

Amendment 01 to RFA-OAA-12-000001

Assets and Market Access Collaborative Research Support Program (AMA CRSP)

Note: This Amendment is being posted today, November 1, 2011 and the closing date and time for application submission remains on Monday, November 21, 2011 at 4:00pm.

The purpose of this Amendment 01 is to:

- I. Respond to questions submitted on the RFA;
- II. Make changes to the wording of the RFA.

Specifically, this RFA is amended to reflect the following:

I. Questions and Answers

Five questions were submitted regarding the RFA. The text of both questions is provided below followed by the response.

Question 1: The RFA (page 2, paragraph 3) indicates that year 1 of the budget should be \$2.7 million. Does “year 1” of the budget refer to a partial year (April to Sept 2012), or a full year (April 2012 to March 2013)? Related to this, what will be the calendar periods for budget years 2, 3, 4, and 5?

USAID Response: The entire estimated amount (\$17 million) needs to be accounted for in the proposed budget, with the first year budgeted at \$2.7 Million to cover activities from the award date through September 30, 2012. Subsequent funding is estimated to be evenly distributed over the remaining four years. The program will run on the Federal Fiscal Year schedule, ending September 30th of each year.

Question 2: Is the Project Director required to be physically based at the home university? (This assumes that the Project Director is a faculty member employed by the home university.)

USAID Response: The Project Director must be a tenured faculty member of the applicant university, and should be based at that university.

Question 3: Please clarify the meaning of the next-to-last sentence in paragraph 2 on page 7, which starts “While USAID recognize”

USAID Response: As with all USAID-supported programming, the CRSP will be asked to work in a manner that is consistent with the Agency’s strategic goals. In this case, the relevant goals are outlined in the Feed the Future (FTF) Guide. The AMA CRSP’s activities will prioritize FTF focus countries and regions, and give priority to FTF focus sectors/value chains. Moreover, the AMA CRSP’s research agenda and portfolio should be consistent with the FTF Research Strategy and seek opportunities to contribute to efforts under that strategy. USAID recognizes that contributing to a global research agenda may justify some flexibility in selecting countries and value chains. Any research or pilot activities that fall outside of FTF priorities should be strategic, and every effort made to disseminate relevant findings to FTF countries.

Question 4: Only one funding opportunity?

USAID Response: Correct, subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to award one award, specifically a five-year Leader with Associate Award (Cooperative Agreement) up to \$18,000,000. Separate Associate Awards (stand-alone Cooperative Agreements) are anticipated to be up to \$7,000,000 over the life of the agreement for a total cumulative estimated amount up to \$25,000,000 for the first five-year agreement.

The recipient of the Leader with Associate Award will serve as Management Entity (ME) and will be responsible for putting in place a competitively selected portfolio of research activities in the broad topical areas outlined in the program description. This includes issuing a solicitation, managing the selection process and awarding sub-grants. Historically, and the current intention, is that the majority of funds are channeled through sub-grants. These research activities will be issued as sub-awards to selected U.S. institutions, but will be collaborative with host country institutions. Thus, while there will be only this one award a result of this RFA for the ME, there will be other “sub-funding opportunities” for research under this program.

Question 5: May any non-profit university apply for these funds?

USAID Response: To determine eligibility, please consult Section III of the RFA, *Eligibility Information*.

From the above referenced section:

“A. TYPES OF ENTITIES THAT MAY APPLY

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 Columbia, now receiving, or which may hereafter receive, benefits under the Act of July 2, 1862 (known as the First Morrill Act) or the Act of August 30, 1890 (known as the Second Morrill 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 U.S.C. 301 note); and other United States colleges and universities which – (1) have demonstrable 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 the Collaborative Research Support Program; (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 meet USAID financial management standards to ensure funds accountability.”

Please also refer to this web site:

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/qlinks/partners/state_partners.html#maps

II. Make changes to the wording of the RFA

A. On page 7 of the RFA, delete:

“As with all USAID-supported programming, the CRSP will be asked to work in a manner that is consistent with the Agency’s strategic goals. In this case, the relevant goals are outlined in the Feed the Future Guide. The AMA CRSP’s activities will prioritize FTF focus countries and regions, and give priority sectors/value chains. While USAID recognize that contributing to a global research agenda may justify some flexibility to. Moreover, the AMA CRSP’s research agenda and portfolio should be consistent with the FTF Research Strategy.”

This section is replaced with:

“As with all USAID-supported programming, the CRSP will be asked to work in a manner that is consistent with the Agency’s strategic goals. In this case, the relevant goals are outlined in the Feed the Future (FTF) Guide. The AMA CRSP’s activities will prioritize FTF focus countries and regions, and give priority to FTF focus sectors/value chains. Moreover, the AMA CRSP’s research agenda and portfolio should be consistent with the FTF Research Strategy and seek opportunities to contribute to efforts under that strategy. While USAID recognizes that contributing to a global research agenda may justify some flexibility in selecting countries and value chains, any research or pilot activities that fall outside of FTF priorities should be strategic, and every effort made to disseminate relevant findings to FTF countries.”