



Washington Oilseed Cropping Systems Competitive Grant Program Request for Proposals

The Washington Oilseed Cropping Systems Project exists to catalyze research and extension activities that stimulate and improve oilseed cultivation in Washington as part of the Washington State Biofuels Initiative. Research and extension activities are focused on what the USDA defines as ‘other oilseeds’ and are primarily focused on canola, but also include camelina, crambe, flaxseed, mustard seed, rapeseed, safflower, sesame seed, or sunflower seed. Please discuss proposals addressing oilseed crops not on this list with the program director prior to grant submission.

The goal of the Washington Oilseed Cropping Systems request for proposals is to engage WSU faculty to advance oilseed production through applied and fundamental research and extension projects. WOCS funding can be requested to stimulate research based on applied or fundamental solutions to oilseed production constraints.

Allocations provided by the Washington State Biofuels Initiative for research and extension totaled \$400,000 in 2023/2025 but we have received \$295,000 for the biennium 2025/2027. The current call is for one or two-year proposals funded for the 2025/27 biennium.

Research Priorities

Research priorities in the 2025/2027 biennium are based on input from the Washington Oilseed Commission and the WOCS SAC.

Crop Establishment

- Identification of optimum planting dates for spring canola, and quantification of delayed planting impact on yield
- Identification or development of germplasm capable of deeper emergence
- Seeding rates vs. plant population in different rainfall zones
- Seeding depth and timing on summer fallow to optimize winter survival; seeding depth x variety
- Development of guidelines for optimal seeding rates using drills



Crop Management and Agronomics

- Quantification of rotational benefits of oilseeds; effects of intensification, order of rotation
- Growth regulators for early-seeded winter canola to improve winter survival
- Identification of practices for producing stable yield, particularly fall establishment practices
- Assessment of alternative oilseeds (as defined by the USDA)

Nutrient Management

- Identification of economic optimum fertilizer management practices for yield stabilization and return on investment

Pest and Disease Management and Biology

- Development of online tools for oilseed disease and insect pest diagnosis and identification
- Development of economic thresholds for important insect and disease pests, timing of inputs

Economics

- Development of enterprise budgets for canola production
- Assessment of economic risk associated with oilseed production



Proposal Guidelines

Please review the following guidelines as they have changed from previous years:

- Proposals must be submitted through the electronic templates provided. Proposals not submitted through the electronic templates will be disqualified and not reviewed.
- Additional pages (beyond the template provided) are limited to a 1-page document to provide two supplementary graphics or tables *only*. Use of the additional document to expand narrative will disqualify the proposal.
- PIs and co-PIs must provide a 2-page biographical sketch by email with their final proposal submission (either USDA NIFA or NSF format).
- WOCS funding may not be used for faculty salary augmentation and salary accruals are not allowed.
- Salary may be requested for non-PBL supported faculty and staff.
- Projects that are leveraged with other grant or gift support are encouraged.
- Upon award notification, a Grant Compliance Form that serves as the project contract will be required for awarded projects: the form will be reviewed and approved prior to the transfer of funds.

Any questions regarding appropriate proposal topics or allowable expenses should be directed to the WOCS Director, Surendra Singh, surendra.singh@wsu.edu.

Funding Awards

Awards are available in the range of \$5,000 to \$40,000/yr, for one or two years.

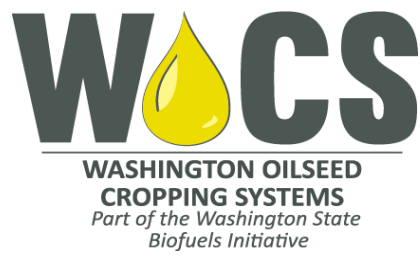
Proposal Review

External reviewers will be requested to review and rank proposals. Reviewers will include growers and industry representatives as well as scientists that are familiar with PNW oilseed production.

Criterion for funding decisions will include the following:

- Potential for improving oilseed cropping systems,
- Potential for resulting in publishable results,
- Past history of producing publications and extension material for WOCS,
- Potential for leading to funding through external sources.

Graduate student training is viewed favorably, and integration with other WOCS proposals is *highly encouraged*. Tuition for the graduate students will be *waived* for proposals funded through WOCS. Evidence of efforts to seek additional funding for applied field research projects, particularly projects suitable for Washington Oilseed Commission funding, should be provided. The rubric, subject to change by the review team, quantifies the dimensions we will use to evaluate the proposal:



Project Grant Scoring Criteria	Research	Research and Extension
Does this proposal fit the WOCS RFP and address eligible topics?	Yes/No	Yes/No
Innovation or scientific contribution	35	15
Appropriate methods/procedures for proposed project	25	25
Impact potential	25	25
Interdisciplinary partnerships	10	15
Extension Evaluation plan	(0)	15
Document quality	5	5
Appropriate cost – assessed and negotiated after proposal review	-	-
Total	100	100

Depending on the quality of proposals and availability of funds, single year proposals may be started or renewed in a second funding opportunity mid-biennium (a second funding opportunity may or may not occur).

Timeline:

Proposal Due Date: December 15, 2025

Funding notification: February 1, 2026