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Through Amendment 1

RFA Issuance Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2009

RFA Applicant Questions Due: Tuesday, June 23, 2009, by 5 P.M. Washington, D.C. time (Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

Pre-Application Conference: Tuesday, June 30, 2009, from 2-4 P.M.

Closing Date and Time for Application

Submission: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM Washington, D.C. time (Eastern Daylight Savings Time)

Subject: Adapting Livestock Systems to Climate Change (ALSCC) Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) Request for Applications (RFA) Number M-OAA-EGAT-AG-09-1155

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) seeks applications from eligible universities or colleges to serve as the Management Entity (ME) for a Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) entitled: **Adapting Livestock Systems to Climate Change (ALS-CC) Collaborative Research Support Program (ALS-CC CRSP)** The authority for this RFA is found in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

This CRSP activity will be a Leader with Associates (LWA) assistance award. The successful applicant will be awarded a five-year Cooperative Agreement Leader Award with responsibility for managing a worldwide program of research and outreach activities intended to provide results in multiple countries and/or regions. A five-year extension may be provided, subject to the following three criteria: (1) a record of good performance during the first five-year period; (2) availability of Agency funding; and (3) continued relevance of the CRSP to the overall Agency portfolio and development priorities. The applicant is required to submit a technical and cost application as detailed in Section A. The Recipient will be responsible for ensuring achievement of the program objectives of this CRSP. Please refer to the Program Description (Section 1) for a complete statement of goals and expected results.

Additional related activities may be awarded by USAID missions or other USAID offices as Associate Awards. These Associate Awards are not competed, but rather are awarded under the Leader agreement and are subject to the provisions of the Leader award. Associate Awards may be either cooperative agreements or grants.

Section 269(d) of Title XII of the Foreign Assistance Act, as amended, defines an eligible university or college as:

“... those colleges or universities in each State, territory, or possession of the United States, or the District of Colombia, now receiving, or which may hereafter receive, benefits under the Act of July 2, 1862 (known as the First Morill Act) or the Act of August 30, 1890 (known as the Second Morill Act), which are commonly known as land-grant universities; institutions now designated or which may hereafter be designated as sea-grant colleges under the Act of October 5, 1966 (known as the National Sea Grant College and Program Act), which are commonly known as sea-grant colleges; Native American land-grant colleges as authorized under the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 USC. 301 note); and the United States colleges and universities which - (1) have demonstrated capacity in teaching, research, and extension (including outreach) activities in the agricultural sciences; and (2) can contribute effectively to the attainment of the objectives of this title.”

Additionally, to be eligible, applicants must: (1) demonstrate an established capacity to provide the technical services and expertise to support livestock research programs; (2) have a proven track record in managing applied research programs, and promoting agricultural and rural development; (3) be legally registered in the United States; and (4) be able to manage funding under USAID financial management standards to ensure funds accountability.

Pursuant to 22 CFR 226.81, it is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments such as cooperative agreements. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the grant program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (22 CFR 226, OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit organizations, OMB Circular A-21 for universities, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for for-profit organizations), may be paid under the Cooperative Agreement.

Applicants under consideration for an award that have never received funding from USAID will be subject to a pre-award audit to determine fiscal responsibility, ensure adequacy of financial controls, and establish an indirect cost rate.

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to award a five-year Leader Award for up to \$15,000,000 total. Associate Awards are anticipated not to exceed \$10,000,000 over the life of the agreement. However, there is no guarantee on the number of awards to be issued nor the total amount expended. Considering current budgetary constraints, the CRSP should use an annual Leader Award level of up to \$3,000,000 for planning purposes. The Leader and Associate Awards shall specify the Total Estimated Award (TEA) amount for the Cooperative Agreement allocated over the five (5) year period. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.

For the purposes of this program, this RFA is being issued and consists of this cover letter and the following:

SECTION 1 – Funding Opportunity Description

SECTION 2 – Award Information
SECTION 3 – Eligibility Information
SECTION 4 – Application and Submission Information
SECTION 5 – Application Review Information
SECTION 6 -- Award and Administration Information
SECTION 7 – Agency Contacts
SECTION 8 – Other Information
Annexes

For the purposes of this RFA, the term "Grant" is synonymous with "Cooperative Agreement"; "Grantee" is synonymous with "Recipient"; and "Grant Officer" is synonymous with "Agreement Officer". Also, "application" is synonymous with "proposal"; and "lead university", "leader" and "management entity (ME)" are synonymous.

The award will be made to that responsible applicant whose application offers the greatest value to the USG in furthering the goals of the CRSP.

Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant; all preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense. Issuance of this RFA 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. In addition, final award of any resultant Cooperative Agreement cannot be made until funds are available for award.

This RFA and any future amendments can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov>. Select "Find Grant Opportunity for Which You Would Like to Apply", then click on "Browse by Agency", and select the "US Agency for International Development" and search for the RFA.

In the event of an inconsistency between the documents comprising this RFA, it shall be resolved by the following descending order of precedence:

- (a) Section 5 Application Review Information;
- (b) Section 4 Application and Submission Information;
- (c) Section 1 Funding Opportunity Description, III. Program Description and IV. Expected Results; and
- (d) This Cover Letter.

Please note that this RFA includes important departures from past CRSP practice. See the body of this RFA for specific directions. Applicants are advised to pay particular attention to the following elements:

- Cost share requirement
- Management Entity budgeting
- External evaluations
- Expected Results

All guidance included in this RFA takes precedence over any other CRSP guidelines. The 2005 Draft CRSP Guidelines are listed in this RFA under “Useful Websites” only as a reference. These guidelines may be helpful to organizations seeking to get a general sense of current CRSP practice; however, they are not binding and other approaches are appropriate.

The applicant shall submit applications in electronic format as described in Section IV. Applications must be received by the closing date and time indicated at the top of this cover letter. Late applications will not be considered for award. Applications must be directly responsive to the terms and conditions of this RFA. Telegraphic or fax applications (entire proposal) are not authorized for this RFA and will not be accepted.

Pre-Award Conference: USAID will host a pre-award conference to address issues regarding this RFA on Tuesday, June 30 from 2-4 PM in the meeting room of the USAID public library and information center on the mezzanine level of the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20523. This conference is open to all potential applicants. If interested in attending, please contact the individuals listed below to assure seating.

Note: The Pre-Application Conference is likely to be the last opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions of USAID on this RFA

Any clarification questions concerning this RFA should be submitted by email to David Lavine at dalavine@usaid.gov and Roxane Wiser at rwiser@usaid.gov, with a read receipt requested, by the close of business on Tuesday, June 23, 2009. If there are problems in downloading the RFA from www.grants.gov, please contact the Federal Grants Help Desk at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Kenneth E. Stein
Agreement Officer
USAID M/OAA/EGAT

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SECTION 1 – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

I. INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) was created in 1977 to engage the capacities of the US land grant and other eligible universities in addressing the needs of developing nations worldwide while also contributing to US food security and agricultural development. The US Congress made this possible with the passage of the International Development and Food Assistance Act of 1975, specifically under Title XII of that Act. With the passage of the Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger Improvement Act of 2000, Title XII was amended and reauthorized, enabling the continuation of long-term collaborative research programs as one of several categories of US university led research efforts helping “to achieve the mutual goals among nations of ensuring food security, human health, agricultural growth, trade expansion, and the wise and sustainable use of natural resources.”

With the 2000 amendment of Title XII, Congress has directed that support be provided to mobilize the capacities of US universities and public and private partners of universities for: 1) global research on problems affecting food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; and 2) improved human capacity and institutional resource development for the global application of agriculture and related environmental sciences. These activities are intended to benefit both developing countries and the United States.

USAID’s Office of Agriculture manages a range of research grants and agreements, including the CRSPs that bring the experience and expertise of US Universities, Non-governmental Organizations, International Research Centers, and US Government Agencies to bear on critical development questions in the areas of agriculture and natural resource management.

CRSPs are defined by these characteristics:

- They are coordinated, multi-disciplinary research programs that are collaboratively developed and cooperatively implemented, with shared responsibilities between US and host country institutions and scientists. CRSP goals are consistent with the goals of USAID to support economic growth and to reduce poverty through the generation of knowledge and technologies important to the development of agriculture and natural resources of developing and transition countries, while also contributing to the improvement of agriculture in the US.
- They are long-term activities which, to the maximum extent possible, are carried out within the developing countries.
- They develop the human and institutional capability of research organizations in the countries where CRSP activities are located. The institutional relationships established between CRSPs and host country institutions are intended to be enduring and to transcend the life of the CRSP.

- They address human capacity development and, in addition to using research projects as a vehicle for this capacity development, they may accommodate training needs through graduate degree programs, research assistantships, and workshops.
- They employ a “program approach” in their research design and implementation, working collaboratively among several institutions in the US and overseas, drawing on the expertise of several disciplines to solve identified constraints to agricultural problems.
- They follow a “global plan” of research goals and strategies to reach them. Research proposals are selected in open competition according to their ability to address the identified constraints in the CRSP’s¹ global plan. These plans are subject to approval by USAID.
- They select research sites to achieve quality research results and according to criteria including: the importance of the research to a specific country economy, the presence of adequate institutional research capacity in country, the interest and commitment of the host country government or institutions in the research program, the interest of the relevant USAID Bureau and/or country Mission, and the availability of sufficient resources to do the research.

II. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

A. Background

Increasing global awareness that climate disruption and change is challenging traditional livestock production systems has stimulated the international development community to focus its efforts on responding. Recent activities include: the Rockefeller Foundation’s exploration of how to make African livestock more resilient to climate variability and change as part of its larger Climate Change Adaptation Initiative; ILRI’s discussion paper on the Livestock-Climate-Poverty Nexus (Thornton, et.al 2008); The British Animal Society’s recent conference on Livestock and Global Climate Change (Hammamet, Tunisia May 2009); and FAO’s concept note on how the livestock sector can respond to the growing challenge of natural resource management, climate change and poverty reduction. FAO and the World Bank have already started to conceptualize relevant approaches and entered into a dialogue with interested partners.

Climate variability and change is already threatening the livelihoods of livestock producing households with a domino affect along the value chain. Thornton et al. (2009) points out that climate change impacts on agriculture are not only regionally distinct, but also highly heterogeneous spatially. Livestock keepers in different geographical regions are or will be facing different impacts of climate change. This in turn will impose choices of altered management. They will need to adapt or cope with temperature extremes, decreased water availability and increased drought risk in the tropics and sub-tropics, or more frequent flooding in sea level or below sea level regions. Adaptation may require matching the feed and water requirements of livestock to resource productivity, quality and availability. Depending on source of feed and its availability, either local or imported, producers may change specific types and breeds of animals (FAO “Linking geographic information system (GIS) and FAO’s agro-ecological zone (AEZ)

¹ <http://crsps.org/>

models for land resource appraisal” by J. Antoine in World Soil Resources Reports 75). Availability and quality of feed or water will determine the numbers of livestock kept.

Animal agriculture is the largest single sector of agricultural economies in most developing and transition countries, accounting for up to 50 percent of agricultural GDPs. As economies grow, the proportion of agricultural GDP represented by livestock production increases. 1.3 billion people depend partially or entirely on livestock for their livelihoods, and livestock keeping often is a last resort for people without alternatives. In resource-poor households, livestock continue to anchor the economic subsistence of families most at risk of food insecurity.

IFPRI has reported that developing countries are experiencing massive annual increases in the aggregate consumption of animal-source foods, an increase of five percent per year and more than three times the increase occurring in developed countries. By 2020, this demand will increase 88 percent to equal 63 percent of the total. In per capita terms, demand for meat products is projected to increase by almost 50 percent. Yet global demand for meat is projected to increase more than 60 percent of current consumption.

More than 80 percent of population growth occurs in cities of developing countries. The increasing demand for livestock products is an important driving force pressuring changes in the livestock sector (DfiD, 2007). Pressure-induced responses result in a number of geographical, structural and technological shifts, and changing functions and/or species. A major transformation towards intensification of the livestock sector is occurring globally. Livestock systems traditionally have been determined by human population densities that drive land use.

One-third of the earth’s surface is dry or semi-arid. These areas maintain an extensive, pastoral or transhumant type of livestock production, the dominant anthropogenic use of land. Grazing systems currently occupy an estimated 26 percent of earth’s ice-free land surface. In dry and semi-arid conditions, interventions need to vary with the state of the system in disequilibrium and focus on risk management.

Under predominantly equilibrium conditions small-scale farmers in mixed farming systems practice intensive livestock production. In these systems, livestock and crop production complement each other, providing many advantages over crops alone and helping to spread risk. According to FAO, about two-thirds of milk and meat in developing countries is produced in mixed farming systems. Mixed crop-livestock farms produce more than 40 percent of the meat and more than 90 percent of the world’s milk production from cattle, poultry, small ruminants, and pigs. However, in this system humans and animals live in close proximity and climate change creates conditions that allow zoonotic disease vectors to proliferate and spread more easily.

IFPRI projected that meat production was expected to increase by 2.7 percent per year between 1993-2020. Taking this into account FAO estimated that in 2010 developing countries would produce 143 million tons of meat. Yet, as a group, developing countries are expected to increase net meat imports twenty-fold, amounting to 11.5 million tons in 2020. In terms of market shares, developing countries will account for 60 percent of the meat and 52 percent of the

milk. As populations grow and become wealthier (particularly the urban elite), they substitute higher-priced livestock calories for lower-priced starch calories.

B. Research Needs

USAID seeks to fund applied research to meet the increasing demand for livestock products, the challenges of decreasing availability of natural resource and climate change, and the goal of increasing incomes for livestock producers.

Some primary issues that highlight the need for research include: animal disease epidemiological surveillance; control of epizootics; pastoral risk management; land tenure; conflict mitigation/prevention/resolution; land degradation; peri-urban point-source pollution; animal health delivery services in conflict-prone areas; national government support for strengthening privatizing veterinary services; limited land resources, increasing populations and an economic slump; industrial livestock production systems and point-source pollution; weak national economies; deforestation and the expansion of ranching into forests; access to credit; common property management; land tenure; land use for biofuel production; transboundary enzootic diseases; regulatory, legal and economic policy reforms to support open markets and liberalized trade; disjointed inter-regional animal health policies and coordination; infrastructure that serves animal health needs throughout the region.

In the area of climate change, livestock keepers in different geographical regions are or will be facing different impacts of climate change. This in turn will impose choices of altered management they will need to adapt or cope. For example, they will have to adapt to temperature extremes, decreased water availability and increased drought risk in the tropics and sub-tropics, or more frequent flooding in sea level or below sea level regions. Adaptation may require matching the feed and water requirements of livestock to resource productivity, quality and availability. Depending on source of feed and its availability, either local or imported, producers may change specific types and breeds of animals (FAO, “Linking geographical information systems (GIS) and FAO's agro-ecological zone (AEZ) models for land resource appraisal” by J. Antoine in World Soil Resources Reports 75). Availability and quality of feed or water will determine the numbers of livestock kept. Thornton *et al.* (2009) points out that climate change impacts on agriculture are not only regionally distinct, but also highly heterogeneous spatially.

Applicants will select their preference for at least six researchable topics from these four areas:

- Climate Change, Livestock and the Environment
- Livestock and Human Health
- Livestock and the Value Chain
- Enabling Environment and Policy

1. Climate Change, Livestock and Environment

Current evidence demonstrates that developing countries located mostly in warmer regions and where agriculture is the primary source of income will be affected the most by climate change. These countries have already experienced unpredictable and highly variable rainfall patterns, greater weather extremes and increasing droughts and floods. Such changes will affect water quality and quantity, and compound the impact of poor water and sanitation. Higher levels of malnutrition may be observed due to changing agricultural outputs and limited access to markets (UNICEF 2007).

A broad scope of environmental concerns challenges 21st century agriculture. Forest, watershed, dryland and wetland issues are no longer isolated locally but now must be viewed through a global lens linked to major global environmental trends and especially climate change. The agricultural community needs to acknowledge its dual role as part of the larger problem (accounting for 20 percent of all greenhouse gas emissions) and also part of the solution (through increased carbon sequestration and higher biological activity systems). Methane from ruminant digestion contributes only 2.5 percent of the total global greenhouse gases, and these emissions have increased at a much slower rate in recent years than emissions from direct human activities such as emissions from cars, power stations, industries and domestic fires. In comparison wetland rice production fields produce 100 million tons of methane annually or 29 percent of annual anthropogenic methane emission (Neue, 1993).

Livestock keepers face different aspects of climate-imposed management requirements primarily by dealing with temperature extremes as well as matching the feed and water requirements of livestock to resource productivity, quality and availability. Their decision to keep specific types and breeds of livestock is an important factor as is source of feed that is either locally available or imported. If availability and quality of feed or water is poor, then the numbers of livestock clearly need to be reduced to a level where availability matches the requirements of the livestock. Problems arise from two main causes:

- when climatic extremes exceed normal expectations, e.g. resulting in droughts, floods or other events that displace livestock keepers and/or kill animals; or
- when external factors obstruct traditional coping strategies, e.g., encroaching crop cultivation of pastoralists' traditional normal dry-season grazing areas that reduces or eliminates availability of grazing resources for livestock in the dry season.

Currently 26 percent of all land worldwide is devoted to grazing systems (OIE, 2006). This is equivalent to 3.4 billion hectares. However, because no additional land is being added for pasture, marginal lands are now the frontiers and are quickly becoming exhausted. For example, increased interest in using land for biofuels instead of pasture is creating a trade-off dilemma that challenges resource use. A simple view that emphasizes only the environment must be balanced with cultural, economic and social factors and must place livestock in the context of other agendas, such as water, forestry, food security, public health, and wildlife.

Grazing systems are found primarily in more marginal areas unfit for cropping, and pastoralists engaged in extensive livestock production systems have been and will continue to be a major source of meat for urban populations through domestic, bilateral and regional trade. In addition to surviving chronic famine, human conflict over natural resources critical for livestock production, human and animal disease epidemics, as well as poor governance and poor policies, external forces including climate change continue to impact these marginalized populations.

To respond to increasing demands for animal source food products, livestock production is increasing but intensifying thus impacting local environments in several ways. As human activities exert pressures on the environment (such as land use change in response to increased demand for livestock products and associated polluting activities), the state of the environment requires society's response to resulting impacts. This Pressure-State-Impact-Response System known as PSR/PSIR (DfID, 2007) too often elicits myopic or badly informed decisions targeted at the symptoms exhibited by the changed state but not at the original pressures.

Priority research topics include:

- conflict mitigation/prevention/resolution among pastoral societies caused by land use changes or limited availability and quality of forages due to drought;
- changes in rangeland species distribution, composition, patterns and biome distribution due to climate change with subsequent land degradation caused by overgrazing;
- increasing human health challenges as peri-urban point-source pollution increases in slums or in densely populated villages and towns as numbers of livestock within them increase;
- increasing growth of industrial livestock production systems and subsequent point-source pollution and GHG emissions due to poor or no waste management;
- deforestation for grazing or land use for biofuel production.

2. Livestock and Human Health

Disease epidemics often result in catastrophic losses. Epidemics marginalize farmers, destabilize rural economies, increase the potential for conflict, and in some cases present a direct threat to public health. Examples include: the 1980 Rinderpest epidemic that resulted in the death of approximately one million cattle in Africa at a cost of over US \$2 billion; an outbreak of Classical Swine Fever in the Netherlands in 1995-96 resulting in the slaughter of 1.2 million hogs at a cost of over US \$4 billion. Foot and Mouth disease (FMD) cost British farmers \$85 million per week in losses and an \$852 million per year loss to meat and livestock export markets in 2005. The projected economic loss of an FMD outbreak in the US would be an estimated US \$157 billion. And the current epidemic of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) could have an estimated global total direct impact of \$21.35 billion annually (CAES, 2007).

Many of these animal diseases are endemic in poor countries because of the relatively high cost of prevention to small producers and the lack of institutional capability to prevent isolated cases from spreading beyond national borders. Since public veterinary services in most

developing countries have been slow to embrace privatization, effective countrywide or regional epidemiological surveillance also becomes a limiting factor.

Populations vulnerable to successive shocks such as droughts, floods and subsequent disease, struggle to survive with severely diminishing coping capacities. Societies that traditionally moved in response to shock are being restricted more frequently thus curtailing their coping mechanism and subsequently increasing pressure on the resource base. As more transhumants change their lifestyles and leave pastoralism for urban life but without adequate financial means, they are forced to live in crowded localities. Intensive urban livestock keeping becomes the norm as it requires less or no land and provides a return on investment. However animal waste disposal is arbitrary and waste mismanagement also creates ideal conditions for disease. Spatial shifting of livestock production to peri-urban areas brings a risk of zoonoses. With a lack of education and limited access to information as well as health professionals serving the community, symptoms of many zoonotic diseases continue to be confused with malaria and often remain undiagnosed and untreated.

A convergence of physical and environmental factors with ecological, genetic and biological, and political, social and economic factors is creating what has been called a microbial “perfect storm” (Thiermann, 2007). Sixty percent of human pathogens are zoonotic and 80 percent of animal pathogens are multi-species (*ibid*). An estimated 75 percent of all emerging diseases in the past decade are attributed to livestock (e.g., Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome [SARS], Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza [HPAI], Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy [BSE], Nipah Virus). But although some of the emerging human diseases have been related to livestock, others emerge from wildlife (e.g., Ebola virus, HIV, Rabies, Lyme Disease, West Nile virus, Bovine Tuberculosis). As humans and their livestock interface more closely and frequently with wildlife the conduit opens more widely for the zoonotic microbial storm.

Among the factors that promote the microbial storm are poorly recycled animal wastes, overcrowded production conditions (“factory farms”), congested inter-species markets, increased trade movement of livestock and people, routine use of antibiotics in feed. Manure is often the main carrier for pathogens but carcasses and body parts from slaughter and in carcasses also may contain disease agents.

Priority research topics include:

- effects of climate change on livestock and vector or non-vector-borne disease, on pathogens and hosts, on disease vectors, and on animal epidemiological surveillance, transboundary enzootic disease, and control of epizootics;
- shifts in disease distribution, and outbreaks of severe disease in previously unexposed animal and human populations due to movement of vectors as temperature and humidity change, and as people and animals migrate or live in closer proximity;
- lack of infrastructure and disjointed inter-regional animal health policies and coordination that serve animal health needs;
- waste management, including slaughter wastes, leading to point-source pollution and zoonotic disease transmission;

- animal and human health delivery services in conflict-prone areas as humans and livestock migrate.

3. Livestock and the Value Chain

Globalization expands markets as it shrinks the world and value chains are “driven” by consumer needs for access to affordable and nutritious foods as well as preferences for specific types of foods. As people relocate they create a shifting pattern of supply and demand which in turn changes local or regional market responses to production and consumption trends. In the extensive systems, changing climate is stimulating an expansion of crop farming into semi-arid regions that traditionally have been grazing areas for transhumant populations. The displacement of herders and their livestock disrupts migratory routes and coupled with increasing frequency of or longer droughts disrupts grazing patterns, confines herds on more limited grazing lands thus creating a potential for overgrazing, and reduces the forage base. Lower quality forages result in lower quality animals, increased vulnerability to disease vectors, and lower prices at market. Herders are pushed into conflict more frequently with other groups and are forced to travel further to find grazing or to take livestock to markets. In the intensive or mixed crop-livestock systems, climate perturbations cause disruption of feed supplies that result in lower volume production (milk) or quality (meat) or in fewer animals, increasing exposure to disease or disease vectors, higher levels of point-source pollution at slaughter houses or at the household level.

As the demand for animal source food increases, consumers must be confident in public sector regulatory mechanisms. Increased demand results in increased transport and trade that has outpaced food safety standards. This is of particular concern not just in terms of livestock health and the risk of transmitting disease to new regions, but also for those diseases that can be passed between animals and humans. The lack of domestic as well as national sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards is exacerbated by the lack of a well-trained and highly qualified cadre of public health service professionals.

In developing countries where livestock and people live in close proximity, zoonotic diseases can add to what is an already over-burdened public health system. In terms of food safety, the potential for disease to spread from one animal to a number of consumers has to be met by adequate regulations for processing which must be in place if developing countries wish to fulfill the rigorous standards required for export. Zoonotic diseases will continue to attract international attention as the scientific community grapples to predict when and where new diseases may emerge or re-emerge.

As people and their livestock come into closer contact, environmental and public health issues increase due to lack of or un-enforced policies and weak regulations regarding keeping urban or slum animals and point-source waste disposal either at the household level or in small and medium-sized slaughterhouses. The main environmental problems caused by the small- and medium-sized slaughterhouses are the uncontrolled use of ground water and the discharge of untreated waste water with high concentrations of organics including persistent pollutants into public systems.

Priority research topics include:

- livestock-specific risk-management adaptation or coping options to climate disruptions;
- impacts on livestock-based livelihood systems vis-à-vis stakeholder involvement, information demand and supply, and cost-benefit analysis of adaptation options;
- impacts on markets as geographic boundaries of agricultural systems shift in response to changing population densities and climate;

4. Enabling Environment and Policy

Integrated into the three areas above is the task of providing options to host countries on policies that will contribute to economic growth that impact on the value chain, environmental animal and human health. Livestock production requires a sound legislative and policy framework, adequate local and regional infrastructure, and institutions with a focus on capacity building, management instruments and monitoring and evaluation.

As climate change is becoming more understood, the global scope of local environmental issues is becoming more and more apparent; and solutions to desertification, biodiversity loss, and water pollution are being sought. A host of opportunities, problems and challenges must be addressed to succeed in this endeavor. Meeting these challenges requires new policies, institutional capabilities and partnerships aimed at integrating environmental and sustainability objectives into the poverty and hunger reduction strategy.

Priority policy topics include:

- disjointed inter-regional animal health policies and coordination due to uninformed national governments about climate change patterns;
- food safety regulatory, legal and economic policy reforms to support open markets and liberalized trade as market patterns of livestock shift or increase;
- adaptation options including income-related responses, pricing policy adjustments, and income stabilization options.
- Other topics that support the three areas mentioned above

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A. Goals and Objectives

The **vision** of this program is to empower public and private sector stakeholders to conduct and apply research, augment academic training and bolster technical capacity to meet the challenges of climate change on the livestock sector.

The **goal** of this program is to increase the incomes of livestock producers and reduce risk associated with climate change.

The **objectives** of this program are to:

- Build local human and institutional capacity for livestock productivity, veterinary and human health and environmental sciences.
- Extend and apply research findings and technical knowledge to livestock producers, associated industries and public and private extension and agricultural services and strengthen the capacity of livestock producing households and related businesses to adapt to or cope with the impacts that unpredictable climate variability is imposing on them.
- Develop policies that support national and regional programs that bring livestock producers, traders, veterinary and human health officials as well as government policy makers around the agenda of responding appropriately to the anticipated changes in resource availability.

Measurement of achieving these objectives will be through the use of the USAID Agriculture Standard Indicators found in Annex 6; also, see IV. Expected Results in this section.

Implementers of the ALS-CC CRSP will be encouraged to forge linkages with USAID initiatives, USAID Missions and non-USAID initiatives in the livestock sector. Such linkages will contribute to Agency objectives including connection and coordination with other U.S. agencies and novel outreach approaches through stakeholders in the sector. USAID values the importance of linking research to field application and the benefits that accrue to stakeholders when linkages are successful. Implementers are encouraged to seek linkages with relevant USAID Mission programs in the field. The application should note relevant current initiatives and key issues such as food security, the food price crisis, etc., demonstrating an understanding of those issues, and to the extent possible how to address them. In particular, the proposed activities of this CRSP should demonstrate an understanding of USAID's Strategic Framework and its relationship to the proposal.

In addition, the application should frame the discussion in the context of the *Policy Foreign Assistance Framework* (see Annex 5), and especially in the categories and language of the Foreign Assistance Standardized Program Structure and Definitions (see Annex 4) which are the components of USAID's reporting system. Two components of the Foreign Assistance Framework (FAF) must be addressed by the research, Agriculture Enabling Environment and Agriculture Sector Productivity.

1. Strengthening the Agriculture Enabling and Policy Environment

Strengthening the enabling and policy environment will help frame legal and public investment policy approaches necessary for building sustainable partnerships and strong associations and cooperatives. These important structures give small and medium-sized enterprises the voice to advocate for a larger market segment and appropriate policies for their members. A structured, reliable enabling environment plays an especially critical role in determining success in sustainable livestock production and trade.

Special training opportunities will be made available through the ALS-CC to assist policy makers. Assistance will be designed to improve their capacity to frame policy agendas for designing domestic export policies and negotiating regional and international livestock product

trade agreements. Research on identifying constraints and solutions to an effective enabling business environment for private sector producers and exporters will be supported under this CRSP.

The ALS-CC will be encouraged to use best practices from other USAID programs to delineate important policy considerations related to regulatory systems, waste management systems, food safety protocols and access to credit for enterprises that deal in the business of livestock products.

The ALS-CC CRSP will conduct research that yields concrete and applicable recommendations for policy, practices and programming in the substantive areas outlined above. It will be encouraged to build outreach activities into the research design and implementation and engage policymakers and practitioners. Additional strategies for ensuring that research will be relevant to and used by policy makers, practitioners and development professionals should be considered. This may include building research activities with reference to planned or existing development programs that are conducted by a USAID Mission or other donor organization, or that are being undertaken by the host country government or its private sector. Activities could inform project design or refinement, or pilot test innovations. Again, support by the appropriate Mission, policy makers and/or private sector practitioners would be key to ensure that they can be replicated and adopted. At a minimum, research activities, and the CRSP as a whole, should utilize policy briefs, stakeholder meetings and other tools and mechanisms to make the research more relevant and accessible to policy makers, practitioners and development professionals.

2. Improving Agricultural Sector Productivity

Research activities are expected to generate new knowledge and apply current practices that elucidate how convergence of physical and environmental factors with ecological, genetic and biological, and political, social and economic factors is needed to respond to climate disruption. The ALS-CC will assist both public sector institutions and private sector owned enterprises to conduct research and training that will increase access to a range of information and knowledge about the interaction among and between zoonotic diseases, livestock waste management, animal source food safety, access to input supplies, the provision of veterinary services, and similar topics.

The ALS-CC CRSP will leverage the Title XII university network to build local capacity through research, training, curriculum development and outreach. The CRSP will conduct and apply research findings, upgrade and disseminate technical knowledge and appropriate technology, and develop policy recommendations that strengthen the ability of livestock producers to adapt and/or cope with climate variability and change. It will provide flexible mechanisms to create partnerships for building local scientific and technical capacity, and will strengthen academic and technical training and apply research to improve smallholder livestock production and marketing. Innovative mechanisms using a full range of U.S. public and professional organizations will be encouraged to maximize integration of expertise across the livestock sector.

The stakeholders of the ALS-CC CRSP are U.S. Title XII institutions², universities in developing countries, developing country small farmers, international agricultural research centers and national agricultural research systems, associations of livestock producers, global and national agribusinesses and developing country governments. This program is designed to serve USAID Mission initiatives in livestock-related programs.

The ALS-CC CRSP core funding will focus on research, academic and technical training, and capacity building. This program responds to the need for long and short-term training at technical and tertiary levels of education in host countries. The ALS-CC CRSP will be encouraged to partner with host country universities and training institutions to improve curricula and to upgrade host country academic and technical training programs.

It will reinforce public and private sector capacity building to address livestock development along a demand driven value chain. The ALS-CC CRSP will leverage funding through existing or new mechanisms in USAID Offices and Missions to support global alliances and partnerships that increase small producer incomes and generate employment. A key objective of this activity will be to collaborate and build on work being done by others³ on aspects of the livestock value chain.

The activity will work closely with local universities, technical institutions, businesses, and private and public policy institutions to ensure that all can participate in a comprehensive program aimed at building domestic technical and managerial capacity in support of the livestock-environment sector. In addition, USAID has long-standing university and research institution linkages in the agricultural sciences. These linkages should be cultivated to ensure that research information can be shared. During the implementation of this program a concerted effort should be made to foster continued transparent collaboration

B. Program Approach

The ALS-CC CRSP will be comprised primarily of relevant research activities on the impacts of climate change on livestock, human and environmental health synergies. The research portfolio will be overseen by a Management Entity in the university recipient of the Cooperative Agreement Leader Award. This section outlines factors to be considered in the development of the ALS-CC CRSP program and management structure.

1. Technical

The technical approach should include discussion of the following:

a. Technical Leadership: The applicant should describe an overall vision for a portfolio of high quality, innovative research/extension/development activities consistent with the framework discussed in the RFA program description that is designed to achieve long-term development impact. The applicant should briefly summarize important trends in integrated livestock, human health and environmental sciences as framed in the program description. The applicant should provide a conceptual framework that shows the interrelationships between the substantive areas

² This includes 1862, 1890, 1966, and 1994 Land Grant Institutions as defined in Title XII legislation, as amended.

³ Others will include other donors, ILRI, USAID mission partners and firms seeking collaboration with international partners.

and establishes some priorities for directing research. The applicant should explain how the program will capitalize on the strengths of universities or research institutes, and of other organizations and enterprises as determined by applicants.

b. Achieving Development Impact: This discussion must include a strategy for achieving long-term development impacts through the achievement of intermediate results and benchmarks as discussed in the program description Section C. These benchmarks may be general at this time, but should serve as a framework for more specific indicators and benchmarks that will be developed as activities are selected. The applicant should articulate the process by which specific indicators will be developed and measured. The applicant should be aware that proposed results and indicators may be incorporated in the award document.

The applicant should pay careful attention to the emphasis USAID is increasingly placing on public-private partnerships (sometimes called ‘alliances’). The dynamics of the contemporary ALS-CC ‘sector’ include the significant prospect of productive alliances or partnerships with industry (e.g., global or regional supply chain builders or companies that build and operate transport and storage systems), national/international ALS-CC associations, and international agriculture research centers. It is anticipated that the ALS-CC would access and program with these entities: the application should identify potential partnerships for the core program.

The application should outline a strategy for dissemination of knowledge in a manner that leads to engagement of and influence on USAID field Missions and bureaus, host-country policy makers and practitioners, as well as other development and donor organizations.

c. Training and Capacity Building: The application must include a strategy to optimize long-term degree training opportunities for developing country nationals. Strategies that leverage funds for training from other sources are encouraged. The application should also describe approaches for short-term training that benefit developing country researchers, policymakers and entrepreneurs. Efforts should be made to ensure balance in access to training and capacity building opportunities in terms of the gender of trainees and other participants, and integrate appropriate gender sensitivity into all activities (see USAID policy in ADS 253.3.8).

The application should describe the strategy(s) that will be utilized to (1) increase the capacity of both U.S. and developing country universities and research institutions to analyze relevant policies, governance issues and institutional environments, develop appropriate recommendations, and conduct outreach to farm, industry, and government actors; and (2) increase the capacity of these same actors to critically assess and effectively implement ALS-CC CRSP recommendations.

The application should also describe approaches for short-term training that will benefit the U.S., developing country researchers, policymakers, producers and food industries. Again, strategies that leverage funds are encouraged.

d. Crosscutting Themes

This program will address three major themes that support USAID’s Agriculture Strategy, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (see Annex 3) and other Agency food security initiatives. The three themes are: scientific research, capacity building, and institutional strengthening. Although these three themes are described independently, an integrated, holistic approach is encouraged.

i. Scientific Research

This CRSP will conduct scientific research in collaboration with other institutions and organizations with staff and funding resources. Researchers from U.S. and host country institutions will define research problems collaboratively and work as partners to address them. Research should result in improved product competitiveness, increased incomes, and improved livelihoods. An important objective of the program seeks to expand collegial interaction on scientific research about livestock systems and climate change between Title XII universities and a number of pre-eminent host-country universities, international agricultural research centers and other agricultural institutional partners. USAID anticipates that there will be abundant opportunities to conduct appropriate scientific, adaptive and other types of research under Theme (i) of this program to achieve the vision of the ALS-CC CRSP.

Research under Theme (i) should promote synergies among university disciplines (e.g. animal science, veterinary science, agribusiness, water and natural resource management, climatology, human and animal nutrition, etc.), and constraints to livestock sector development should be identified collaboratively with developing country partners to determine research topics that are consistent with the program description.

Proposals that demonstrate a “holistic” approach that includes an integrated combination of research, extension and educational training to address livestock production, marketing and value-added constraints, and draw on collaborative inter-disciplinary input are strongly encouraged. USAID appreciates methodologies that have been used in earlier CRSPs and hopes that all research results can be disseminated and made readily available and useful to small farmers and participants in the livestock value chain. USAID is open to innovative approaches that identify the best host country/U.S. university and USAID field mission partnerships to achieve this objective.

It is USAID’s intention to facilitate sustainable long-term capacity building between and among the collaborating partners. These partnerships will offer researchers a network of colleagues and access to institutions that can offer scientifically based solutions to a range of livestock sector problems. Through this collaboration among U.S. universities, institutions and agribusinesses, and between similar host country institutions, research will be conducted that identifies and solves important constraints faced by small and medium scale farmers and agribusinesses in rebuilding and developing countries in order to increase incomes and improve livelihoods.

ii. Capacity Building

This CRSP anticipates innovative capacity building approaches through long- and short-term training and a combination of innovative teaching tools to strengthen host country academic institutions and enhance their curricula and teaching methods. The ALS-CC CRSP will depend on Title XII partners in this element of the program to assist with innovative capacity building and institutional strengthening tools that will improve the capacity of host country institutions to build sustainable partnerships between Title XII institutions and well-

respected regional institutions of higher learning. Theme (i) seeks to empower leaders in livestock and environmental sciences, business and agribusiness, and technology innovation to use new communication technology to facilitate or conduct scientific research, build local capacity in the U.S. and overseas, and develop strong regional and international institutions that support the production and marketing of livestock products.

The capacity building portion of this program will draw heavily on the wealth of technical know-how available through Title XII universities, international research centers, technical training institutions and specialized organizations in livestock sciences and the livestock industry. It will focus on building technical leadership within appropriate local agencies. It will assist USAID Mission and donor programs by developing local research and training capacity of government agencies, domestic agribusinesses and others engaged in production of livestock products and the environmental service industries.

Technical assistance and training may be provided to strengthen public and private capacity through extension and educational networks. Strong linkages will be developed between universities, international research centers and independent privately owned and operated institutions capable of carrying out targeted training. USAID's Global Development Alliance will be used as a model and, when appropriate, engaged in order for public and private sector enterprises to achieve the ALS-CC CRSP objectives.

The ALS-CC CRSP will encourage U.S. universities to collaboratively develop demand-driven programs with international research institutions and locally based university and public and private sector agricultural entities. Distance learning modules and video conferencing will be used to expose students, technicians, business associations and organizations and others to new technology, classroom lectures and certification programs to build technical skills. These collaborations will promote broad participation. Through these tools, participants along the value chain will quickly identify the risks, the most appropriate crops, and the most profitable products with the greatest potential for export and substantive revenues for producers and processors.

iii. Institutional Strengthening

- *University Linkages*

Programs will be designed for technical and teaching staff of host country universities and institutions to expose them to new technologies and advanced teaching methods. This assistance will focus on deepening curricula in local universities and technical training institutions. Assistance will be directed at building local extension service capacity in the sector.

- *Scientific Exchange Programs*

University staff exchange programs and sabbaticals will be encouraged to create a dynamic learning environment between U.S. Title XII universities and participating local universities. Scientific exchange programs that may include visiting professor programs and

other opportunities to share experiences are envisioned that will ultimately foster the free exchange of information and technology.

2. Management

The successful university recipient of this award will be the primary liaison with USAID for this award. It will be responsible for the day-to-day management of ALS-CC CRSP research and outreach activities, and will represent it on the CRSP Council (<http://crsps.org/>). The quality of the work done under this CRSP will depend upon the leadership, coordination and administration provided by the lead university. One of the most important functions of the lead university will be to establish and manage a portfolio of high quality and innovative research, outreach and implementation activities that speak to the needs of small farmers, the food industry, policy makers and development professionals both in the host country and more broadly. It will also be the responsibility of the lead university to translate the potentially diverse portfolio of individual research activities into a coherent global program that addresses critical gaps in knowledge regarding specific development constraints and to synthesize findings across common themes in the research portfolio. While each activity in the CRSP portfolio should have a communication and outreach strategy, it is the lead university that supports these country-level strategies and ensures communication and outreach for impact more broadly.

The application must include a proposed management structure for the CRSP. The role and responsibilities of the CRSP leadership and the relationship envisioned between that body and its individual activities must be described. A streamlined management structure that minimizes administrative costs in order to maximize research, outreach, and capacity building activities is encouraged.

- a. Management Structure and Approach with focus on the following elements:
 - i. Applicants must describe the proposed CRSP organizational structure, including proposed lines of responsibility, authority and communication, and procedures to ensure productivity as well as cost and quality control.
 - ii. A strategy for synthesized planning, reporting, and analysis across activities, to include monitoring of both sub and Associate Awards, that result in on-going improvement of activities and evaluation for lessons learned and reporting of results.
 - iii. A plan for open and transparent competition, selection and management of sub-awards. This plan should describe how the Adapting Livestock Systems to Climate Change CRSP will attract broad participation of US universities, including Minority Serving Institutions (MSI), and cooperating institutions in developing countries. The applicant should include discussion of how they will ensure a participatory process between the US university community, host country researchers and development partners, and other stakeholders in defining the research agenda and implementing research activities. Specific discussion should be included of how the CRSP will encourage Mission engagement in CRSP activities and, at minimum, will avoid activities to which a Mission objects. The applicant's plan should include safeguards to avoid conflicts of interest in the solicitation, submission and evaluation of Associate Awards.

- iv. The process by which Associate Awards will be sought, developed, and implemented. The capacity of the management office to implement Associate Awards directly or identify appropriate resources to ensure successful implementation.
- v. Applications must include the full curriculum vitae of the proposed Director as an appendix. S/he should be a recognized expert within both academic and development communities, and be able to demonstrate leadership roles in a variety of academic and development areas. Within the narrative, the application should describe the strengths of the proposed Director to provide leadership and build a cohesive program from a potentially diverse set of research topics; to lead an international, collaborative research and outreach community; and to successfully link research with development practices and policy change.

b. Principal management responsibilities

i. The proposed Director for the ALS-CC CRSP shall be a respected faculty member, researcher, or administrator at the lead university and have significant experience in leading research in the broad substantive areas outlined above. S/he should be a recognized expert within both academic and development communities, and be able to demonstrate leadership roles in a variety of academic and development areas.

ii. The Leader awardee lead university will be responsible for putting in place a competitively selected portfolio of activities in the broad topical areas outlined above: research, training and capacity building. The lead university is encouraged to support activities that have strong USAID Mission interest and involvement. No activity will be pursued where there is USAID Mission objection.

Activities should maximize U.S.-host country scientist collaboration and engagement with USAID Missions and local livestock industries. The lead university could consider developing partnerships as well as innovative use of grant cycles and planning grants to facilitate this collaboration. For instance, part of the portfolio could be used to support more conventional research activities, while part could be awarded to conduct applications.

iii. The Leader awardee lead university will be responsible for administration of Associate Awards subsequent to execution of award by the Agreement Officer in a USAID mission or AID/Washington. Work under an Associate Award may be conducted by the lead university or its Leader award partner nominee. No further competition is required; however, the lead university may choose to hold a competition to identify appropriate candidates.

iv. The Leader awardee lead university will be responsible for managing the portfolio of research activities. This will include facilitating communication across research activities to maximize synergies and avoid duplication, especially important where multiple research activities are operating in the same host country. The lead university should also actively promote efforts to appraise appropriate USAID Missions of CRSP findings and accomplishments.

- v. The lead university will be the primary contact point to the CRSP for USAID. It will be responsible for tracking progress of each of the research activities, and is encouraged to make current information on research activities available through on-line trip reports and/or other mechanisms. The lead university will be responsible for an annual implementation plan and annual reports as described in Section 6 of this RFA. The lead university should collect stories of successful integration of research findings into policy, programming or practices, and benchmarks towards such integration.
- vi. The Leader awardee lead university will be responsible for drawing together of lessons learned and recommendations across research activities from its portfolio to form a set of coherent overall program results. It is recommended that the lead university identify specific themes that run across the portfolio once the research activities are selected. These themes should speak to areas of interest for policy and programming constituencies in the host country(ies) of each activity, as well as in USAID and the broader development community. The lead university, working with Principal Investigators, should then synthesize important findings, lessons and recommendations across these themes.
- vii. Within reason, the Leader awardee lead university will be asked to act as an “on call” advisor and intellectual resource to USAID in the substantive areas associated with ALS-CC as outlined above. They may be asked periodically to comment on strategy documents, make presentations to USAID staff, or participate in USAID-sponsored events related to the topics and themes on which they work.

C. Implementation Plan

This Collaborative Research Support Program will be based on a program statement that defines the applicant’s approach to managing a process of assembling stakeholders, assessing research problems, and creating a research agenda and training and outreach program that respond to Expected Results (see IV in this section). A five-year program of research and capacity building will be presented by an applicant. Subject to demonstrated impact, continued relevance, and available funding the program may be extended for an additional five years not to exceed a total of ten years. The resulting award will constitute the program’s implementation plan.

A Leader award shall be made to a single Title XII university to serve as the Management Entity (ME) or lead university which post-award may submit a technical and cost/price application for one or more Associate awards, upon request of the Agreement Officer from a USAID Mission or AID/Washington. The ME, upon request of the Agreement Officer, AOTR, may suggest an Associate award Program Description (PD), with the understanding that the government does not reimburse bid or application costs prior to any award. The Government’s RFA for an Associate Award may define the specific priorities and partners to conduct the activities of the CRSP.

A plan for open and transparent competition, selection and management of sub-awards should describe how the ALS-CC CRSP will attract broad participation of U.S. universities, including Minority Serving Institutions (MSI), and cooperation of institutions in developing

countries. The applicant should include discussion of how it will assure a participatory process between the U.S. university community, host country researchers and development partners, and other stakeholders in defining the research agenda and implementing research activities. Specific discussion should be included of how the CRSP will encourage Mission engagement in CRSP activities (via the substantial involvement provision. Section 2 (3), an/or at minimum, will avoid activities to which a Mission objects. The applicant's plan should include safeguards to avoid conflicts of interest in the solicitation, submission and evaluation of sub-awards.

Sample Solicitation

The applicant should include a sample solicitation for sub-awards as an indicator of the likelihood of generating a portfolio of activities that meet the research, training/capacity building, and development impact requirements of the CRSP.

The ALS-CC CRSP will support a portfolio of competitively selected collaborative research activities that generate technologies, knowledge, and recommendations in the areas of inquiry discussed below. In unique, compelling or urgent circumstances, the Leader awardee/ lead university may be able to justify to the satisfaction of the Agreement Officer (AO) a non-competitive sub-awardee. CRSP activities are intended by their nature to be collaborative between US universities and host country agriculture research institutions including agricultural universities and National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS). Partnerships with appropriate private industry groups, host country NGOs, and international and national research centers are strongly encouraged. The research activities should be participatory and collaborative at both the design and implementation stages, so that research questions and the approaches are driven by practical considerations and the needs of the host country(s) and are not simply a reflection of the interests of U.S. scientists.

IV. EXPECTED RESULTS

The ALS-CC will conduct research that yields concrete and applicable recommendations for policy, practices and programming in the substantive areas outlined in III. Program Description. The Management Entity (ME) will build outreach activities into the research design and implementation and engage policymakers and practitioners. Additional strategies for ensuring that research will be relevant to and used by policy makers, practitioners and development professionals should be incorporated. This may include building research activities with reference to planned or existing development programs that are conducted by a USAID Mission or other donor organization, or that are being undertaken by the host country government or its private sector. Activities could inform project design or refinement, or pilot test innovations. Again, support by the appropriate Mission, host country policy makers and/or private sector practitioners would be key to assure adoption. At a minimum, research activities, and the CRSP as a whole, should use policy briefs, stakeholder meetings and other tools and mechanisms to make the research more relevant and accessible to policy makers, practitioners and development professionals.

USAID, in response to Board for International Food and Agriculture Development's (BIFAD) guidance, asks that all CRSPs achieve three to five measurable development

outcomes by the conclusion of their five year award. Applications should include projected results. The ME will be asked to identify its targeted development outcomes in its research portfolio.

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Applicants will propose performance impact indicators and the appropriate measures to document achievements using this matrix. Annex 6 has the USAID Standard Indicators for the Agricultural Area for measuring milestones and impact.

Stage of program	Monitoring Tool
Planning	<i>Ex ante</i> impact estimates related to proposed budgets and used for priority setting
Research outputs	External program/ peer reviews supported by updated stakeholder needs assessments and <i>ex ante</i> projections of program impacts
Outcomes	Recommendations and new innovations coming out of the research with studies of adoption and results of initial application of research findings or recommendations.
Impacts beyond the life of the CRSP	National, regional, and/or global monitoring of relevant econometric, social, and environmental indicators

At the end of the fourth year of the five-year award, the CRSP will be evaluated, in part, on its achievement of these development outcomes. It is assumed, for instance, that the ALS-CC CRSP will have long-term impacts in such areas as expanded livelihood options, technology adoptions, poverty reduction, and increased rural incomes. It is understood that research activities may not achieve measurable impacts in these areas within the five-year term of the CRSP program. However, the CRSP should make progress toward these impacts by generating recommendations on policies, institutional innovations, and development programming that will lead, if adapted, to these development impacts. Success, therefore, shall be measured in part by the adoption of such recommendations.

In order to be able to show incremental progress toward achievement of these outcomes, the CRSP should develop and report on a series of benchmarks for both individual research activities and for the overall CRSP program. These benchmarks will be used to show movement toward and increased likelihood of having recommendations adopted, and of achieving development impact, including after the time horizon of the CRSP. Such benchmarks might include stakeholder/policy maker engagement in research design, implementation and results reporting (measured by active attendance at stakeholder meetings, participation in training); researchers are asked to take part in government panels or commissions; researcher participation in Mission strategies, assessments, program design, etc.; participation of development community at CRSP-hosted outreach events; and participation of CRSP supported researchers in development community forums. The applicant should identify appropriate benchmarks in the response to this RFA. Benchmarks should be refined and made more specific once research activities are selected.

This program is designed to address USAID Mission priorities and initiatives in livestock systems and climate change issues. The CRSP will conduct and apply research findings, upgrade and disseminate technical knowledge and appropriate technology, and develop policy recommendations that strengthen the ability of livestock producers to adapt and/or cope with climate variability and change. It will provide flexible mechanisms to create

partnerships for building local scientific and technical capacity, and will strengthen academic and technical training and apply research to improve smallholder livestock production and marketing.

The applicant will select at least six expected results from the three research areas presented below upon which it will be evaluated against in the fourth year of the program. Applicants are encouraged to work towards results in all three areas.

1. Climate Change, Livestock, and Environment

The applicant will develop and disseminate appropriate technologies that will:

- a. reverse or alleviate land degradation caused by grazing pressure;
- b. increase water availability and its efficient use by livestock;
- c. reduce animal waste pollution from peri-urban, slum or intensive livestock production systems;
- d. mitigate, prevent, and/or resolve conflict resulting from limited land resources and increasing populations;
- e. change livestock species mix on rangelands that will mitigate climatic and vegetation changes;
- f. increase carbon sequestration potential on rangelands;
- g. improve the biodiversity and management of livestock grazing on conservancies, national parklands or other protected areas;
- h. improve animal waste processing technologies;
- i. Address other livestock-environment interactions problems not mentioned. Justification for their selection shall be required.

2. Livestock and Human Health

The applicant will develop and disseminate appropriate technologies that will:

- a. track pathogen and disease vector movements;
- b. provide stronger adaptive and coping management strategies adopted by livestock producers resulting in increased human and household resilience to climate change;
- c. improve livestock and human health through stronger zoonotic epidemiological surveillance and health delivery services in target countries;
- d. reduce public health threats in livestock product markets;
- e. increase cooperative activities and coordination between human and animal health professionals;
- f. formulate interregional animal health policies and coordinate their implementation and cross-sector research initiatives, particularly between livestock products, human nutrition and health (including cognitive development skills).
- g. Address other livestock-human health interactions problems not mentioned. Justification for their selection shall be required.

3. Livestock Value Chain

The applicant will formulate, review or investigate the following:

- a. the legal, economic, public health and environmental regulatory frameworks that support liberalized trade in and have an impact on livestock production systems;
- b. the impacts of climate change on herd/flock management decisions for smallholder producers;
- c. open market responses to pandemic and other transboundary disease threats arising from animal source foods and contaminants entering informal milk and meat markets;
- d. public health threats in livestock products markets and the relationship between rising incomes and increased global demand for animal source foods.
- e. Address other livestock-value chain problems not mentioned. Justification for their selection shall be required.

4. Enabling Environment and Policy

The applicant will formulate and develop policies that support the adoptions of technologies and/or practices recommended in the three areas of research mentioned above.

V. CRSP PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Other Areas of Consideration

A. State of the Art Research Tools

This CRSP should seek to build sustainable capacity of collaborating Host Country agricultural research institutions by incorporating training and the use of cutting edge technologies in the conduct of collaborative research activities. Such technologies may include Global Information System (GIS), electronic data bases for market information systems, environmental monitoring, computer simulation modeling, communication technologies, etc.

B. Gender

A variety of factors in the livestock value-chain affect men and women differently including: land tenure and property rights; cultural norms determining the type of work men and women do; access to agricultural inputs (animals, water, land) or to the credit necessary for obtaining these inputs; opportunities to engage in micro-businesses; and/or access to food and other benefits derived from livestock. The importance of the labor requirements for livestock production and processing relative to the time available for other activities by both men and women are factors in the production efficiency area that are related to gender

considerations. Gender issues shall constitute a significant component in the formation of the CRSP program and the development of the portfolio of projects.

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SECTION 2 – AWARD INFORMATION

(1) Estimated Funding Level

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to award a five-year Leader Award for up to \$15,000,000 with Associate Awards anticipated not to exceed \$10,000,000 for a total cumulative estimated amount of up to \$25,000,000. The application should use an annual leader funding level of up to \$3,000,000 for planning purposes. The Leader and Associate Awards shall specify the Total Estimated Award (TEA) amount for the Cooperative Agreement allocated over the five (5) year period.

USAID intends to award without discussions. Therefore, each application should contain the applicant's best terms from a technical and cost standpoint. However, USAID reserves the right to hold discussions if deemed necessary.

Neither financial data submitted with an application nor representations concerning facilities or financing will form a part of the resulting Cooperative Agreement.

(2) Anticipated Start Date and Performance Period

USAID anticipates a start date on or about October 1, 2009 and a performance period of five years.

(3) Award Type and Substantial Involvement

Award Type: The Government intends to award one Cooperative Agreement resulting from this RFA to the responsible applicant whose application conforms to this RFA offering the greatest value in furthering the goals of the CRSP (see also Section B of this RFA). The Government may (a) reject any or all applications, (b) accept other than the lowest cost application, (c) accept more than one application, (d) accept alternate applications, and (e) waive informalities and minor irregularities in applications received.

Substantial Involvement: The intended purpose of Agreement Officer's Technical Representative (AOTR) involvement during the Leader award is to assist the recipient in achieving the supported objectives. The Agreement Officer has delegated the following approvals to the AOTR, except for changes to the Program Description or the approved budget. Such changes, as first reviewed by the AOTR, shall only be approved by the Agreement Officer.

Substantial involvement will be limited to:

1. Review and approval of annual implementation plans for the Leader Award
2. Approval of specified key personnel

The CRSP Director shall be designated as Key Personnel

3. Agency and recipient collaboration or joint participation

- a. Collaborative involvement in selection of members of advisory committees. USAID may also choose to become a member of these committees. Advisory committees shall concern themselves only with technical or programmatic issues and not routine administrative matters
- b. USAID will review and comment on solicitations for sub-awards
- c. USAID will approve the selection of sub-award recipients
- d. USAID will approve the recipient's monitoring and evaluation plan

Specific substantial involvement provisions for Associate Awards will be identified for each award. These provisions may include: (A) Approval of recipient's implementation plans; (B) Approval of specified key personnel; and (C) Agency and recipient collaboration, joint participation or approvals. The Mission or other office/bureau commissioning activities through an Associate Award will propose terms for substantive involvement, but terms for the Associate Awards should be consistent with the Leader Award.

SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

(1) Types of entities that may apply

The types of organizations eligible to apply under this CRSP activity will be US Land Grant Universities and Colleges and other US universities having: (1) demonstrable capacity in teaching, research, and extension (including outreach) activities in the agricultural sciences; and (2) ability to contribute effectively to the attainment of the objective of this RFA.

(2) USAID encourages application from potential new partners

USAID strongly encourages applications from new partners.

(3) Cost Sharing

Cost share is required; however, there is no mandatory cost share percentage required for this program.

(4) Other Minimum Qualification Requirements

In keeping with USAID's intent to encourage broad-based participation among universities, US and host country institutions and the respective private sectors, applications that clearly demonstrate a plan to promote the broad participation of U.S. universities, including Minority Servicing Institutions (MSIs), and the cooperating institutions noted will receive favorable consideration.

SECTION 4 – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

I. Point of Contact

The points of contact for this RFA and any questions during the RFA process are David Lavine and Roxane Wiser, Agreement Specialists:

7.10-042, RRB
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
dalavine@usaid.gov

7.10-050, RRB
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20523
rwiser@usaid.gov

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this RFA must request it in writing by the date listed on the cover letter to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a Cooperative Agreement will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this RFA will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this RFA, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

II. Application Forms

Applicants must submit their applications using the SF-424 form series, which includes:

SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance

SF-424A, Budget Information - Nonconstruction Programs

SF-424B, Assurances - Nonconstruction Programs

III. The required certifications, as established at ADS 303.3.8

The following certifications are required: a) Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing in accordance with AAPD 04-14. (Please note that this certification requires the applicant to ensure that recipients of subcontracts and grants are not listed as Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons by the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control.); b) Assurance of Compliance with Laws and Regulations Governing Non-discrimination in Federally Assisted Programs; c) Restrictions of Lobbying (See 22 CFR 227); and d) Prohibition on Assistance to Drug Traffickers for Key Individuals (See ADS 206). Electronic certifications and representations shall be provided through www.grants.gov.

IV. The required format for the application

A. Preparation and Submission Guidelines

All applications received by the date and time indicated in the cover letter will be reviewed for responsiveness to the specifications outlined in this RFA. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered. The application must be prepared in accordance

with the structural format set forth below and should demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of the program. While applicants are expected to follow the format and the instructions contained therein, they should also be aware of the Selection Criteria in the solicitation and ensure that their applications reflect and address these criteria.

To facilitate the competitive review of the applications, USAID will consider only applications conforming to the format prescribed below:

1. Page Limits

The application must address all items requested under the sections listed below. The technical application must **not exceed thirty (30) pages**. Both the overall page limit and the individual section page limit must be adhered to. Pages in excess of stated limitation may not be considered. However, the list of items with no page limits below is not included in either count.

The technical application will include the following sections with page limits noted in parentheses.

a. Technical Application (30 pages)

- (1) Cover Page (1 page)
- (2) Executive Summary (5 pages)
- (3) Technical Approach (15 pages)
- (4) Management Approach (9 pages)

The following will not be counted within any page limits:

- Sample Solicitation
- Table of Contents
- Dividers
- Past Performance
- Appendix: Curriculum Vitae (CV) / resume for the proposed Director
- Other CVs or resumes
- Biodata sheets (see the link at <http://www.usaid.gov/forms/a1420-17-1.pdf>)

The electronic application submitted will be used for the official page count.

b. Cost Application (10 page limit)

2. Other Instructions

- a. Applications must be prepared in English.
- b. Narrative portions of the application must be prepared in Microsoft Word in Times New Roman or similar typeface in font size 12. The budget portions of the cost application must be prepared in Microsoft Excel with formulas shown, as

well as the SF-424a. Certifications and other signed pages may be submitted in Adobe Acrobat.

- c. Page size cannot exceed 8 ½ x 11” for the technical proposal and 8 ½ x 14” for the cost proposal spreadsheets.
- d. All pages except for the cover page must be numbered. Technical and Cost applications must be numbered separately and presented in separate binders and separate electronic files.
- e. The technical application must have a table of contents following the cover page.
- f. Page limit does not include attachments as discussed above.

B. Technical Application Format

1. **Cover Page:** The cover page shall include the name of the lead university applying for the award. If any partner organizations are included in the proposal, they should be listed separately, and indicated as subordinate to the principal organization. A summary table should be included that lists the prime applicant and all partner organizations as well as the percentage of overall program activities that each partner will contribute. The cover page should also identify a point of contact, hereafter referred to as the “agent,” with the authority to negotiate and sign on behalf of the applicant. The individual's name (both typed and his/her signature), title or position in the organization, email and postal addresses, telephone and fax numbers should be included.

2. **Executive Summary:** This section shall provide a concise summary of the applicant’s program description, program methodology and expected results.

Focal areas for development results: Applicants are expected to use the relevant expertise and research and training capacities of U.S. universities to address priority constraints or opportunities related to livestock value chains and the institutional needs of national agriculture programs in target developing countries and regions. Within the proposal, applicants should identify the critical focal areas that will constitute the program and describe how they will be effectively addressed through the CRSP approach.

3. **Technical Approach:** The technical approach must include discussion of the following:

a. **Technical Leadership:** The applicant should describe its vision for a portfolio of high quality, innovative research, extension and education activities consistent with the themes discussed in the program description that are designed to achieve long-term development impact on host country beneficiaries.

The application should summarize important trends and state of knowledge in those areas where the applicant desires to work in order to justify their selected areas where results are sought. A conceptual framework that shows the interrelationships between the substantive areas and establishes some priorities for directing research should be provided. The application should explain how the program will capitalize on the publicly available lessons learned from existing USAID and other programs and work of other relevant donors, universities or research institutes as determined by the applicant.

The technical application should describe how gender considerations will be incorporated into the overall program and into specific activities. Discussion of important gender issues relevant to livestock production, processing, marketing and consumption should be provided to demonstrate the applicant's conceptualization of gender.

b. Achieving Development Impact: This discussion must include a strategy for achieving long-term development impacts that meet intermediate results and benchmarks as discussed in the Section III: Statement of Work. These benchmarks may be general at this time, but should serve as a framework for more specific indicators and benchmarks that will be developed once the research activities are selected. The applicant should indicate the process by which the more specific indicators will be developed. The applicant is hereby notified that its proposed results and indicators may be incorporated in the award document.

c. Capacity Building: The application must include a strategy to maximize long-term degree training opportunities for developing-country nationals. This description should include the strategy(ies) that will be used to increase the capacity of developing-country universities and institutions to analyze relevant problems, develop appropriate recommendations, and conduct outreach to key government and non-governmental actors for the implementation of recommendations. Strategies that leverage funds for training from other sources are encouraged.

The application should also describe approaches for short-term training that will benefit developing country researchers and extensionists, policymakers, and producers. Efforts should be made to ensure balance in access to training and capacity building opportunities in terms of the gender of trainees and other participants, and integrate appropriate gender sensitivity into all activities (see USAID policy in ADS 253.3.8). Again, strategies that leverage funds are encouraged.

d. Consistency and relevance to USAID's Operational Plan and Foreign Assistance Framework and global, regional or national importance of research problem: The applicant should frame the discussion using the categories and language of the *Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Assistance* (Annexes 4 and 5). The application should take note of relevant Presidentially mandated programs, other current initiatives and key issues such as food security, the food price crisis, etc., demonstrating an understanding of those issues and to the extent possible describe how it will address them. In particular, the proposed activities of this CRSP should show an understanding of and align research activities with the Presidential Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) objectives and other follow-on food security initiatives as they evolve. IEHA objectives can be found at <http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharanafrica/initiatives/ieha.html>. The application should outline a strategy for dissemination of knowledge in a manner that leads to engagement of and influence on USAID field Missions and bureaus, host-country policy makers and practitioners, as well as other development and donor organizations.

4. Management Approach:

Management Structure: Applications must include the full CV or resume, signed biodata sheet, and letter of commitment, of the proposed Director as an appendix. S/he should be a recognized expert within both academic and development communities. And be able to

demonstrate leadership roles in a variety of academic and development for a. Within the narrative, the applicant should describe the strengths of the proposed Director to provide leadership and build a cohesive program from a potentially diverse set of research topics; to lead an international, collaborative research and outreach community and to successfully link research with development practices and policy change.

The application narrative should explain the time allocation of staff that is less than full time. The applications should also explain any other management entity personnel, their roles and responsibilities, and explain how possible attrition of staffing (in particular, replacement of Director) will be addressed.

The applicant shall be evaluated upon logic, transparency, and efficacy of the proposed management structure and approach. Applications which streamline management structure in order to maximize research, outreach, and capacity building will be favored. Of particular interest are the proposed staffing and organizational structure (including the structure and use of advisory bodies in decision making); strategies for planning, reporting, and synthesis of findings across research activities; for competing, selecting, and managing research activities which attract broad participation (including from MSI's); and for ensuring effective outreach and utilization of research findings. The qualifications of the proposed Director, as discussed in Sections A and C will also be considered.

5. Interdisciplinary Approach:

Applications should describe how research is demand driven and how the composition of project team(s) assure the quality of partnership arrangements with host country institutions. Potential links among stakeholders should demonstrate the capacity of field personnel who have the appropriate educational levels, expertise, depth and breadth of experience in the fields of international livestock production/health, climate change, human health and environmental health. Evidence of the applicant's effectiveness and cost efficiency will be demonstrated by its success in effectively monitoring and evaluating program performance and quantifying achievement of program results.

6. Sample Solicitation:

The applicant should include a sample solicitation for sub-awards, as an indicator of the likelihood of generating a portfolio of activities that meet the research, training/capacity building, and development impact requirements of the CRSP.

C. Past Performance References

Applicants will be evaluated on past performance both of the institution(s) (i.e., the applying university and any partner organizations) and of the proposed Director. Past performance is the degree to which an applicant completed related work successfully, satisfied its customers/sponsors under past agreements, and complied with relevant laws and regulations. The applicant should also use the past performance references to demonstrate capacity for creativity and leadership, to deliver high-impact results, and effectively partner with universities, policy makers, practitioners and donor organizations (may include USAID).

The past performance evaluation will be based upon relevant work or activity ongoing or completed during the past ten years. Past performance will be evaluated on whether they indicate creativity and leadership in areas related to livestock production systems; the degree to which the applicant is reported to have been effective, efficient, capable, reasonable and cooperative; whether the applicant conformed to the terms and conditions of the contract/agreement /grant application; and client satisfaction. The applicant's technical accomplishment in international research on livestock (including production, food safety and human nutrition, socio-economic and policy research) as well as applicant's ability to form strong partnerships with a range of research institutions/organizations in both the US and host countries will also be evaluated closely.

The applicant must provide six (6) relevant past performances references. Three references must address the past performance for the institution. The remaining three references should speak directly to the past performance of the proposed Director. All three references submitted for the institution should be for work performed during the past five years. At least one of the proposed Director's past performance must cover a period within the last five years.

As part of this review, USAID may contact some of the applicant's past or current customers and partners to find out whether the applicant (1) exhibits creativity and leadership in this field of inquiry; (2) was capable, efficient, and effective in carrying out the activity; (3) conformed to the terms and conditions of its contract/agreement/grant; and (4) was responsive to and collaborative with the sponsor during the activity implementation. In addition to contacting some of the references provided by the applicant USAID may also contact other sources of information, including, but not limited to: other government agencies, better business bureaus, published media, and electronic data bases. For institutions or proposed personnel who have been previously involved with CRSPs, USAID may consider such sources as past Administrative Management Reviews and External Evaluation Reports, past partners and collaborators, and the AOTRs.

D. Cost Application Format

The cost application includes specific cost information for this project and additional required information from the applicant. Certain documents are required to be submitted by an applicant in order for an Agreement Officer to make a determination of responsibility.

The cost application must cover the budget for all core funds. While the specific funding levels for sub awards will not be known until the research portfolio is competed and awarded, the five-year budget can use indicative levels and correspondingly should identify any illustrative countries. In this way, the applicant can show approximately how many sub awards the Management Office intends to fund, and at what funding level. The budget should also show expected funding levels for outreach, synthesis and other "intellectual leadership" activities. The application will be assessed for cost effectiveness, and applications that minimize management costs in order to maximize research, outreach, and capacity building activities will generally be considered a better value.

The cost application must include the following:

1. Description of Costs

- a. A completed SF-424 form in which the applicant provides a summary and detailed budget for the Leader award budget only. Please reference page 2 of the Cover Letter for the Government Estimate of funding available for the Leader Award. The Associate Award budgets should not be proposed at this time; the Government estimate for the Associate Awards is provided so that the recipients understand the magnitude of the program. Budgets must be submitted using Standard Form 424 which is included in this RFA package. Please also review the sample budget format attached to the SF 424.
- b. Detailed breakdown of each line item captured in SF-424;
- c. Breakdown of all costs according to each partner organization involved in the program;

2. Separate and joint summary budgets (in Excel) of the Management Office and any partner organizations. The Excel spreadsheet must be submitted electronically and text accessible.

- a. The budget must have an accompanying detailed budget narrative that provides in detail the total costs for implementation of the program your organization is proposing. The budget narrative must be written in the third person.
- b. The budget must provide a breakdown of the financial and in-kind cost share contributions, converted to dollar value, of all organizations involved in implementing this Cooperative Agreement. Please indicate clearly if the cost share will be in-kind or cash in the budget and budget narrative.

Because the pursuit of CRSP research goals is intended to benefit both US universities in improving US agricultural and economic development as well as USAID efforts to achieve development results from its provision of foreign assistance, each CRSP grantee is required to provide cost share. The cost share must consist of non-federally funded contributions (in cash or in kind) that meet all the criteria detailed in 22 CFR 226.23, and must be discussed in detail within the budget narrative. The applicant should determine the appropriate cost share and the sources for meeting this cost share within the overall program. The recipient is responsible for meeting the cost share commitment regardless of intended sources.

- c. Proposed ceiling rate on all applicable indirect rates.

3. A current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) with USAID or alternatively an Indirect Rate Agreement with another federal agency, or financial statements as described below for the Management Office and proposed partner organizations must be submitted. Applicants that do **not** currently have a NICRA from their cognizant agency shall also submit the following information:

- a. Copies of the applicant's financial reports for the previous three-year period, which have been audited by a certified public accountant or other auditor satisfactory to USAID; and
- b. Projected budget, cash flow and organizational chart.

4. Applicants must submit any additional evidence of responsibility for the Agreement Officer to make a determination of responsibility. The information submitted must be provided in third-person and substantiate that the Applicant:

- a. has adequate financial resources or the ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of the award;
- b. has the ability to comply with the award conditions, taking into account all existing and currently prospective commitments of the applicant - nongovernmental and governmental;
- c. has a satisfactory record of performance. Past relevant unsatisfactory performance is ordinarily sufficient to justify a finding of non-responsibility, unless there is clear evidence of subsequent satisfactory performance;
- d. has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics; and
- e. is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive a grant under applicable laws and regulations (e.g., EEO).

5. Applicants that have never received a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract from the US Government are required to submit a copy of their accounting manual and personnel and policy manual. If a copy has already been submitted to the US Government, the applicant must advise which Federal Office has a copy, and provide a point of contact with contact information (i.e., phone number).

6. Proposed ceiling rate on all applicable indirect rates.

VI. OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

A. Acknowledgement of Amendments to the RFA: By submitting an application in response to this RFA, applicants acknowledge receipt of any amendments to the RFA.

B. Preparation of Applications:

- 1. Applicants are expected to review, understand, and comply with all aspects of this RFA. Failure to do so will be at the applicant's risk.
- 2. Each applicant shall furnish the information required by this RFA. The applicant shall sign the application and print or type its name on the Cover Page of the technical and cost applications. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the application. Applications signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.
- 3. Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the US Government except for evaluation purposes, should:
 - (a) Mark the title page with the following legend:

"This application includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the US Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed - in whole or in part - for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, a cooperative agreement is

awarded to this applicant as a result of, or in connection with, the submission of this data, the US Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting cooperative agreement. This restriction does not limit the US Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets marked:”; and

(b) Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend:

"Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application."

C. Explanation to Prospective Applicants. Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this RFA must request it in writing by the date listed on the cover letter to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a Cooperative Agreement will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this RFA will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this RFA, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

D. Authority to Obligate the Government. The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally bind the Government for the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed Cooperative Agreement may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Cooperative Agreement or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.

E. The Applicant is reminded that US Executive Orders and US law prohibits transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. It is the legal responsibility of the Applicant/Recipient to ensure compliance with these Executive Orders and laws. This provision must be included in all subcontracts/sub awards issued under this contract/agreement.

F. Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences - Funds in this agreement may not be used to finance the travel, per diem, hotel expenses, meals, conference fees or other conference costs for any member of a foreign government's delegation to an international conference sponsored by a public international organization, except as provided in ADS Mandatory Reference "Guidance on Funding Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences [<http://www.info.usaid.gov/pubs/ads/300/refindx3.htm>] or as approved by the AO.

G. Branding and Marking Requirements per ADS 320. In an effort to more accurately credit the American people for the foreign assistance they finance, USAID has engaged in a branding campaign. Effective January 2, 2006, all USAID-sponsored assistance awards are required to adhere to branding policies and revised marking requirements for grants and cooperative agreements in accordance with AAPD 05-11. This includes visibly displaying the USAID Standard Graphic Identity that clearly communicates assistance is, "From the American people" on all programs, projects, activities, publications, public

communications, and commodities provided or supported through USAID assistance awards. AAPD 05-11 requires that, after the evaluation of the applications, the USAID Agreement Officer will request the Apparently Successful Applicant to submit a Branding Strategy that describes how the program, project, or activity is named and positioned, how it is promoted and communicated to beneficiaries and cooperating country citizens, and identifies all donors and explains how they will be acknowledged. USAID will not competitively evaluate the proposed Branding Strategy.

www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/320.pdf

http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/aapd05_11.pdf

H. LWA Assistance Mechanism. This RFA is issued for a Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement. The Leader Award will be issued to the successful applicant and will provide for the management office to oversee a worldwide program which will carry out specific research and outreach activities through sub awards. USAID Missions, or other USAID operational units, may fund additional work through Associate Awards. These Associate Awards will each have their own activity description, but must fall within the overall scope of the Leader program description (as outlined in the Leader Award agreement), and will otherwise be considered to be covered by the terms and conditions of the Leader Award. The Management Entity will be the recipient of all funds for this Agreement, including for any Associate Awards. Responsibility for the core program under the Leader Award and any Associate Awards remains with the management office even though it may make Associate Awards for implementation.

After the Leader Cooperative Agreement is awarded, a copy of the award will be sent to all USAID Missions along with any necessary guidance or instructions regarding issuance of Associate Awards.

1. Issuance of Associate Awards. Prior to issuance of an Associate Award, the requesting office in the Mission (or USAID/W) shall consult with the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR) in EGAT. After receiving EGAT COTR concurrence, the appropriate Mission personnel shall request the recipient to provide an application (specific Program Description and budget) to the Mission. The application shall be reviewed by the appropriate technical personnel, and the Cognizant Agreement Officer shall be responsible for cost review and negotiation of the Associate Award. The Mission has the discretion to decide whether or not to award the Associate Award. The cognizant Mission Agreement Officer and Mission are responsible for the administration of the Associate Award.
2. Grant vs. Cooperative Agreement. Regardless of whether the Leader instrument is a grant or cooperative agreement, Missions may issue an associate instrument as either a grant or cooperative agreement.
3. Competition. Once a recipient is selected pursuant to this LWA RFA, no further competition or waiver of competition is required for any Associate grants awarded within the terms of the RFA. The competition under this RFA covers the initial Leader award, which will provide leadership for regional and/or worldwide activities and for subsequent Associate Awards providing support to missions and offices. In this manner, Missions and USAID/Washington bureaus may fund specific activities of the

recipient that fit within the RFA/Leader program description through Associate Awards without further competition.

4. Period of Performance. The Leader award will be issued for a period of five years. Associate Awards may be issued until the Leader award expires and can be for a period of performance up to five years past the expiration date of the Leader award.
5. Certifications. The required certifications, including validation of the umbrella organization as a single entity with a single accounting system, shall be obtained from the applicant prior to award of the Leader cooperative agreement. Prior to award of an associate grant, the recipient must affirm that those certifications remain valid, or provide new certifications.
6. Reporting Requirements. Reporting—both financial and performance—for Associate Awards is submitted directly to the Mission or Office that issues the Associate Award. The reporting frequency (i.e. semi annually or annually), content, and format will be established in the Associate Award schedule. Copies of this reporting must be provided to the EGAT COTR for the CRSP.

For more information on Leader with Associates Awards, applicants are referred to CIB 99-10 http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/cib9910.pdf.

I. Geographic Codes. In accordance with the limitations on USAID's ability to procure goods and services outside of the United States (see the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and 22 CFR 228), source and origin of goods and nationality of suppliers of goods and services under the project will be from the United States, Geographic Code 000. Some local procurement is also allowed. Please reference Standard Provision *C.16 Local Procurement* for thresholds for 935, Local Procurement.

Code 000 - The United States of America, any State(s) of the United States, the District of Columbia, and areas of US Associated sovereignty, including commonwealths, territories and possessions.

J. Initial Environmental Examination (IEE). The ALS-CC CRSP will lead innovative research, training and capacity building activities designed to develop and disseminate technologies, tools, practices, methodologies and policies that will address the challenges imposed by global climate change on livestock, human and environmental health; prevent and reduce zoonotic disease transmission among subsistence and small-scale farms; help prevent further degradation of the ecosystem; and protect biodiversity. It is understood that the actual research activities will be determined by a competitive process and, as such, it will be incumbent on the Management Entity to ensure that environmental issues are considered and incorporated into its research, training and outreach activities. To this end, the management office must identify the consideration of environmental issues, as appropriate, in both solicitations for sub awards and as a selection criterion.

1. The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, Section 117 requires that the impact of USAID's activities on the environment be considered and that USAID include environmental sustainability as a central consideration in designing and carrying out its development programs. This mandate is codified in Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Parts 201.5.10g and 204

(<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ADS/200/>), which, in part, require that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. Recipient environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this Cooperative agreement.

2. In addition, the contractor/recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern.
 3. No activity funded under this Cooperative Agreement will be implemented unless an environmental threshold determination, as defined by 22 CFR 216, has been reached for that activity, as documented in a Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE), Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), or Environmental Assessment (EA) duly signed by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO). (Hereinafter, such documents are described as “approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.”)
 4. As part of its initial Work Plan, and all Annual Work Plans thereafter, the Recipient, in collaboration with the USAID Cognizant Technical Officer and Mission Environmental Officer or Bureau Environmental Officer, as appropriate, shall review all ongoing and planned activities under this CA to determine if they are within the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.
 5. If the Recipient plans any new activities outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation, it shall prepare an amendment to the documentation for USAID review and approval. No such new activities shall be undertaken prior to receiving written USAID approval of environmental documentation amendments.
 6. Any ongoing activities found to be outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation shall be halted until an amendment to the documentation is submitted and written approval is received from USAID.
- K. It is understood that the actual research and outreach activities will be determined by a competitive process and, as such, it will be incumbent on the lead university to ensure that environmental issues are considered and incorporated into its research, training and outreach activities. To this end, the lead university must identify the consideration of environmental issues, as appropriate, in both solicitations for Associate Awards and as a selection criterion. Activities implemented under the Leader Award resulting from the RFA will target ALS-CC. Based on the following assumptions regarding activities that will be implemented under the Leader Award:
1. Activities will be conducted primarily in the field in as yet to be identified host countries;
 2. Research protocols, policies, and practices will be established to ensure that potential environmental impacts be strictly controlled;
 3. All training programs and outreach materials intended to promote the adoption of CRSP-generated research findings will incorporate the appropriate environmental recommendations;

4. All sub-awards made under the Leader Award will be subject to stringent review by the Management Entity to ensure compliance with environmental standards;
5. Activities will not procure, use, or recommend use of pesticides of any kind without further environmental review and approval by the Bureau Environmental Officer;
6. There are no plans to introduce genetically modified organisms (GMOs) without further environmental review and approval by the Bureau Environmental Officer.

It has been determined that a categorical exclusion for the activities implemented under the Leader Award is appropriate. Further, it has been determined that a negative environmental threshold determination with conditions is appropriate. These conditions relate to the use of pesticides, GMOs, and non-indigenous or non-endemic non-established species.

Most activities would qualify for Categorical Exclusions, per 22 CFR 216.2(c). However a negative threshold determination with conditions provides for review of all subsequent Associate Awards and for activities that may involve the procurement or use, or recommendation for the procurement or use, or research on pesticides or genetically modified organisms. The conditions recommended are:

- No pesticides may be procured or used, or recommended for procurement or use without first completing an amendment to this Initial Environmental Examination that addresses the requirements of 22 CFR 216.3(b) including a Pesticide Evaluation Report/Safe Use Action Plan which must be approved in writing by the EGAT Bureau Environmental Officer. This includes pesticides used in research that may eventually be recommended for use.
- No Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are procured, used or created, or recommended for procurement or use without first completing the required USAID biosafety review and using the resulting information as part of the basis for undertaking an amendment to this IEE which must be approved in writing by the EGAT Bureau Environmental Officer. This includes research on GMOs or building partner country capacity to research GMOs.
- Any subsequent Associates Awards shall be required to complete a separate Initial Environmental Examination and be approved in writing jointly by the funding Bureau's Bureau Environmental Officer and the EGAT Bureau Environmental Officer prior to being approved as an Associate Award.

The lead university must use funds from the CRSP prior to such approval only to pay for the cost of undertaking this IEE amendment. Separate IEEs shall be required for any subsequent Associate Awards. Those IEEs will be prepared by the USAID operating unit that issues the Associate Award.

Deadline for submission of application

Applications must be received by the closing date and time indicated at the top of the RFA cover letter via <http://www.Grants.gov> following the instructions on the website. The application must also be submitted via e-mail to David Lavine (dalavine@usaid.gov) and Roxane

Wiser (rwiser@usaid.gov). The date and time the e-mailed submission is received by the USAID contact person indicated below will be used as a measure of timeliness.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is received electronically via email and that it has been submitted in Grants.gov in its entirety. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

(6) Funding Restrictions

Funding for the ALS-CC CRSP may be affected by future budget levels. Any and all funding is subject to the availability of funds to USAID.

(7) Other

Prospective applicants' questions must be submitted by 5 P.M. Washington, D.C. time (Eastern Daylight Savings Time) on Tuesday, June 23, 2009, in order to be discussed at the Pre-Application Conference scheduled for Tuesday, June 30, 2009, from 2-4 P.M. in the USAID Information Center / Library meeting room on the mezzanine level of the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20523. The Pre-Application Conference is likely to be the last opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions of USAID.

The deadline to submit applications is Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 3:00 PM Washington, D.C. time (Eastern Daylight Savings Time).

(8) Administration

22 CFR 226, OMB Circulars, and the Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients will be applicable. All are available at U.S. Government websites.

SECTION 5 – APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

Technical Evaluation Criteria

The criteria presented below have been tailored to the requirements of this particular RFA. Applicants should note that these criteria serve to: (a) identify the significant matters which applicants should address in their applications (proposals), and (b) set the standard against which all applications will be evaluated. To facilitate the review of applications, applicants should organize the narrative sections of their applications in the same order as the selection criteria.

The technical applications shall be evaluated in accordance with the Technical Evaluation Criteria set forth below relative to the information provided to applicants in Section 1 and in the Program Description (II) of this RFA. An award will be made to a responsible applicant whose application offers the greatest value, considering cost and other factors.

The evaluation criteria are presented in descending order of importance, with subfactors considered essentially equal unless stated otherwise (by language or specific points).

I. TECHNICAL APPROACH (40 points)

The proposal will be evaluated on its relative merits to the elements outlined in the technical application format of this RFA with point distribution for each element as follows:

A. Technical Leadership (15 points)

The application will be evaluated on the scope and strategic relevance, originality, clarity and innovativeness of proposed research with evidence that overall program innovation, rationale, strategy, and technical approach demonstrates the potential for positive economic impact of climate change on livestock production/health, and either-or-both human and environmental health.

The application will be evaluated on its description of a portfolio of high quality, innovative, research activities. The portfolio will be evaluated specifically on the clarity and compelling nature of its conceptual framework and its articulation of recent trends and critical issues related to the livestock- climate change broad themes, including gender, as discussed in the program description. It will also be judged on its vision for the role this university-led collaborative research can play in improving long-term developing country capacity to conduct research and capitalize on lessons learned by the Global Livestock CRSP through USAID-supported programming.

- Feasibility of proposed research, impacts, dissemination of results
- Incorporates impact of climate change on livestock production/health with at least one of other two elements of the tetrahedral base (human health or environmental health)

B. Achieving Development Impact and Appropriateness of research scope vis-à-vis objectives (10 points)

Evidence that proposed activity will assist smallholder livestock producers, cooperatives, and small and medium livestock enterprises in developing and market transition countries to meet consumer needs by increasing the availability of higher-quality and value-added livestock products in local, regional and/or export markets.

The application will be judged on its overall approach and the potential for achieving development impact including the approach to assure use of research findings by the research community, development practitioners, and the donor community, particularly USAID field Missions and bureaus.

Applications will be evaluated on their ability to effectively identify and address priority constraints or opportunities related to the relationships and interactions among livestock, human and environmental health. The application will be judged on the logic and feasibility of the focal areas chosen for multi-disciplinary research on livestock that will constitute the program and whether they will be effectively addressed through the CRSP approach. Applications will be evaluated based upon the identification and thorough consideration of critical issues related to the impacts of climate change on the livestock – human-environmental health pyramid. In addition, evaluations will include a focus on policy relevance including:

- Contribution of research to promoting policy dialogue with national government(s)
- Level of consultation with other key stakeholders in the country(ies) (e.g. USAID Mission, members of legislative assemblies, local government officials, civil society groups, local academics, private sector, etc.)
- Level of joint action and consensus-building that builds ownership and coalitions for change in order to promote achievement of desired outcomes

C. Level of capacity building efforts – – (10 points)

Evidence of U.S. university collaboration in technical assistance and training with host countries to build local human capacity and institutions.

The application will be evaluated for the logic, feasibility and appropriateness of its proposed strategy for maximizing long-term and short-term training and capacity building for both individuals and institutions, as discussed in the instructions and program description.

D. Consistency and relevance to USAID's operational plan and Foreign Assistance Framework and global, regional or national importance of research problem – (5 points)

Evidence that impact of proposed research will result in improved health of livestock and either-or-both human and environmental health.

The application will also be judged on its discussion of and strategy to align its programs to relevant food security USAID initiatives as well as its use of the categories *Policy*

Framework for Bilateral Foreign Assistance as described in the program description. Finally the application will be judged on the logic, feasibility and appropriateness of the strategy, results indicators (benchmarks), and expected development impacts outlined in the recipient's program description and on:

- Extent of regionalization
- Evidence of relevant, meaningful changes in government policy, strategy, expenditure, project design or institutional change
- Degree of enhancement in areas of capacity building, knowledge transfer and institutional change

II. MANAGEMENT APPROACH (25 points)

The applicant shall be evaluated upon logic, transparency, and efficacy of the proposed management structure and approach. Applications which streamline management structure in order to maximize research, outreach, and capacity building will be favored. Of particular interest are the proposed staffing and organizational structure (including the structure and use of advisory bodies in decision making); strategies for planning, reporting, and synthesis of findings across research activities; for competing, selecting, and managing research activities which attract broad participation (including from MSI's); and for ensuring effective outreach and utilization of research findings. The qualifications of the proposed Director will also be considered.

Proposals will be evaluated against the following elements:

- Demand driven and host country participation
- Evidence of awardee's effectiveness and cost efficiency
- Demonstrated success in effectively monitoring and evaluating program performance and quantifying achievement of program results

III. INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH (20 points)

- Standing of principal applicant, co-applicants (if any), strength of team, collaborations and experience implementing international livestock development projects
- Quality of partnership arrangements with host country institutions
- Composition of project team(s) and demonstrated capacity to field personnel who have the appropriate educational levels, expertise, depth and breadth of experience in the fields of international livestock production/health, climate change, human health and environmental health
- Potential links among stakeholders
- Balance in access to training and capacity building opportunities in terms of the gender of trainees and other participants

IV. PAST PERFORMANCE (10 points)

Applicants shall be evaluated based on past performance references on relevant current programs or those completed during the past ten years. Any past performance references older than ten years will not be evaluated. Past performance will be evaluated on whether they indicate creativity and leadership in areas related to livestock production systems; the degree to which the applicant is reported to have been effective, efficient, capable, reasonable and cooperative; whether the applicant conformed to the terms and conditions of the contract/agreement /grant application; and client satisfaction. The applicant's technical accomplishment in international research on livestock (including production, food safety and human nutrition, socio-economic and policy research) as well as applicant's ability to form strong partnerships with a range of research institutions/organizations in both the US and host countries will also be evaluated closely. The past performance of the proposed Director will be an important component of this evaluation.

Director past performance (6 points of the 10)

Institutional past performance (4 points of the 10)

V. SAMPLE SUB-AWARD SOLICITATION (5 points)

The sample solicitation will be evaluated for its likelihood of generating a portfolio of activities that meet the research, training/capacity building, and development impact requirements of the CRSP as discussed in the program description.

VI. COST APPLICATION (No points)

The applicant's proposed Cost Application will not be scored, however, the results from its analysis have scoring implications. The overall costs and pricing should be fair, reasonable, allowable, allocable and cost effective. The cost application shall be subject to a cost realism and best value analysis. Information gathered from such considerations may clarify the evaluators' understanding of various application details and lend itself to an adjustment of scores. In the event Technical applications are ranked/scored substantially the same, cost/price with best value considerations may be the determining factor for the award.

The Government's evaluation shall include any proposed cost share and other leveraged resources that the Management Office and any partners it proposes to engage in the implementation of the Leader Award. Cost share needs to be clearly marked as in-kind or cash contribution. While cost sharing is required, it will not be scored.

The review and selection process consists of a Technical Evaluation Committee supported by the Agreement Officer.

SECTION 6 – AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION (OAA)

(1) Post-Selection Information

Following selection of an awardee, USAID will inform the successful applicant concerning the award. A notice of award signed by the Agreement Officer is the official authorizing document, which USAID will provide electronically or in hard copy to the successful applicant's main point of contact.

USAID also will notify unsuccessful applicants concerning their status after selection has been made.

(2) Standard Provisions and Deviations

There are no standard provision deviations contemplated under this award.

(3) General Information on Reporting Requirements

A. Financial Reporting

The Recipient shall submit an original and one copy. Financial Reports shall be in keeping with 22 CFR 226.52.

The recipient shall list each country included in the program and the total amount expended for each country under the award for the reporting period in the “Remarks” block on the “Financial Status Report” SF 269 or SF 269A, or on a separate sheet of paper with the “Request for Advance or Reimbursement” SF 270. Financial Reports will be required on a quarterly basis. The recipient shall submit these forms in the following manner:

1. The SF 269 shall be submitted to the Agreement Officer’s Technical Representative (AOTR) with one copy to the Agreement Officer.
2. The SF 272 and 272a (if necessary) will be submitted via electronic format to the US Department of Health and Human Services <http://www.dpm.psc.gov> A copy of this form shall also be simultaneously submitted to the Agreement Officer and the AOTR.
3. In accordance with 22 CFR 226.70-72 the original and two copies of final financial reports shall be submitted as follows: M/FM, the Agreement Officer, and the AOTR.
4. Reporting on Foreign Taxes shall be in accordance with the corresponding Supplemental Standard Provision 13 (March 2006).

B. Monitoring and Reporting Program Performance

1. Reporting Requirements for the Leader Cooperative Agreement: The Recipient shall submit an original and two (2) copies of a performance report to the AOTR in USAID/Washington. The performance reports are required to be submitted annually and shall present the information contained in 22 CFR 226.51(d). In addition, the

- report shall be included under both the Leader Cooperative Agreement and all Associate Agreements.
2. All country-level and global research activities implemented through the Leader Agreement shall be incorporated in the Recipient's Annual Report and Implementation Plans.
 3. The Annual Report and Implementation Plan shall be submitted in a format and on a time schedule agreed to between the AOTR and CRSP Management Entity.
 4. Reporting should include progress made toward benchmarks and result indicators of development impact, as discussed in the program description of this RFA. In addition, qualitative descriptions of success stories and achievements to illustrate the applications of CRSP research should be included when possible.
 5. The Annual Report for the Leader Award should include information concerning any Associate Awards that summarizes activities undertaken, progress made/results achieved, trends, problems, etc. under both the Leader grant and Associate grants.

C. Final Report

The final performance report shall contain the information contained in 22 CFR 226.51(d). The Recipient shall submit a final report that replaces the last annual report and includes: an executive summary of the recipient's accomplishments in achieving results and impact, conclusions about lessons learned, future challenges and opportunities, an overall description of the Recipient's activities and attainment of results by country, region, or theme, an assessment of progress made toward accomplishing the Objectives and expected Results, significance of these activities, and important research findings, comments and recommendations. The final report must also include a final fiscal report that describes how funds were used.

D. Submission of Reports

The Recipient shall submit an original to the Washington AOTR, one copy to the Agreement Officer, and one electronic copy of the final report to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC). Documents submitted to the DEC should be sent in original format via email to:

E-mail (the preferred means of submission):
docsubmit@dec.cdie.org

US Postal Service:
Development Experience Clearinghouse
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 210
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Fax Number: (301) 588-7787

Please reference web site http://www.dec.org/submit_doc.cfm or contact one of the following concerning any questions your organization may have on the reporting requirements:

Development Experience Clearinghouse
E-mail: docsbmit@dec.cdie.org
Phone: (301) 562-0641

USAID/PPC/DEI
Phone (202) 712-4696

E. Evaluation

There are two types of assessments that are required of the CRSPs. Both may be done by the same team and at the same time. The first, the external evaluation, evaluates the quality and progress of the research, the achievement of outreach and development impact benchmarks, and the degree to which the research activities achieve integration and relevance to development policy and programming, in-country and more broadly. The second, also external, is the administrative/ management review evaluates the administrative and management effectiveness of the CRSP, including the relationship between Management Office and sub award institutions, the relationship and communication with USAID/W and Missions, fulfillment of cost share requirements, and the outreach and intellectual leadership activities undertaken by the Management Office. These two evaluations are related and have some overlap in areas of inquiry, however, the two assessment processes are distinct; the two assessments have different primary audiences, and rely on different types of information. Both evaluations are generally conducted by the end of the fourth year of the five-year award.

These evaluations provide input into the renewal extension for a possible second five-year award.

The nature and funding source of these evaluations are external to the CRSP. The cost application must not budget for an external evaluation.

SECTION 7 – AGENCY CONTACTS

The points of contact for this RFA and any questions during the RFA process are David Lavine and Roxane Wiser, Agreement Specialists:

7.10-042, RRB
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
dalavine@usaid.gov

7.10-050, RRB
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
rwiser@usaid.gov

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this RFA must request it in writing by the date listed on the cover letter to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a Cooperative Agreement will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this RFA will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this RFA, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

SECTION 8 – OTHER INFORMATION

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Awards are subject to the availability of funds. Funds are not currently available, but are anticipated by the time of award.

DRAFT

ANNEXES

Annex 1. Acronyms and Definitions

The following acronyms are particular to this Request for Application:

AOTR – Agreement Officer ‘s Technical Representative - A USAID employee designated by the Agreement Officer to oversee a grant or cooperative agreement on behalf of USAID

EGAT/AG – Office of Agriculture, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade

BIFAD – Board for International Food and Agricultural Development

CAADP – Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program

CIB – Contract Information Bulletin

CGIAR – Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research

CRSP – Collaborative Research Support Program

CRSP Council – Administrative body consisting of the Program Directors and Chairs of the Boards of Directors and Technical Committees from each active CRSP

EEP - External Evaluation Panel. Senior scientists not involved in the CRSP, who are selected for their ability to evaluate objectively the scientific progress and relevance of a CRSP program on an ongoing basis

EGAT - Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade

FAO – United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

Global Plan - The overall plan of a CRSP for research on problems and constraints, global in nature, whose results are applicable and transferable regionally and globally (worldwide)

Host Countries - A developing country in which a CRSP has formal activities

IARC - International Agricultural Research Center

ILRI – International Livestock Research Institute

LWA – Leader with Associates, an USAID assistance mechanism that may be either a grant or cooperative agreement. The Leader Award establishes the agreement relationship under which associates may be awarded without further competition

Mission - A formally organized USAID operating unit in a host country led by a Mission Director or a Country Representative

MSI – Minority Serving Institutions

NARS - National Agricultural Research Systems

PI - Principal Investigators – A scientist in charge of the research for a defined segment or a scientific discipline of a CRSP

RFA - Request for Application

Sub-award Agreement - A formal agreement made between the Leader Awardee and a participating institution under authority of the Leader Award agreement with USAID

TC - Technical Committee. A group of scientists selected to help guide the scientific aspects of the research program of a CRSP

Title XII - The Title XII Amendment to the International Development Food Assistance Act of 1975 as passed by the United States Congress and subsequently amended

USAID - United States Agency for International Development

USAID/W - Washington headquarters of the United States Agency for International Development.

Annex 2: Useful Websites

Listing of federal grants application requests are at [<http://www.grants.gov>]

ADS Mandatory Reference "Guidance on Funding Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences: [<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/refindx3.htm>]

Development Clearinghouse: [http://dec.usaid.gov/submit_doc.cfm]

Requirements and standard formats/ logos for USAID branding requirements:
<http://www.usaid.gov/branding/assistance.html>

Global Livestock Collaborative Research Support Program: [<http://glcrsp.ucdavis.edu>]

Leader with Associates Awards, applicants are referred to CIB 99-10
http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/cib9910.pdf

USAID's Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Aid
(http://pdf.dec.org/pdf_docs/PDACG244.pdf)

Initiative to End Hunger in Africa: (http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/initiatives/ieha.html)

Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program
(<http://www.nepad.org/2005/files/caadp.php>)

Rural development with a focus on Africa: Nature, wealth and power: emerging best practice for revitalizing rural Africa: www.usaid.gov/our_work/agriculture/landmanagement/pubs/nature_wealth_power_fy2004.pdf

USAID's Guide on Biodiversity Conservation (http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADE258.pdf)

The Agricultural Strategy, Title Twelve reports and other documents from the Office of Agriculture: (http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/agriculture/index.html);

The draft CRSP Guidelines (posted at <http://crsps.org/>).

Summary descriptions of USAID programs related to labor markets and employment can be found at: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/economic_growth_and_trade/eg/labor_toolkit.htm

Annex 3. USAID Agricultural Sector Strategy and The Millennium Development Goals

USAID's current Agriculture Sector Strategy foci:

- improve the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of agriculture
- mobilize science and technology and foster a capacity for innovation
- strengthen agricultural training and education, outreach, and adaptive research

Millennium Development Goals:

- Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
- Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education
- Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women
- Goal 4: Reduce child mortality
- Goal 5: Improve maternal health
- Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

Annex 4: Foreign Assistance Standardized Program Structure and Definitions

Program Area 4.5: Agriculture

Agriculture is the science and practice of food, feed, and fiber production (including forestry, wildlife, fisheries, aquaculture and floriculture) and its relationships to natural resources, processing, marketing, distribution, utilization (including nutrition), and trade.

Program Element 4.5.1: Agricultural Enabling Environment

Definition: Support agricultural policies, laws and regulations, and institutions that: foster adoption of improved technology; promote investment in infrastructure at all levels, and enhance the natural resource base in ways that respond to the needs of men and women producers.

Sub-Element 4.5.1.1: Agricultural Resource Policy

Definition: Support institutions and equitable policies that foster sustainable utilization of land, water, plant, and animal resources to enhance agricultural productivity and incomes, increase resource quality and quantity, and decrease degradation of productive resources. This includes access to and securing property rights over agricultural resources, including by female-headed households and returning internally displaced persons and refugees, and it includes increasing returns of agricultural labor.

Sub-Element 4.5.1.2: Food Policy

Definition: Support institutions, policies and incentives aimed at ensuring that adequate, safe, and nutritious food is available; markets function efficiently; and that low-income groups and those vulnerable to food insecurity (e.g., female farmers with small land holdings, female-headed households, children, and HIV-affected) are able to access and appropriately utilize that food.

Sub-Element 4.5.1.3: Agricultural Market Standards and Regulations

Definition: Improve laws, institutions, and policies that impact market transactions of agricultural goods, inputs, practices, and services. This includes international policies such as agriculture-related agreements of the WTO; domestic science-based regulation to ensure food, feed, and environmental safety; and market-based or industry-led quality grades, standards, and certification.

Sub-Element 4.5.1.4: Public Investment Policy

Definition: Improve institutions and policies that encourage increased and more effective public and private investments in agricultural institutions and infrastructure to provide the basis for expanded productivity in the agricultural sector. This includes support for (1) scientific and technological advances through research and development, (2) governmental actions that provide a positive climate for innovation and investment, and (3) efforts to comply with international treaties and encourage international cooperation and public-private partnerships.

Program Element 4.5.2: Agricultural Sector Capacity

Definition: Sustain the productivity of the agricultural sector through investments that foster increasing returns to land, labor, and capital. Targeted interventions to male and female producers provide improvements in technology and management practices, expanded access to markets and credit, increased organizational and market efficiency, and restoration and protection of resiliency in production and livelihood systems.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.1: Research and Technology Dissemination

Definition: Support scientific research and technology, including biotechnology that generates improvements in production systems (crop, livestock, farm, forest, and fisheries), value-added products, and management practices leading to sustainable productivity gains, mitigation of risk, and income growth. It also supports dissemination and adoption of productivity-enhancing and post harvest technologies, value-added products, and management practices in these areas by reducing the barriers that may constrain male or female producers, processors, and manufacturers.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.2: Land and Water Management

Definition: Develop and invest in the quantity and quality of land and water resources, including irrigation and soil fertility, riparian and range management, and water resources to improve and sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes. This includes related land and water administration systems.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.3: Rural and Agricultural Finance

Definition: Increase equitable access to financial services by male and female farmers in rural areas and for agricultural enterprises to purchase necessary inputs; introduce new technologies; expand productive capacity; and finance storage, transport, and marketing costs. Also includes access to mechanisms and products that reduce seasonal income and consumption variability, protect and build assets, and mitigate price and weather risk. (Link to Microfinance 7.1.2 and Financial Services 3.2, as appropriate.)

Sub-Element 4.5.2.4: Agribusiness and Producer Organizations

Definition: Support the growth of small and medium agro-enterprises, including producer organizations/associations, which are engaged in producing, marketing, or adding value (e.g. processing and quality enhancement) to crop, livestock, forestry, and fishery products. Support addresses the needs and capacities of both men and women producers and includes such areas as adoption of technology and technical processes, businesses and human resources management, environmental regulatory compliance, and organizational governance.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.5: Markets and Trade Capacity

Definition: Build capacity to link small-scale producers (men and women), pastoralists, and small to medium enterprises to the economic opportunities of commercial markets. This includes both input and output markets at the local, regional, and international levels. Interventions include areas such as the development of risk management strategies; warehouse receipt, agricultural commodity trading and accessible market information systems; meeting market standards; and public and private investments that support efficient agricultural marketing such as storage facilities, cold storage, packaging facilities, and agricultural processing facilities.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.6: Emerging Agricultural Threats

Definition: Strengthen plant and animal disease surveillance and the control of emerging agricultural pests and diseases (e.g. Wheat Stem Rust) to mitigate productivity losses, allow access to international markets, reduce risks to human health, improve food safety, and reduce the risk of introduction of diseases into the U.S.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.7: Agricultural Livelihood Services and Safety Nets

Definition: Support risk management and economic diversification, transfer and adaptation of proven technologies and human organization innovations to increase market access, food or cash transfers in exchange for public works; and resource transfers and/or agricultural inputs (e.g. seeds, tools, and livestock) which enable male and female producers to try new technologies and production methods that would otherwise not be available to them.

Annex 5: Foreign Assistance Framework (on next page)

AS OF JULY 10, 2007

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK

"To help build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that respond to the needs of their people, reduce widespread poverty and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system."						
Goal	Peace and Security	Governing Justly and Democratically	Investing in People	Economic Growth	Humanitarian Assistance	End Goal of US Foreign Assistance
Objectives	FMF, TI, IMET, ESF, INCLE, NADR, PKO, ACP, FSA, SEED	DA, TI, SEED, FSA, OF, ESF, INCLE, FSA, ACP, SEED	DA, CSH, ESF, IDFA, IO&P, FSA, SEED, GHAI, ACP, Title II	DA, ESF, SEED, FSA, IO&P, ACP, Title III	IDFA, MRA, ERMA, ACP, Title II	
Accounts within State/USAID	> Counter Terrorism > Combating WMD > Stabilization Operations > Defense Reform > Counterterrorism > Transnational Crime > Conflict Mitigation and Response	> Rule of Law > Human Rights > Good Governance > Political Competition and Consensus-Building > Civil Society	> Health > Education > Social Services and Protection for Vulnerable Populations	> Macroeconomic Foundation > Trade and Investment > Financial Sector > Infrastructure > Agriculture > Private Sector > Competitiveness > Economic Opportunity > Environment	> Protection, Assistance and Security > Disaster Readiness > Migration Management	
Foreign Assistance Program Areas			Other USAID Agency Contributions			
Category Definition						
Rebuilding Countries	States in or emerging from and rebuilding after internal or external conflict.	Assist in creating and/or stabilizing a legitimate and democratic government and a supportive environment for civil society and media.	Start or restart the delivery of critical social services, including health and educational facilities, and begin building or rebuilding institutional capacity.	Assist in the construction or reconstruction of key internal infrastructure and market mechanisms to stabilize the economy.	Address immediate needs of refugees, displaced, and other affected groups.	Advance to the Developing or Transforming Category.
Developing Countries	States with low or lower-middle income, not yet meeting MCC performance criteria, and the criterion related to political rights.	Support policies and programs that accelerate and strengthen public institutions and the creation of a more vibrant local government, civil society and media.	Encourage social policies that deepen the ability of institutions to establish appropriate roles for the public and private sector in service delivery.	Encourage economic policies and strengthen institutional capacity to promote broad-based growth.	Encourage reduced need for future HA by introducing prevention and mitigation strategies, while continuing to address emergency needs.	Advance to the Transforming Category.
Transforming Countries	States with low or lower-middle income, meeting MCC performance criteria, and the criterion related to political rights.	Provide limited resources and technical assistance to reinforce democratic institutions.	Provide financial resources and limited technical assistance to sustain improved livelihoods.	Provide financial resources and technical assistance to promote broad-based growth.	Address emergency needs on a short-term basis, as necessary.	Advance to the Sustaining Partnership Category or graduate from foreign assistance.
Sustaining Partnership Countries	States with upper-middle income or greater for which U.S. support is provided to sustain partnerships, progress, and peace.	Address issues of mutual interest.	Address issues of mutual interest.	Create and promote sustained partnerships on trade and investment.	Address emergency needs on a short-term basis, as necessary.	Continue partnership or graduate from foreign assistance.
Restrictive Countries	States of concern where there are significant governance issues.	Support strategic partnerships addressing security, CT, WMD, and counter-narcotics.	Foster effective democracy and responsible sovereignty. Create local capacity for fortification of civil society and path to democratic governance.	Promote a market-based economy.	Address emergency needs on a short-term basis, as necessary.	Advance to other relevant foreign assistance category.
Global or Regional	Activities that advance the five objectives, transcend a single country's borders, and are addressed outside a country strategy.					Determined based on criteria specific to the global or regional objective.

*The highlighted cells indicate the implied concentration of resources by Country Category and Objective. The highlighted cells outlined in red indicate the concentration of MCC resources.

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Annex 6: Agriculture Standard USAID Indicators

Number of Special Studies

Number of Baseline or Feasibility Studies

Number of Evaluations

Number of Information Gathering or Research Activities

Number of Monitoring Plans

Number of People Trained in Monitoring and Evaluation

Number of Sector Assessments

Number of individuals who have received USG supported long term agricultural enabling environment training

Number of individuals who have received USG supported short-term agricultural enabling environment training

Number of institution/organization assessments presented for consultation as a result of USG assistance

Number of institutions with improved Management Information Systems, as a result of USG Assistance

Number of institutions/organizations mature/viable in the competency areas strengthened as a result of USG assistance

Number of institutions/organizations undergoing capacity/competency assessments as a result of USG assistance

Number of institutions/organizations undertaking capacity/competency strengthening as a result of USG assistance

Number of policies/regulations/administrative procedures analyzed as a result of USG assistance

Number of policy reforms/regulations/administrative procedures drafted and presented for public/stakeholder consultation as a result of USG assistance

Number of policy reforms/regulations/administrative procedures passed for which implementation has begun with USG assistance

Number of policy reforms/regulations/administrative procedures prepared with USG assistance passed/approved

Number of policy reforms/regulations/administrative procedures presented for legislation/decreed as a result of USG assistance

Amount of private financing mobilized with a DCA guarantee

Number of farmers, processors, and others who have adopted new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance

Number of women's organizations/associations assisted as a result of USG supported interventions

Percent change in value of purchases from smallholders of targeted commodities as a result of USG assistance

Number of additional hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance

Number of additional surveillance and/or control systems in place for agricultural threats (biological and environmental) as a result of USG assistance

Number of agriculture-related firms benefiting directly from USG supported interventions

Number of individuals who have received USG supported long term agricultural sectorr productivity training

Number of individuals who have received USG supported short term agricultural sector productivity training

Number of new technologies or management practices made available for transfer as a result of USG assistance

Number of new technologies or management practices under field testing as a result of USG assistance

Number of new technologies or management practices under research as a result of USG assistance

Number of producers organizations, water users associations, trade and business associations, and community-based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance

Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of USG assistance

Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG interventions

Number of vulnerable households benefiting directly from USG assistance

Percent change in value of international exports of targeted agricultural commodities as a result of USG assistance

Percent change in value of intra-regional exports of targeted agricultural commodities as a result of USG assistance

ANNEX 7- Past Performance Information

CONTRACTOR PERFORMANCE REPORT - SHORT FORM
PART I: Contractor Information (to be completed by Prime)
1. Name of Contracting Entity:
2. Contract Number:
3. Contract Type:
4. Contract Value (TEC): (if subcontract, subcontract value)
5. Problems: (if problems encountered on this contract, explain corrective action taken)
6. Contacts: (Name, Telephone Number and E-mail address)
6a. Contracting officer:
6b. Technical Officer (CTO):
6c. Other:
7. Contractor:
8. Information Provided in Response to RFP No. :
PART II: Performance Assessment (to be completed by Agency)
1. Quality of product or service, including consistency in meeting goals and targets, and cooperation and effectiveness of the Prime in fixing problems. Comment:
2. Cost control, including forecasting costs as well as accuracy in financial reporting. Comment:
3. Timeliness of performance, including adherence to contract schedules and other time-sensitive project conditions, and effectiveness of home and field office management to make prompt decisions and ensure efficient operation of tasks. Comment:
4. Customer satisfaction, including satisfactory business relationship to clients, initiation and management of several complex activities simultaneously, coordination among subcontractors and developing country partners, prompt and satisfactory correction of problems, and cooperative attitude in fixing problems. Comment:
5. Effectiveness of key personnel including: effectiveness and appropriateness of personnel for the job; and prompt and satisfactory changes in personnel when problems with clients were identified. Comment:

[Note: The actual dollar amount of subcontracts, if any, (awarded to the Prime) must be listed in Block 4 instead of the Total Estimated Cost (TEC) of the overall contract. In addition, a Prime may submit attachments to this past performance table if the spaces provided are inadequate; the evaluation factor(s) must be listed on any attachments.]