Amendment 02 to RFA-OAA-12-000003
Agricultural Commercialization & Innovation Activity

The purpose of this amendment is to answer two questions only regarding the RFA that are applicable to all. All other questions submitted by the deadline of February 22 will be addressed in a forthcoming amendment.

Specifically, this RFA is amended to reflect the following**:**

1. Question: Cost application guidance on p. 19 notes that '"applicants should provide the following budget estimates (plug figures), consistent with the Program Description." These plug figures for specific activities under Components 1, 2 and 3 total $53,300,000. Are these figures intended to be 100% included within the requested agreement amount of $60,000,000 to $74,000,000, or are they intended to include leveraged support and/or Mission buy-in? If the latter, what portion of these amounts is expected to be part of the USAID portion of the budget request?

   Response: The figures on page 19 of the RFA include central funding from USAID BFS Office (which is approx. $25 million total for 5 years and could cover administrative costs as well) and potential Mission Buy-In for partnerships. This figure was not intended to demonstrate leveraged support from other organizations and partners, but to demonstrate the total USAID funding ceiling whether from BFS or Missions.

2. Question: The list on p. 19 specifies that figures for Commercialization Grants under Component 1 and Partnership Funding under Component 2 are "including Mission Buy-In". Component 2 further specifies that "the AC&I activity will include applicable USAID Missions in discussions to ensure that the partnership is aligned with the Mission's strategy and that Mission 'buy-in' is programmed for outer years funding and activity management" (p. 8). Can USAID further clarify (related to the question above), what portion of these figures is expected to come from Mission buy-in? Also, will the recipient of the Cooperative Agreement be primarily responsible, and held accountable by USAID, for securing these funds from USAID Missions?

   Response: The central funding portion of the partnerships has always been intended to be small, with the start-up grants and seed funding being centrally funded and with most of the long term partnership and extension of commercialization efforts coming from Mission buy in, totaling up to $74 million dollars.

   The estimate includes a ratio of $3.75 million in seed funding to $22.5 million in overall funding (central and mission) for the partnerships component, and the same for the commercialization component, so it is roughly estimated at $4 in mission funding for every $1 in central funding for the grant components. The AC&I implementer will design partnerships from the beginning that are programmatically relevant and will complement other Mission activities, i.e., activities that the Missions will want to continue and can be supported by the Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR) and the Bureau for Food Security, as applicable.