

## 2026 Research Grant

### Call for Research Projects

#### GUIDELINES

The International Nut and Dried Fruit Council (INC) invites clinical research proposals from researchers at public and private institutions to advance understanding of the role of **nuts and dried fruits in diabetes prevention**.

Only applications proposing a multi-center, multi-national randomized controlled trial will be considered. To be eligible, the trial must include at least one center each in Europe, Asia, and North America, and must investigate an intervention that includes a minimum of three nuts and/or dried fruit products, with a follow-up period of at least 12 months.

Since the INC represents 16 nuts and dried fruits, namely almonds, Amazonia (Brazil) nuts, cashews, hazelnuts, macadamias, pecans, pine nuts, pistachios, walnuts, peanuts, dates, dried apricots, dried cranberries, dried figs, dried grapes, and prunes, research projects must include at least three products. Projects that compare nuts or dried fruits among themselves will **not** be accepted.

A total of **up to €2.75 million** is available for this grant. This call is open for both **co-funded and non co-funded projects**.

#### Application Instructions

Applicants must submit the [Application Form](#) by **February 10, 2026, at 11:59 pm (CET)**

Please send your [Application Form](#) as one single PDF file via email to e-mail to [inc@nutfruit.org](mailto:inc@nutfruit.org). We need an electronic copy only. Please do not send paper copies.

#### Grant Conditions and Financing

**Total Funding Available:** Up to €2.75 million

**Overheads:** The allocation for overheads shall not exceed 10% of the total direct costs associated with the proposed project.

**Co-Funding:** This call is open for both co-funded and non co-funded projects. In the case of co-funded projects, the applicant is responsible for obtaining additional funding. Subsidizers may include public or private sector research organizations, as well as business and other partner organizations whenever these bring distinctive contributions to the research project. The project cannot start until the subsidizers have been secured. Applicants will have up to 12 months to deliver the list of subsidizers. If the applicant has been unable to secure external co-funding within one year, the INC will no longer reserve funding for the project.

The **final funding decision** will be made by the INC Executive Committee.

**Grant Agreement:** If the application is successful, an agreement will be drawn up between the INC and the applicant. The information provided in the Application Form will provide the basis for the agreement. If the information is incorrect or significant elements are no longer applicable when the agreement is due for signature, the INC reserves the right to revise its decision about funding.

All applicant's costs and charges incurred as a result of making the application shall be for the applicant's account and cannot be claimed as part of the project.

### **Who can apply?**

Researchers from public and private institutions. INC will only accept one project per Principal Investigator and institution.

### **Reservations**

A positive evaluation does not automatically guarantee funding. The final funding decision will be made by the INC Executive Committee.

There shall be no expectation of grant unless and until a Grant Agreement is signed by both parties and the appropriate ethics approval, the research protocol as well as all other approvals and insurance certificates, if applicable, have been granted and a copy received in the INC Office.

### **Research Ethics**

All research must comply with national regulations and the following:

- **Convention of April 4, 1997** on Protection of Human Rights and Dignity in Biology and Medicine
- **Declaration of Helsinki**, latest version
- Registration of clinical trials (e.g., ClinicalTrials.gov) as required by the **ICMJE**

Applicants must obtain all necessary **ethics and institutional approvals**. Funding will not be released until approvals and insurance certificates are received by the INC.

### **Reporting Requirements**

- **Progress Reports:** Every 6 months, using INC templates.
- **Intermediate Report:** At project midpoint, detailing outcomes, impact, and expenditure.
- **Final Report:** Within 1 month (or 3 months if the project lasts for more than 24 months) of completion, detailing outcomes, impact, and justified expenses.

### **Responsibilities of the Grantee**

The applicant will be responsible for the project management. The INC will not be liable for damages arising from project activities, including personal injury, data loss, or other direct/indirect losses.

### **Mandatory Reference**



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All publications, presentations, and communications must acknowledge INC support: **“Supported by the INC International Nut and Dried Fruit Council”**

### **Communication Plan**

Once the project is completed, investigators must promptly submit a manuscript for publication in a scientific journal and notify INC. In addition, investigators should participate in communications efforts, including press releases and social media, to disseminate study results.