



June 26, 2023

Reference: Notice of Funding Opportunity Number 7200AA23RFA00015
Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Irrigation & Mechanization Systems
Subject: Amendment 01

Dear Interested Applicants:

The following Amendment 01 to Notice of Funding Opportunity Number 7200AA23RFA00015 provides responses to questions received. This Amendment does not revise the Notice of Funding Opportunity. Please note that the Application closing date has not been extended.

Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant; all preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense. Issuance of this Notice of Funding Opportunity does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

Sincerely,

Rachel Baltes
Agreement Officer
M/OAA/RFS

Questions and Answers

1. Is the current open solicitation for questions required to submit to this program? Or will there be another solicitation that comes out with an application window?

USAID response: *There will not be another solicitation for the subject procurement. If eligible, please submit applications based on the instructions found within the solicitation.*

2. Can the Innovation Lab have several co-Directors in different institutions with responsibilities for assigned geographical locations?

USAID response: *USAID requires a single Director. The responsibilities of the Assistant/Associate/Deputy Director could be divided among 2-3 people. Either the Director, or the Associate or Deputy Director, must be employed by the Applicant institution.*

3. To what extent will USAID assist in identifying and making connections with USAID missions in target countries?

USAID response: *After award, USAID will assist the winning Applicant in making the appropriate connections with USAID Mission staff.*

4. Is it expected that the ILIMS will have a presence in all areas including Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean?

USAID response: *USAID recognizes that funding is limited and that increased presence in multiple global regions comes at a cost. Per A.IV.d.9: USAID recognizes that this program will not have the resources and will not be expected to work in each FTF target country. Therefore, Applicants are required to select target countries for activities in their application and must select a minimum of four countries in a minimum of two regions described where there exist the best opportunities to meet the IL objectives.*

5. Can/should ILIMS initially target one region/country to develop and test a successful process/template before engaging with other countries?

USAID response: *USAID believes that funding is sufficient to carry out multiple research activities simultaneously in multiple countries on multiple innovations and capacity development.*

6. Please elaborate on the \$11 million for Associate Awards?

USAID response: Associate Awards may be made by USAID Missions or Washington-based offices to carry out a specific program related to the work of the ILIMS. Associate Awards may include activities of research, scaling, or capacity development, although typically USAID Missions issue Associate Awards to implement scaling activities. Any USAID Mission may issue such an Associate Award, and the ILIMS is expected to be able to find the staff with the required experience to carry out such Associate Awards. See section A.IV.f.

7. Is it necessary to provide a letter of support demonstrating the establishment of a partnership with NARS actors, CGIAR Centers, and community-based organizations when submitting the proposal?

USAID response: Each Applicant must determine for themselves whether such a letter is required to support their application. A letter is required from all organizations outside of the Applicant institution that will be delegated responsibilities as stated in the NOFO.

8. If multiple institutions present highly competitive proposals, would USAID consider encouraging a collaborative approach amongst them, rather than selecting a singular winner?"

USAID response: USAID is required to issue an award to an eligible U.S. university.

9. In light of elevated security risks in certain priority countries, which may prevent higher education institutions from sending researchers on-ground, would it be feasible for a successful applicant to establish partnerships with local organizations and carry out the necessary work remotely or from neighboring countries?

USAID response: Per A.IV.d.6, USAID expects that ILIMS will carry out a program of high quality that includes local capacity strengthening and that contributes to the goals of USAID Localization efforts. Also see <https://www.usaid.gov/localization>.

10. The ROA uses "The Applicant" throughout; may I assume that the submitting organization is "The Applicant," and not the individual organizations or sub-recipients that may be contributing as sub-recipients, correct?

USAID response: Confirmed.

11. Does a sub-recipient need to provide conflict of interest disclosure?

USAID response: Yes. Please refer to 2CFR1402.112.

12. Do the sub-recipients need to be registered with SAM?

USAID response: Please refer to 2CFR25.300

End of Amendment 01