Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems
2014 Graduate Student Summer Mini-Grant Program
Deadline: April 28, 2014

The Center for Integrated Agricultural Systems (CIAS) invites graduate student applications for our summer mini-grant program, which is made possible through a generous donation from the Single Step Foundation. These awards will provide up to $2,000 for graduate student research. While we welcome applications in any area related to CIAS’s work (www.cias.wisc.edu), grants aligned with the CIAS mini-grant priority areas will receive higher priority. Our 2014 priority areas are perennialization of the landscape; climate change, agriculture and food systems; and labor and fair trade in local and regional food systems. See the next page for detailed descriptions of these priority areas. Undergraduate research is not eligible for funding through this program. Funds cannot be used for travel to conferences and meetings. However, funds may be used for student salary (up to a maximum of $400), travel required to conduct research, farmer honoraria and supplies. To be eligible, the applicant’s faculty advisor must currently be, or must be willing to become, a faculty associate of CIAS (www.cias.wisc.edu/category/faculty-associates/). Contact Mike Bell, CIAS Director, at michaelbell@wisc.edu for further information about becoming a CIAS faculty associate.

Applications must include:

1) A one- to two-page project narrative including a project justification, work plan, and description of project alignment with the CIAS mini-grant priority themes listed above, or the overall work of CIAS

2) A detailed budget narrative explaining how the funds will be used. If salary is included, it may not exceed $400. If you are already on the UW payroll, please detail your appointment type and percent effort, department, and departmental administrative contact.

3) Your resume or CV

4) Your faculty advisor must send an email confirming project approval directly to Michelle Miller (contact information below). Alternatively, your advisor may submit a letter of support for your project directly to Michelle. This should not be submitted with your application.

Projects may begin on, or after, May 15, 2014. Grant-funded work must be completed by August 30, 2014. If your application is selected for funding, CIAS will disburse the funds in two payments. Up to 75 percent of the award will be available during the project (any awarded salary will be paid through payroll). The final 25 percent of the award will be released upon the submission of a one- to two-page final report summarizing your work, and a presentation of your findings to CIAS staff at the beginning of the fall 2014 semester (dates to be determined by CIAS staff and awardees).

All applicants who submit materials by April 28, 2014 are assured consideration. Please submit materials to Michelle Miller, mmmille6@wisc.edu with “2014 minigrant application” in the subject line. Electronic copies only, please.
**CIAS mini-grant priority areas**

**Perennialization of the landscape:** This priority area encompasses grazing, cover crops, perennial fruit, nut and specialty crop production, perennials for conservation, and integration of perennial, annual and livestock farming systems. It also includes exploring the benefits and challenges of perennial crops in sustainable agricultural systems, including quality of life and ecosystem resilience.

**Climate change, agriculture and food systems:** This priority area encompasses both sustainable agriculture as an adaptation mechanism for extreme weather events resulting from climate change, and a means to mitigate the effects of climate change. It includes researching strategies that reduce fossil fuel dependence and conserve resources, as well as engaging diverse stakeholders in research and outreach on climate change.

**Labor and fair trade in local and regional food systems:** This priority area encompasses labor needs and issues related to specific farming systems and sectors of agriculture, labor and land tenure, immigrant labor, technology and labor, farmers’ labor needs during different life stages, domestic fair trade strategies, and practices that support economic fairness in local and regional food systems. It also includes consumer willingness to pay more for fair trade and labor standards in agriculture, especially on farms that produce specialty crops for local and regional markets.