techniques you intend to use (max. 300 words).* |

1. **Expected results and their relevance**

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| *Briefly describe what results you expect to be able to deliver and what the results of the research will contribute to Cosun (max. 100 words).* |

1. **Schedule and cost**

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| *Briefly describe the time schedule and the costs of the project (max. 100 words).* |

1. **Relevant own publications**

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| *Enter three of your most relevant publications.* |