BAA Issued: **December 18, 2012**
Closing Date for Questions: **January 04, 2013 5:00 PM EST**
Closing Date: **February 28, 2013**
Closing Time: **5:00PM EST**
Reference No.: **RFA-OAA-12-000027**
SOL-OAA-13-000017

Subject: Questions and Answers to the Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development (PAEGC) Competition

I. Geographic Eligibility Questions

1. In what countries may eligible Applicants for PAEGC funding be based?

Answer: Please see BAA Amendment Two which states the following:

"PAEGC seeks applications that have an operational focus in developing and/or advanced developing countries. A "developing country" means any country categorized by the World Bank as a low or lower middle income country according to its gross national income per capita. An "advanced developing country" means any country categorized by the World Bank as an upper middle income country according to its gross national income per capita. For a current list of these countries, please see http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups.

Applicants from organizations based in, or applications with an operational focus in the following countries are not eligible: Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria."

Applicants may be based in any country except Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria. However, for the proposal to be eligible, it must have an "operational focus" in developing and /or advanced developing countries. The proposal's "operational focus" will be assessed based on the following:

- Applicant's response to Innovation Screening/ Question One: To what extent does the proposed solution accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy solutions for increasing agriculture productivity and/or value *in low and middle income developing countries*?
- The proposal's Technical Solution Narrative, II. Technical Solution and III. Market Potential and Sustainability as described in the BAA Section IV. D Content and Form of Proposal Submission.

2. In what countries may activities funded through PAEGC be implemented? (Q16)

Answer: Please see BAA Amendment Two which states the following:

"PAEGC seeks applications that have an operational focus in developing and advanced developing countries. A "developing country" means any country categorized by the World Bank as a low or lower middle income country according to its gross national income per capita. An "advanced developing country" means any country categorized by the World Bank as an upper middle income country according to its gross national income per capita. For a current list of these countries, please see http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-classifications/country-and-lending-groups.

Applicants from organizations based in, or applications with an operational focus in the following countries are not eligible: Cuba, Iran, North Korea, and Syria."

3. Is there a geographical preference for projects submitted? (Q89)
Answer: No, there is no geographic preference for projects submitted. Eligible applications will be evaluated based on the evaluation criteria described in the BAA. Section V.A of the BAA, however, provides that, "All other factors being technically equal, the PAEGC Partners reserve the right to ensure project and geographic diversity as well as USAID capacity for implementation of proposed activities in proposals selected for award."

4. Is there a country or countries that I should focus an application for?
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

5. Through the BAA, it appears as if not all developing countries can benefit. Namely, as can be understood from the CFP, advanced developing countries are excluded from this program, since they are not included in the authorized geographic code 937, which is set for country of implementation. This is very disappointing and unconstructive for people and developing organizations in these countries. It should be seriously considered that this type of development initiative is perfectly matching needs and current situation in advanced developing countries. These countries are exactly at the developmental stage to allow them to step successfully into such program. Moreover, many of these countries have considerable agriculture and food production potential and prospects. Therefore, I would like to explore possibilities for this CFP to change its authorized geographic code and thus allow advanced developing countries to also take part in this initiative. (Q59)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

6. Would a proposal for a country that is an advanced developing country be considered? The inclusion of "recipient country" to the definition of the 937 geographic code for countries of implementation would seem to include any country in the world except for the four prohibited source countries. (Q136)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

7. What requirements (if any) does USAID have for the use of U.S. equipment and expertise? We anticipate 50% U.S. and 50% European goods and services. (Q86)
Answer: Please see BAA Amendment Two which describes the authorized geographic code for procurement of goods and services as the following:

"The authorized geographic code for sub-procurements of services under this award is 935. The authorized geographic code for procurement of commodities is 935.

8. Are the desired energy and agricultural development systems to be implemented, tested and evaluated in any specific developing country that currently does not have access to grid power? If yes, please expand comment on required manpower needs, as well as acreage and crop preferences plus soil conditions and other geographical terrains that the project will ultimately need to encompass. If no, may one develop, test and recommend technologies based on empirical data and analysis?
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2 regarding eligible countries. There is no preference in regards to required manpower needs, acreage size, crop type, soil conditions, or other geographical terrains. Yes, Applicants may propose the development, testing, and recommendation of technologies based on empirical data and analysis.

9. I would like to get a clear instruction about eligibility of countries where projects can be implemented. Specifically, we are a NGO from Bosnia and Herzegovina and we would like to apply for this program and implement project activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. For us, it is not completely understandable from issued CFP is Bosnia and Herzegovina an eligible country for this program (Q57)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

10. Is Tunisia eligible for funding through Powering Agriculture? (Q17)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

11. Is Jordan eligible for funding through Powering Agriculture? (Q36)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

12. Given the reducing presence of USAID in Bolivia, is there any limitation for submitting proposals for that country? (Q42)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

13. Are Palestinian territories [West Bank and Gaza] eligible for this tender? (Q88)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

14. Could we submit a project based in the Pacific islands of Tonga, which has development goals to revitalize their agricultural and energy sectors? (Q90)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

15. The countries Madagascar, Uganda, Kenya and Somalia can be included in the proposal and may receive financial support, a grant, from USAID? (Q106)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

16. The Applicant to present the proposal to USAID can be from the Netherlands or do you prefer from the U.S.? In both countries we have interested NGOs which have worked before with our company in other similar projects. Or will it be more effective that the Applicant will be from one of the African countries mentioned above? (Q107)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2. There is no preference as to whether the Applicant is based in the United States, the Netherlands, or any of the African nations identified in the question above.

17. Is it necessary to do field demonstration work in one of the countries listed on the Feed the Future web site? Or is it acceptable to do research in the U.S. that is relevant to agricultural production in one or more of the targeted countries? (Q22)
Answer: It is not necessary to do field demonstration work in one of the countries listed on the Feed the Future website. Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2 regarding criteria for eligibility.

18. Can a grant funded demonstration project be located in the United States to determine proof of concept? (Q53)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question I.1 and I.2.

19. Must the demonstration be done in a foreign country? Or is sufficient to demonstrate the technology under conditions representative of those in the foreign country, while doing the demonstration in the United States? (Q38)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question I.1 and I.2.

20. Can a Powering Agriculture-funded demonstration project be located in the United States to determine proof of concept? (Q53)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question I.1 and I.2.

21. Do we need a partner or collaborator in one of the Feed the Future targeted countries? (Q22)
Answer: No, Applicants are not required to have a partner or collaborator in one of the Feed the Future targeted countries.

22. Do we need a partner or collaborator from Sweden, since the Swedish government is a co-sponsor? (Q22)
Answer: No, Applicants are not required to have a partner or collaborator from Sweden.

23. USA farmers/ranchers need assistance also. Why are USA farmers/ranchers exempt from receiving benefits from American taxpayers? This makes no sense at all (unless that's the point to bankrupt the American farmer?). We are located in Missouri and have plenty of farmers and ranchers that desperately need access to clean reliable energy and can provide it to them but these projects need funding. How can we access these tax dollars from the American people that are flooding overseas? (Q37)
Answer: USAID addresses agricultural development overseas, not domestically. The USDA has responsibility over domestic agriculture. Over the long term, based on studies of past agricultural development investments in the 1970s and 1980s, however, it has been shown that helping developing countries develop more effective food security strategies also benefits U.S. agriculture. For example, support for new solutions in international agricultural research benefit U.S. farmers by addressing emerging crop and livestock diseases before they affect U.S. farms, among other issues. In addition; as incomes grow overseas so does demand for U.S. agricultural exports. There are many examples where past economic growth stimulated increased demand for U.S. agricultural exports, such as in South Korea.

The Powering Agriculture: Energy Grand Challenge is designed to generate solutions that may have application at scale. Since the Grand Challenge is an open competition of ideas, U.S. based applicants are welcome to submit proposals that may be the next cost-effective solution to this global problem.

24. Is it possible to submit a proposal that includes two countries? (Q42)
Answer: Yes, a proposal may include more than one country.

25. Could the program's technology development be implemented in more than one country, or is it preferable to implement the program in one country?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question I.24.

26. I have reviewed the guidelines in the USAID call for proposals on the subject of "Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development", that was issued on December 18th, and I see that the geographic code for the nationality of the applicants is 935, however I could not find where this is defined. I would, therefore, be very grateful if you could inform me which countries/regions qualify as applicants for this grant?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question I.1 and I.2.

27. After reviewing the guidelines for the USAID call for proposals issued on December 18th on the topic of "Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development Competition", we have just a couple of questions that we were wondering if you could answer for us: We could not figure out what is intended from the geographic code 935- Would Israel and the West Bank be eligible recipients?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Questions I.1 and I.2.

25. Is there a preference to the size of the geographical impact an approach might have? Many solutions will be geographically specific. (Q131)
Answer: Please refer to the Powering Agriculture BAA Section V. "Proposal Review Information" for the solicitation's evaluation criteria.

II. Applicant Eligibility Questions

1. What type of entity (entities) do you prefer to be the Applicant(s) according to your experience? (Q107)
Answer: One type of entity will not be favored over another.

2. Which is a best way to submit a proposal - through a US corporation or Indian organization? (Q56)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question I.1, I.2, and II.1.

3. Are non-U.S. enterprises eligible to apply for funding through Powering Agriculture? (Q87)
Answer: Yes, non-U.S. enterprises are eligible to apply for PAEGC funding.

4. In order to understand the eligibility criteria and choose the right institution, are the following entities eligible to apply:

- Public and State controlled institutions of higher education (Q17)
  Answer: Yes, Public and State controlled institutions of higher education are eligible to apply.

- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education (Q17)
  Answer: Yes, nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher learning are eligible to apply.

- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education (Q17)
  Answer: Yes, nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (IRS), other than institutions of higher learning are eligible to apply.

- Private institutions of higher education (Q17)
  Answer: Yes, private institutions of higher education are eligible to apply.

- For profit organizations other than small businesses (Q17)
  Answer: Yes, for profit organizations other than small businesses are eligible to apply.

- Small businesses (Q17)
  Answer: Yes, small businesses are eligible to apply.

- Farmer cooperative (private entity – with for instance 300 farmers) (Q17)

  Answer: Yes, farmer cooperatives (regardless of the number of members) are eligible to apply.

- Ministry or a Government body (Q17)

  Answer: Please see BAA Amendment Two which states the following:

  "Individuals are not eligible to apply for funding. Government entities cannot be the prime Applicant but can partner and/or sub to an Applicant on a proposal."

- A non-Tunisian company working in Tunisia?(Q17)

  Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

5. Is a UN specialized agency eligible to apply for funding? (Q65)

Answer: No, United Nations (UN) agencies and other Public International Organizations (PIOs) are not eligible to apply as primary Applicants, but may partner and/or sub to an Applicant on a proposal.

6. Please, can an academic institution apply for the above Grand Energy Challenge Grant? Can a Center apply for this grant [?] Or, does this have to be a company?

Answer: Yes, academic institutions are eligible to apply.

7. Can a public institution in charge of Arid Regions, headed by the Ministry of Agriculture be an Applicant? (Q17)

Answer: Please see BAA Amendment Two which states the following:

"Individuals are not eligible to apply for funding. Government entities cannot be the prime Applicant but can partner and/or sub to an Applicant on a proposal."

8. Can a small Tunisian Solar EPC be an Applicant? (Q17)

Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

9. Can a French solar energy company be an Applicant if the final beneficiaries are members of farmer cooperative in Tunisia? (Q17)

Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

10. Can a regional development institution founded by nine municipalities in the region be an Applicant? (Q33)

Answer: If the regional developing institution is a government entity, it cannot be the prime Applicant but can partner and/or sub to an Applicant on a proposal. If the regional development institution is an independent organization, then it is eligible to apply. Please refer to the response to II.7.

11. Can a non-government energy research center in Jordan be an Applicant? (Q36)

Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1 and I.2.

12. We are cooperative society of irrigation farmers (CBO) at a Local Government level and we hope to explore this great opportunity. (Q58)

Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question I.1, I.2, and II.7.

13. The BAA notes that “government entities and individuals are not eligible to apply for funding.” Do you know if this includes contract managed DOE Labs like NREL are out altogether? Or does this mean we can only sub with a private or academic lead?
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question II.7.

14. May a host country be a Partnering Organization? (Q115)
Answer: Please refer to the responses to Question II.7.

15. Can an NGO submit an application joined to a governmental partner – such as local municipalities in a rural area? (Q118)
Answer: Yes, an NGO may partner with a government entity on an application, but the NGO must be the applicant. Please see response to Question II.7.

16. In order for the technology to take root in the host nation, it seems that there must necessarily be a for-profit company participating beyond the 3-year scope of the funded project. Is this correct? (Q38)
Answer: For-profit companies are eligible to apply.

17. Is there a preference for a domestic company, or one based in the host nation to be the primary Applicant? (Q38)
Answer: There is no preference. Applications will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria outlined in the BAA.

18. We are a non-profit organization based in a European country but we have a partner organization in a developing country that is led by individuals from that developing country. Our European office has been operational for three years; the organization in the developing country was founded in 2012. Together we implemented several projects in the sector of agribusiness. Are there any restrictions about the age and experience of an organization? (Q137)
Answer: There are no restrictions concerning the age and experience of an applicant.

19. What is your definition of a ‘small company’? What is the precise definition of ‘small business’?
Answer: USAID defers to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) for its definition of ‘small company’ and ‘small business’. Please refer to www.naics.com.

20. Can a registered limited liability company apply for Powering Agriculture funding? (Q25)
Answer: Yes, a registered limited liability company may apply for Powering Agriculture Funding.

21. I am a retired researcher and have my own woman-owned small business and research farm. First, am I eligible for applying for this grant? Would the program prefer that one [university] colleagues be the PI and apply for the grant, and I be a cooperator? Or is it better if I take the lead and [university] researchers be cooperators?
Answer: Yes, small businesses may apply for PAEGC funding. Please note that individuals may not apply. Both academic institutions and small businesses are eligible to apply. One type of entity will not be favored over another.

III. Application Procedural Questions

1. Kindly explain what PAEGC is. (Q58)
Answer: PAEGC stands for "Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development."

2. Would USAID please consider extending the submission deadline by two weeks? (Q128)
Answer: The closing date for submitting applications for funding has been extended to February 28, 2013 5:00PM EST.

3. I just wanted to ascertain whether this is a new requirement or there is an incumbent contractor fulfilling these services?
Answer: The Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development Competition is a new requirement. There is no incumbent.

4. Can you tell me when the solicitation noted will be released? When it is, will it be on FedBizOpps with the same Solicitation Number (SOL-OAA-13-000017)?
Answer: USAID released SOL-OAA-13-000017 on December 18, 2012.

5. Could you please advise when this will become a formal solicitation and what the expected due date for responses is? With the holidays approaching, we need to schedule our response team accordingly.
Answer: USAID released the solicitation on December 18, 2012. The closing date and time is February 28, 2013, 5:00PM EST. Please see Amendment One for relevant changes to the BAA.

6. The first paragraph of Section 2 Areas of Interest in the pre-solicitation notice refers to a CFP. We are not familiar with that acronym. Can you advise what is meant by that term?
Answer: CFP stands for Call for Proposals. Please refer to the Abbreviations and Acronyms page in the solicitation.

7. The Online Application Form for the Powering Agriculture Solicitation does not appear to work. The link: http://www.poweringag.org/apply only takes you to the 32 page call for proposals which again says that the online application can be found at the same link. Please clarify where to find the on-line application platform for RFA-OAA-12-000027.
Answer: www.poweringag.org/apply should redirect potential Applicants to the Online Application Platform found at https://poweringag.chaordix.com/.

8. Access to your application via your website as well as Grants.gov is currently [unavailable]. Will your online application platform be [accessible] on January 15, 2013? If it is not, is there another method to deliver?
Answer: The Online Application Platform can be found at https://poweringag.chaordix.com/. The Online Application Platform will be accessible from January 15, 2013 to February 28, 2013.

9. What are the requirements for submittal as to submittal information/ location, length, supporting documentation, font size, and due dates etc.?
Answer: Please refer to the Powering Agriculture BAA Section IV "Proposal and Submission Information".

10. Do you have a formal proposal format?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.9.

11. Our company is actively trying to [pursue] this opportunity. Please identify the link / location, from where [I] can get the documents downloaded for below mentioned project. Pre-solicitation: Powering Agriculture: an energy grand challenge for development.
Answer: The BAA may be accessed on Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website located at www.fbo.gov. The solicitation reference number on FBO is SOL-OAA-13-000017. The BAA may be also accessed on Grants.gov website located at www.grants.gov. The solicitation reference number on grants.gov is RFA-OAA-12-000027. The BAA may also be downloaded from the Powering Agriculture website at www.poweringag.org/solicitation-documents.

12. I have a Principal Investigator who is interested in applying for the program – Funding Opportunity number SOLOAA_13-000017, but I am unable to find the full solicitation. Is it posted yet? If so, would you please send it to me – or send me the link where I can find it? If it has not yet been posted, do you have a date when the full solicitation with application instructions will be posted?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.11.

13. Please send me details of full announcement pertaining to calling of applications for the above program.
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.11.

14. Kindly send me an electronic grant application form via e mail.
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.11.

15. Would you please send us the electronics copy of the Application Form so that we can participate according to your advertisement?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.11.

16. I'm interested in Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development Competition, but I can't find the Application to download it. Could you please send me the application?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.11.

17. I could not download the attachment for the proposal of Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development Competition from the website. I hope you would send me the details of the proposal through mail.
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.11.

18. My colleagues and I have a strong history of working in developing areas including Guatemala and Brazil, and we also have a very good record of research in the field of renewable energy (both wind and photovoltaic). We are interested in learning more about the Powering Agriculture program. Would it be possible for me to meet with you or one of the technical managers to learn more about the program?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.11. No additional Q&A period is planned at this time.

19. My organization has been eagerly tracking the upcoming PAEGC opportunity and had a question about the recently posted pre-sol on FBO. We were wondering if a quick phone call would be possible or, perhaps, if another Q&A period is planned?
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.11. No additional Q&A period is planned at this time.

20. We have a question regarding the type of award that will be made under this solicitation. Will the award be made on a cost-reimbursement basis, or are fixed price or time and material/labor hour proposals also welcome?
Answer: Please refer to the Powering Agriculture BAA Section IV "Award and Administration Information".

21. On p.13, the CFP mentions that the engagement between awardees and USAID can be as a grant, cooperative agreement, contract, or collaboration agreement, and it indicates that USAID will make this determination. Could USAID explain the criteria that will be used to make the determination and whether the Government has a preference?
Answer: Please refer to the Powering Agriculture BAA Section II C 1.

22. What is the timeline for notifying Applicants that they have passed to the Second Stage of the evaluation process? (Q79)
Answer: The time required to evaluate proposals and notify Applicants will depend on the number of proposals received. USAID anticipates notifying Applicants being considered for the next stage of the evaluation process within two to three months. USAID anticipates making awards on or before September 30, 2013.

23. If an award is made, when will the funding be available to the Applicant? This is important as we are in the middle of our development work and will be rolling out in Q1 next year, so we need to know at what point we should start the work plan for this proposal. (Q79)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.22.

24. If a proposal is selected for funding, when can an Applicant anticipate the finalizing of an agreement/contract with USAID? (Q99)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.22.

25. What is the planning of the attribution of funding (mid 2013?) (Q17)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question III.22.

26. Is there an advantage to submitting early in the application submittal window of Jan 15 to Feb 6? (Q110)
Answer: No, an organization will have no additional advantage by submitting a proposal early in the submittal window. Please note that the application deadline has been extended to February 28, 2013.

27. When will USAID begin to evaluate the proposals? (Q110)
Answer: USAID will begin conducting the initial evaluation procedures on March 1, 2013.

28. We are an international organization, with locally registered offices in Perú and Bolivia. Is it possible to submit at least two proposals: one for Perú and another for Bolivia? (Q42)
Answer: Yes, an organization may submit more than one application for funding through Powering Agriculture.

29. Can an organization submit more than one proposal? (Q48)
Answer: See response above to Question III.28.

30. Is it allowable for one organization to submit more than one proposal? Would an organization submitting more than one proposal be eligible to win more than one award? (Q132)
Answer: Yes, an organization may be eligible to win more than one award. See also response to Question III.28.

31. Can and organization be part of two separate proposals: one geared towards innovation, and second geared toward field implementation study? (Q56)
Answer: See response above to Question III.28.

32. Is it possible for an organization to present two or more proposals? In case this is possible, more than one selected proposal could be granted with the funding? (Q117)
Answer: See response above to Question III.28 and III.30.

33. Can an organization be a partner in more than one proposal submission (Q48)
Answer: There is no limit to the number of proposals in which one individual organization is listed as a partner.

34. Is there a limit to number of organizations partnering? Specifically, is 3 okay or too many? (Q80)
Answer: For any one proposal, the primary Applicant may have up to six partners.

35. Shall we include our letters of support in the Appendices section? We will have at least one letter of commitment but also 2 to 3 letters of support/reference. (Q68)
Answer: Applicants are required to upload one Letter of Agreement for each Partnering Organization (if any) included in their proposals. Applicants are required to upload one Letter of Commitment with the resumes of each Key Personnel they are proposing.

Applicants are asked to not include any further support/reference letters than what is required in the Call for Proposals.

36. Letters of Agreement from partners are required where partnerships are anticipated. In addition to indicating Award allocations and partner roles, the Letters must include expression of joint liabilities. Such expressions require legal guidance and review that would be premature prior to confirmation of both award instrument and award. Therefore we ask that USAID reconsider the requirement that Letters of Agreement be executed at Stage 1 and instead require only Letters of Support from partners to the lead applicant at this stage in the process. (Q121)
Answer: See response above to Question III.35.

37. Similarly, Letters of Commitment from Key Personnel are required with the Stage 1 application. For grants and cooperative agreements, Key Personnel are likely to be staff of the applicant or a partner organization, rather than consultants committing to a new role. It is standard personnel practice that in such cases the commitment of personnel time is made by the organization, not the individual. This is an important requirement distinction between grants/cooperative agreements and contracts. Therefore we ask that USAID reconsider the requirement that individuals sign letters of commitment before the funding mechanism has been agreed, and that the requirement(s) for Key Personnel designations be guided by the relevant funding instrument. (Q122)A
Answer: See response above to Question III.35.

38. Of the 10 to 20 proposals estimated to be funded, will information be shared or accessible among the grantees? (Q70)
Answer: Once the evaluation is complete and the proposals are selected for funding; the name of the awardees, amount of the awards, and the award types will be made publically available.

39. The BAA provides a link to Gender Equity policy but 'Error 404' showed. Since gender is an important part of their evaluation considerations, is there another site? (Q81)
Answer: USAID's Gender Equality and Female Empowerment Policy (March 2012) can be accessed at the following URL:
http://transition.usaid.gov/our_work/policy_planning_and_learning/documents/GenderEqualityPolicy.pdf.

40. USAID requires adherence to the Grand Challenges Ethics Policy and provides a link to that policy. However, the link is broken, and it is difficult to locate the Ethics Policy on the Grand Challenges web site. Would USAID please provide access to the Policy? (Q124)
Answer: Amendment One to the BAA removed reference to the Grand Challenges Ethics Policy.

41. What is the difference between sub-awards, partners, Founding Partner, prime Applicant etc.? (Q82)
Answer:

- Sub-award: A grant/contract that primary Applicant awards to another entity to perform tasks presented in its Powering Agriculture proposal.
- Partner: An entity with which the Applicant plans to work with to perform the tasks presented in its Powering Agriculture proposal.
- Founding Partner: USAID, the Government of Sweden, and Duke Energy are Powering Agriculture's Founding Partners.
- Prime Applicant: The organization that is submitting the application for Powering Agriculture funding consideration.

42. As the Online Application Platform is not yet available, would USAID please confirm that either: (a) the Platform design and instructions will enable off-line proposal development with a single upload at the point of application; or (b) the Platform will allow for multiple individuals to access and work with the Platform. (Q123)
Answer: The Online Application Platform consists of input fields where Applicants may type/paste text, and functions which allow Applicants to upload required documents (i.e. Technical Solution Narrative, Letters of Agreements with Partnering Organizations, and Resumes of Key Personnel). The Online Application Platform only allows one individual at a time to access the input fields of an application.

43. We are interested in partnering with a Grand Challenge Founding Partner or other interested party. Is there a contact list or website where this process can be initiated? (Q55)
Answer: For this solicitation, potential Applicants may not form partnerships with the Founding Partners. However, Applicants may visit the Powering Agriculture Online Community website, and network with other members to discuss possible partnerships for a proposal.

44. Page 11: Clean Energy Demand Generation: If we propose a model, do we need to show support/agreement/association with a financing partner also? (Q130)
Answer: The BAA does not require support/agreement/association with a financing partner. Proposals will be evaluated according to the criteria set forth in Section V of the BAA.

IV. Activity Eligibility Questions:

1. Does Powering Agriculture encourage Applicants to develop clean energy solutions and technologies to meet the needs of a specific agricultural industry - or are you looking for more broad-based energy solutions that could work across a variety of agricultural industries? (Q32)
Answer: The clean energy solutions may either target the specific needs of an industry or may be more broad-based and apply across a variety of agricultural industries.

2. Does the solicitation for Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development allow for the funding of aquaculture activities? (Q11)
Answer: Yes, aquaculture activities are eligible for funding through Powering Agriculture.

3. Does the definition of 'Agriculture' in the above indicated solicitation include 'Aquaculture'? (Q18)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question IV.2.

4. Are agro-pastoral and livestock activities eligible for Powering Agriculture funding?
Answer: Yes, agro-pastoral and livestock activities are eligible for funding through Powering Agriculture.

5. Will proposals that present clean energy solutions for the transportation of agricultural goods from farm to market (i.e. solar photovoltaic-powered vehicles) be eligible for funding through Powering Agriculture? If it does, is there a country or countries that I should focus an application for? (Q16)
Answer: Please see responses to Questions I.1 and I.2. As with any proposal, Applicants must demonstrate how their clean energy solution will lead to increasing agriculture productivity and/or value *in low and middle income developing countries.*

6. Would a project focused on the innovative use of biogas for heating and lighting livestock/poultry-fattening farms be eligible for funding through Powering Agriculture? (Q36)
Answer: Yes, activities focused on integrating clean energy solutions with livestock/poultry-fattening farms are eligible for funding through Powering Agriculture. Please refer to the response to Question I.1 - as with any proposal, Applicants must demonstrate how their clean energy solution will lead to increasing agriculture productivity and/or value *in low and middle income developing countries*.

7. The Powering Agriculture BAA states that the following is not eligible for funding:
One-off renewable energy installations or pilot projects to support proven technologies for proven applications - unless they include an innovative component(s) that clearly outline realistic potential for replication and/or ability to achieve commercial scale;
Does small-scale power generation from bagasse or risk husks constitute a 'proven technology' and therefore not meet eligibility criteria? (Q39)
Answer: Proposals must pass the Innovation Screening as defined in the BAA. This includes proposals that "Convincingly demonstrate an unconventional or creative approach to achieving the Powering Agriculture objective that is clearly differentiated from existing approaches." Existing approaches are those that are currently in use in the Applicant's targeted area of operation. If the technology (and/or business model) is already in use in the targeted area of operation, then it would not be considered innovative. Please also see response to Question IV.30.

8. We work on Cassava and our primary focus is to develop cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) as an advanced biofuel crop, engineered for enhanced biomass productivity in using innovative and modern agricultural biotechnologies. Cassava is a particularly attractive biofuel feedstock because it is one of the most efficient starch producers, has one of the highest potential yields of ethanol per area, tolerates low fertility soils and drought conditions well, is water thrifty, and is resistant to many generalized herbivores due to the presence of toxic cyanogenic glycosides. Is Powering Agriculture interested in funding projects that promote the use of Cassava as a biofuel feedstock?(Q46)
Answer: Biofuel activities are eligible for PAEGC funding. As with any proposal, Applicants must demonstrate how their clean energy solution will lead to increasing agriculture productivity and/or value *in low and middle income developing countries.*

9. Can investment in a truck for transporting biogas systems be eligible for funding? If so, how would this be categorized in the budget summary?(Q76)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question IV.8. Please refer to the Powering Agriculture BAA Section IV.2.B for a description of the various budget categories for the Proposal Budget.

10. My company is setting up a solar home system credit sales scheme for small households in a developing country (mostly small farms, cattle, crops, tea etc.). We are looking for financing to prove the concept, and pilot a small number of service centers. We believe we can attract external financing to complement funding from Powering Agriculture. Is this what you are looking for, or you are looking for more agri-specific applications/inventions involving power in the actual production (fuelling water pumps, machinery, refrigeration, transportation, fertilizing, tea drying etc). We would greatly appreciate some short feedback as to whether or not this proposed idea is within the scope of Powering Agriculture. (Q51)
Answer: To be eligible for Powering Agriculture funding, the proposal must demonstrate that the use of the solar home systems by farmers and agri-businesses directly improves agriculture productivity and/or value. Projects that improve the quality of life of farmers but do not directly improve agriculture productivity and/or value would not be considered eligible.

11. We [would like] to submit a proposal that—in part—seeks to curb the use of traditional wood-based cooking charcoal in developing countries by expanding the production and adoption of alternative 'green charcoal' briquettes derived from agricultural waste biomass. The Powering Agriculture BAA makes repeated reference to fossil fuel energy use in the agricultural sector, but does not mention charcoal or other solid fuels. Because an estimated one billion people worldwide rely on solid fuels as a primary energy source for cooking and heating, and its use annually contributes to 2 million deaths a year, we would like to target the very bottom of the pyramid with a Powering Agriculture proposal that addresses solid fuel use, and offers a realistic, renewable 'drop-in' replacement fuel in the form of green charcoal. Would such a proposition satisfy the eligibility requirements laid out in the solicitation notice? (Q60)
Answer: To be eligible for Powering Agriculture funding, the proposal must demonstrate that the production and adoption of 'green charcoal' briquettes directly improves agriculture productivity and/or value.

12. The Powering Agriculture BAA states that agricultural intensification requires an increase in fossil fuel emissions, in part from the use of motorized and mechanical tools and equipment. However, the BAA does not explicitly mention the substantial fossil fuel footprint of chemical fertilizers, a vital component of agricultural intensification. We are concerned with the large carbon footprint of chemical fertilizers, and therefore, intends to submit a proposal that—in part—will decrease fossil fuel use and carbon emissions associated with chemical fertilizers by replacing their use with a locally-produced, carbon negative biochar soil amendment. Biochar not only decreases chemical fertilizer use over the long term by building soil structure that sustains micro-organic

growth—it also permanently sequesters carbon in the soil, thereby further reducing the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Would such a proposition align with the Powering Agriculture Grand Challenge's objective of increasing agricultural productivity and decreasing carbon emissions associated with fossil fuel use in the agricultural supply chain? (Q60)
Answer: Eligible projects must comply with the clean energy definition that allows for end-use energy efficiency technologies and practices. Agricultural practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through means other than energy efficiency would not be eligible.

13. To what extent should the agribusiness applications of a 'Clean Energy Technology Innovation' be detailed in the grant proposal? Would a well-informed outline of a few possible business ventures that could arise out of this technology suffice (e.g. electrical water pump units can be leased to small, local businesses in developing countries who can charge farmers per acre to pump and irrigate their fields during a drought or dry spell, which would lead to more stable crop yields and greater food security)? Or would a detailed business proposal based on thorough market research of sales in a particular region be required? (Q63)
Answer: Please refer to the Powering Agriculture BAA Section IV.D. "Content and Form of Proposal Submissions" which states that the proposal should describe "a strong, detailed understanding of the target market for the proposed clean energy solution" and further details proposal requirements for pre-commercialization technologies and commercial projects.

14. Our capital needs are related to investing in a large network of distributed biogas systems. Are you willing to fund the investment in these (even if the revenue from those remains in the company)? (Q72)
Answer: Applicants are encouraged to submit their best ideas that meet the Powering Agriculture objective within the application deadline. The Founding Partners will not review or opine on concepts before submission of proposals. Proposals will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria described in the BAA.

15. Will Powering Agriculture fund the construction of bioethanol production plants and related costs to start production and marketing? (Q108)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Questions IV.8 and IV.14.

16. Can Powering Agriculture provide support in developing a proper Research and Development (R&D) facility? (Q77)
Answer: No, providing support where the exclusive activity is to establish a Research and Development facility is beyond the scope of the Powering Agriculture.

17. Will addressing the benefits of powering households be within the scope of this Powering Agriculture? Most of the benefits we foresee in our pilot will be geared towards the agricultural supply chain. (Q84)
Answer: Activities, such as powering households, that do not directly improve agricultural productivity and/or value would not meet the Powering Agriculture objective.

18. Farmers always deal with biomass, which is a renewable energy form. Could we propose a renewable energy installation that would test the syngas production of a small biomass down-draft gasifier against a prototype portable reactor that could allow farmers to create syngas from their agricultural waste on their farms and become independent power producers themselves? An important reason is to test the more developed technology (gasification) against the more innovative technology (portable syngas generators) which may provide critical field insight and data to properly scale the technology. (Q92)

Answer: To be eligible for funding, activities must meet the Powering Agriculture objective of accelerating the development and deployment of clean energy solutions for increasing agriculture productivity and/or value in developing countries.

19. Would innovative technologies that use natural gas as a fuel, and are significantly more efficient than comparable gasoline engines, and produce significantly less emissions, be considered as meeting the definition of 'clean energy' technologies? (Q104)
Answer: Per the definition of 'Clean Energy' in the BAA "Commonly Used Terms and Definitions", natural gas is not considered 'clean energy' for the purposes of Powering Agriculture.

20. Would a proposal involving coupling such an innovative engine capable of using a wide variety of spark-ignited fuels, including natural gas, with hydraulics and associated controls to provide highly efficient usage of clean energy be responsive to the solicitation? This system would be applicable to a wide variety of agricultural equipment. (Q105)
Answer: Fuels that are non-fossil-based and derived from renewable sources would meet the definition of 'Clean Energy'. Per the definition of 'Clean Energy' in the BAA "Commonly Used Terms and Definitions", natural gas is not considered 'clean energy' for the purposes of Powering Agriculture.

21. Are there any minimum or maximum farm/ field sizes for the use of the technological innovation? Helping smallholder farmers is signaled on the Powering Agriculture website, but the CFP addresses farmers in general, agribusiness, and the goal of intensification, so it isn't clear what the target range is for beneficiaries (e.g., if there are minimum or maximum field size thresholds or parameters). (Q109)
Answer: Applicant's proposals should respond to the BAA and not the Powering Agriculture website. The BAA does not limit farm/ field size for beneficiaries.

22. Is the CFP objective focused on benefits to traditional, rural farmers who are land-based, or would the CFP also include innovative farming techniques that are not land-based or may promote urban farming? (Q112)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Questions IV.14.

23. Does the CFP objective include the development of tools to enable access and to transfer information regarding clean energy and energy efficiency options available to farmers? (Q113)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Questions IV.14.

24. Our company would like to do a feasibility study of building an electricity facility in combination with a transportation fuel facility using feedstock produced by the local farmers as well as residual waste and woody biomass in the area. If we find a prospective area that is feasible then we would like to participate in the development of the renewable fuel and power plants. Would you [respond]?
Answer: Answer: Please refer to the response to Questions IV.8 and IV.14.

25. Can a research project, related to a biotechnology laboratory oriented to biofuel production in agricultural rural communities be presented? (Q119)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Questions IV.8 and IV.14.

26. We are interested in submitting a proposal in response to the 'Clean Energy Technology Innovation' area of need described in the subject CFP. Our proposed project would advance our electrolytic ammonia production process, which generates fertilizer-grade ammonia from inputs of

renewable electricity, ‘gray’ or non-potable water, and nitrogen. The process would enable efficient, economic, localized fertilizer production, thereby eliminating the cost, energy consumption, and logistical challenges of fertilizer transportation from large production facilities to small farmers in remote locations. Would such a proposal be deemed responsive to the solicitation? (Q126)
Answer: Per the Powering Agriculture BAA, fertilizer production is within the definition of agricultural supply chain, and as such is within the scope of the solicitation. Please refer to the response to Questions IV.8 and IV.14

27. We intend to conduct a project for a knowledge transfer about recently developed agricultural technologies between a university in Europe and a university in a developing country. This would be one part of the project; the other part would be the final implementation. Is this suitable for Powering Agriculture funding? (Q138)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Questions IV.14.

28. The BAA’s ‘clean energy’ definition is: “Usable energy (i.e. electricity, illumination, heating/refrigeration, mechanization) that is derived from renewable sources and supports a reduction in fossil fuel use, increase in efficiency, and/or limitation of greenhouse gas emissions. Clean energy sources include – solar, hydro, wind, geothermal, sustainably harvested biomass, and biogas.” Please clarify if fuel cells using locally available, non-fossil, liquid fuels are eligible for funding. (Q54)
Answer: If fuel cells utilize non-fossil fuels from renewable sources, they would fall within the scope of Powering Agriculture. Please refer to the response to Questions IV.14.

29. Will Powering Agriculture fund biofuel and/or biogas activities?
Answer: Yes, biofuel and biogas activities are eligible for funding. As with any proposal, Applicants must demonstrate how their clean energy solution will lead to increasing agriculture productivity and/or value *in low and middle income developing countries.* Please also see responses to Questions IV.8 and IV.14.

30. Would activities focused on converting waste biomass (agricultural residues) into electricity be eligible for funding through Powering Agriculture?
Answer: Yes, activities focused on converting agricultural waste to electricity are eligible for PAEGC funding. As with any proposal, Applicants must demonstrate how their clean energy solution will lead to increasing agriculture productivity and/or value *in low and middle income developing countries.* Please also see responses to Questions IV. 8, 14, and 29.

31. Are activities associated with textile production eligible for Powering Agriculture funding?
Answer: Activities associated with textile production are not eligible for PAEGC funding if they do not meet the PAEGC objective of accelerating the development and deployment of clean energy solutions for increasing agriculture productivity and/or value in developing countries. Please also see response to Question IV.8.

V. Budget Preparation Questions:

1. Does the program take the whole project budget or should we demonstrate cost-sharing/co financing? (Q17)

Answer: On the Online Application Platform, Applicants are requested to type into input fields the dollar values for the various cost categories by year. In separate input fields on the Platform, Applicants are required to type the dollar value of cost-sharing/co-financing per year.

Further guidance about USAID's definition of cost-sharing can be found in ADS Chapter 303 - http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf.

Please also refer to the US Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 226 - http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title22-vol1/xml/CFR-2011-title22-vol1-part226.xml.

2. Can your program join a project as a co financer (Q17)

Answer: In is unclear to USAID what exactly is being asked by this question.

3. Are there any limitations on how money may be spent in the host nation, for example, in companies, government agencies, research organizations, universities, etc. (Q38)

Answer: Yes. Allowability of costs will depend on the nature of the applicant and the type of mechanism awarded.

4. Is it eligible to co-finance the procurement of small-scale new green technology demonstration unit within the project? The owners of the demonstration units will be farmers – trainers, who will train other interested farmers for the respective green technologies in the further implementation stage of the project. The proposed co-financing from the project budget is 50% of the whole investment in green technologies. (Q50)

Answer: Please refer to ADS Chapter 303 - http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf and to CFR part 226 - http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title22-vol1/xml/CFR-2011-title22-vol1-part226.xml.

5. With regard to the above subject matter, we wish to request for explanation about the Cost Share by Applicants and Partners provide a minimum of five percent (5%) of the total PAEGC contribution. (Q58)

Answer: Please refer to ADS Chapter 303 - http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf and to CFR part 226 - http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title22-vol1/xml/CFR-2011-title22-vol1-part226.xml.

6. Does the 5% co-investment have to be in money or could it be in-kind? Can we include a portion of our overhead costs and management time as in-kind resources?

Answer: Please refer to ADS Chapter 303 - http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf and to CFR part 226 - http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title22-vol1/xml/CFR-2011-title22-vol1-part226.xml.

7. Cost sharing: this category is not clear for us. Shall we detail 95% of the budget in the other categories and 5% in this category (without precisions on categories); or shall we detail 100% of the budget in the previous categories, and just precise the part of the budget that is financed by us or by our partners? (Q96)
Answer: All of the budget categories excluding cost share, should equal 100% of the requested budget from the Grand Challenge partners. The cost share line item should equal, at minimum, 5% of this total budget request in accordance with ADS Chapter 303 - http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf and to CFR Part 226 - http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title22-vol1/xml/CFR-2011-title22-vol1-part226.xml.

8. What types of technology development activities are eligible to be funded through this grant (e.g. development and testing of subsequent prototypes and modifications; purchase of materials and labor; administrative costs; legal fees for patent and/or contract negotiations; travel of key personnel; fundraising; marketing and media costs, etc.)? Are there any development costs expressly excluded from funding? (Q62)
Answer: To be eligible for funding, activities must meet the Powering Agriculture objective of accelerating the development and deployment of clean energy solutions for increasing agriculture productivity and/or value in developing countries.

9. Would a guarantee fund or a credit line established at a micro finance institution be eligible to PAEGC funding? (Q101)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question V.8.

10. Would operating costs of a micro finance institution be eligible to PAEGC funding? (Q102)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question V.8.

11. Can PAEGC funding be used to support an investment fund to enter the capital of enterprises supported by the project? In case it is possible, what are the conditions? (Q103)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question V.8.

12. In the description of the detailed proposal budget (which I know is not required at this time) there is mention that "PAEGC encourages Applicants to focus resources on project implementation rather than salaries, equipment and supplies." Could you offer more of an explanation of this? We will need salaries, equipment and supplies in order to implement the project. (Q75)
Answer: Awardees may use Powering Agriculture funds for salaries, equipment, and supplies. However, in order to demonstrate the potential sustainability of the proposed activities, it would be advantageous for the Applicants not to spend all of the awarded funds on these three cost categories.

13. Page 21: Detailed Proposal Budget: The second paragraph states that Applicants should "focus resources on project implementation rather than salaries, equipment, and supplies." It is not clear what is meant by this, since the majority of the project costs would consist of direct labor (e.g., salaries), the indirect costs associated with the labor, equipment and supplies. Did USAID mean to say "such as" instead of "rather than?" (Q135)
Answer: Please refer to the response to Question 12.

14. Our capital needs are related to investing in a large network of distributed biogas systems. Are you willing to fund the investment in these (even if the revenue from those remain in the company)? (Q72)
Answer: Proposals will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria described in the BAA Section V.

15. Do you anticipate further rounds of funding? We have a 12 month plan for 370 units and a 5 year plan for 10,000 units. To get to the 10,000 units, we will need capital of USD 2.5m over 3 years (after which the business will run on debt). We would prefer involvement for the full 5 year program but are still in early design stage, so would be happy to apply for the 12 months if there is a likelihood of further funding if the first 12 months are successful.
Answer: At this point, USAID cannot confirm that there will any further rounds of funding for this solicitation. As such, Applicants are requested to prepare proposals that have a duration of three years.

16. What should be included in the 'allowances' budget category? (Q95)
Answer: Budgets, including any allowances, if applicable, shall be broken down by specific type and by person. Please refer to the following link for information on allowances for USAID cost-type contracts 48 CFR 752 at http://cfr.regstoday.com/48cfr752.aspx#48_CFR_752p7028.

17. Can you confirm that the wage costs should be split over the 2 first categories: Direct Labor for the net wages, and Fringe benefits for the employer and employee costs, workers compensation? (Q97)
Answer: Wage costs should be split between Direct Labor and Fringe Benefits, and detailed in accordance with the Applicant's accounting practices.

18. What are the possibilities of evolution of the proposal between stage 1 and stage 2 (on partnerships and budgets aspects)? (Q98)
Answer: As stated in the BAA, for the second stage of the evaluation USAID will request supplemental documentation from the Applicants. It is not expected that the proposals will substantively change between the two stages of evaluation, but there may be an opportunity to provide further elaboration.

19. We intend to plan 1 audit per year: does it suit to your procedures? (Q98)
Answer: Audit requirements will depend on the nature of the applicant and the type of mechanism awarded.

20. Can the government please confirm that contract awards (i.e., through the acquisition process) made through this BAA will not be subject to the cost sharing requirements of 22 CFR 226.23? (Q127)
Answer: As stated in the BAA, there is a cost-sharing requirement of 5% of the total funding requested through Powering Agriculture.

21. For subcontracts with local entities, would fixed price and time and material (T&M) type subcontract agreements be permissible? Many local organizations are not set up to provide USG cost accounting details for indirect costs. (Q133)
Answer: The type of sub-awards to be issued to local entities will be determined at the time of the award to the prime Applicant.

22. Neither the Proposal Summary Budget nor the Detailed Proposal Budget lists a section on Fee. However, Page 14, point 5 seems to indicate that acquisition awards are eligible for profit (i.e., fee). Can USAID confirm that acquisition submissions are eligible for fee and that input fields for fee will be included in Online Application Platform? (Q134)
Answer: Once the proposal is selected for award, the type of award mechanism will be determined by the Contracting Officer. Allowable fees will depend on the nature of the applicant and the type of mechanism awarded.

23. We intend to support local entrepreneurs with some energy equipment; what are the requirements for the transfer of the equipment at the end of the project? Could a transfer to beneficiaries be feasible only in a second stage of the project? (Q100)
Answer: Applicable policies and procedures regarding the transfer and/or disposal of equipment at the end of the project will depend on the type of mechanism awarded and the applicable regulations governing the award.

VI. Questions pertaining to Innovation, Research, and Development:

1. Must the 'innovation' be totally original or just new to the country of implementation? (Q140)
   Answer: Please see response to Question IV.7.

2. Would creative, new grid and end-use concepts/applications that are centered around proven technologies be considered 'innovative'? (Q85)
   Answer: Please see response to Question IV.7.

3. From a technology perspective, could biomass gasification be considered 'innovative' for purposes of the Grand Challenge - especially if the grid is 90% powered by imported petroleum? If not, could it be if gasification is synced with an Organic Rankine Cycle that would capture the waste heat and boost clean energy output? (Q91)
   Answer: Please see response to Question IV.7.

4. Our proposed model includes outreach to farmers through a partnership with an in-country microcredit lender, which may be interested in implementing already proven 'innovative' interventions which have not yet been brought to scale. Would our proposal for funding so the lender could implement any of these two be considered 'innovative' for purposes of the Grand Challenge? (Q93)
   Answer: Please see response to Question IV.7.

5. We plan to use a video-based teaching system for our agricultural extension officers (similar to the model used by *Digital Green*) – is that considered 'innovative' for purposes of the Grand Challenge? (Q94)
   Answer: Please see response to Question IV.7.

6. With regard to the PAEGC, I am interested to learn more about the criteria that would describe an acceptable incubation stage energy innovation. The pre-solicitation guidance stipulates that proposals will be given consideration except those that focus on research and development of a product without clear market demand or commercial prospects. If there are additional constraints, then I would appreciate receiving additional guidance. If permitted my preference would be to have a quick telephone discussion on the topic. (Q14)
   Answer: Please see the BAA for information on proposal requirements and evaluation criteria. The BAA may be accessed on Federal Business Opportunities (FBO) website located at www.fbo.gov. The solicitation reference number on FBO is SOL-OAA-13-000017. The BAA may be also accessed on Grants.gov website located at www.grants.gov. The solicitation reference number on grants.gov is RFA-OAA-12-000027. The BAA may also be downloaded from the Powering Agriculture website at www.poweringag.org/solicitation-documents.

7. It seems that your program is suited to fund both demonstration projects and pure research. We plan to propose deploying a new technology we have developed for a pilot demonstration. There is certainly some R&D effort remaining for that demonstration to be successful. Are there limitations or preferences on funding for demonstrations versus R&D? (Q38)
   Answer: Proposals will be evaluated according to the evaluation criteria described in the BAA Section V.

8. Does the "Clean Energy Technology Innovation" area of need, as detailed in the Broad Agency Announcement, include funding for commercial scale development of a promising new energy technology?
   Answer: Please see response to Questions IV.7 and VI.7.

9. What type of end-use license requirements and/or restrictions may be tied to successful commercial development of a new clean energy technology funded by this grant?
   Answer: Applicable policies and procedures regarding licensing of clean energy technologies funded by the Grand Challenge will depend on the type of mechanism awarded and the applicable regulations governing the award and will be addressed during award negotiation.

10. We are still developing our technical solution. Will the fact that we do not have a tried and tested model hurt our proposal? Should we try and accelerate our trials, or will it not matter? (Q73)
    Answer: Please see response to Question VI.7.

11. We believe, an executed pilot project will have a more immediate impact on the target area and provide greater understanding about the effectiveness of the chosen applications than just the development of a concept. To what extent is this proposal looking for the development of a concept vs. the demonstration of a replicable concept through a pilot project? (Q83)
    Answer: Please see response to Questions IV.7 and VI.7.

12. Page 11: Clean Energy Demand Generation: do we need to demonstrate during the project period of performance how behavior change has impacted livelihood as well? Three years is a short period of time to implement measures and capture the impact. (Q129)
    Answer: Reporting requirements related to monitoring and evaluation will be stipulated at the time of Award negotiation and during the development of the awardee's monitoring and evaluation plan.

VII. <u>Project-Specific Questions and Requests to USAID for a Private Meeting</u>

Some potential Applicants submitted questions requesting feedback on specific concepts. These included personal information and revealed significant detail about proposed technical approaches. To protect proprietary and/or private information, the Founding Partners have decided not to publish these questions. Moreover, the Founding Partners are unable to review or opine on concepts before submission of proposals. Applicants are encouraged to submit their best ideas within the application deadline.

Some potential Applicants also requested individual meetings with the Founding Partners to discuss their ideas and proposed approaches. The Founding Partners are unable to hold such meetings or answer individual questions submitted after the question/comment period that ended January 4, 2013. The Founding Partners hope you find the information you need in the responses provided above.