

USAID LIVESTOCK-CLIMATE CHANGE CRSP CONCEPT PAPER: RESPONSES TO COMMENTS ON FIRST DRAFT

USAID's Office of Agriculture in the Bureau of Economic Growth Agriculture and Trade (EGAT/AG) posted the draft Livestock-Climate Change CRSP concept paper on February 22, 2008. Closing date for comments was COB March 7, 2008. Presentations and discussions on the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP and the draft concept paper were included in the SPARE and BIFAD meetings on February 26 and 27, respectively.

EGAT/AG welcomed and appreciated the many thoughtful written and oral comments made regarding the draft Livestock-Climate Change CRSP concept paper since its issuance. The intention from the onset has been to ensure an open and transparent interchange that would provide valuable input from U.S Title XII universities, plus the livestock development, scientific, and private sector communities.

Below are the responses to comments on the first draft of the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP Concept Paper, which are presented by common themes; they will be provided as an Appendix to the second draft. Responses will also be reflected in the text of the second draft.

Comments and Questions

1. RFA Process and program structure -- M.E. vs. consortium, the nature/use/flexibility of the Leader with Associates (LWA) mechanism, cooperative agreements, inclusion of international NGOs as partners

Several concerns raised about Livestock-Climate Change CRSP management are resolved by acknowledging that USAID will make an award to a single university that in turn will issue its RFA. Note that the LWA Cooperative Agreement mechanism provides flexibility in adjusting partners through open competition.

The one/two-step competition issues are resolved by the RFA competing a management entity (ME) and calling for a management plan that proposes a process for research selection and a structure for review which achieves the objectives of the RFA.

The LWA Award mechanism is now USAID's instrument of choice for CRSPs. It's salient features are: (1) the ability for the grantee (the lead university or managing entity) to add and delete partners during the course of implementation (applies to both leader and associate awards); (2) the convenience of the associate award facility to USAID Missions or Bureaus that wish to scale-up a leader award activity. Associate awards may also be convenient for facilitating Global Development Alliances; and (3) Associate awards do not count against the core ceiling for funding.

USAID encourages the widest participation of the U.S. university community and the inclusion of international as well as qualified local NGOs as partners.

USAID will inform SPARE, BIFAD and the U.S. Title XII university community of progress in elaborating the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP concept and will request input prior to drafting the RFA.

To improve small farmer livelihoods, the objectives for the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP are to:

- conduct research and disseminate the results of research on the impact of climate change on livestock management systems taking into account the impact of livestock on the environment;
- build sustainable capacity of collaborating Host Country livestock research institutions that can respond to the impacts of climate change on livestock issues of national and regional importance; and
- identify and resolve critical livestock value chain issues, including zoonotic diseases, related to the impact of climate change on production systems

Title XII universities' Livestock-Climate Change CRSP proposals must articulate research topics in priority regions, U.S. partners, and illustrative host country institutions as well as the resources and timeframe of this CRSP to achieve these objectives.

2. Content – research, training, outputs/results/impacts/solutions, other global documentation and activities

EGAT/AG has clarified that research in the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP is identified in the framework of improving small farmer livelihoods. The Livestock-Climate Change CRSP RFA will note the desirability of incorporating the priorities of USAID Missions and of host country partners in proposed program (including research) design.

EGAT/AG will encourage the development of proposals that include innovative solutions to challenges resulting from the dynamic relationship between livestock and climate change. Once selected, the priority activities should be organized by the Leader (ME) into themes that address the areas of host country priority interest where an activity is implemented, as well as in USAID and the broader development community. The research components of solutions will reach producers and households through extension or outreach components that are developed and piloted under the leader award (pilots are intended to be scaled-up by issuing associate awards).

Research and training is the base of the leader award (e.g., the core Livestock-Climate Change CRSP award). Training is a component and an output of proposed research programs -- it strengthens research, contributes to institutional development, and links research and extension/outreach programs. The Livestock-Climate Change CRSP will develop and implement pilot extension or outreach programs based on its research; it will not be sufficient to only suggest or draft those programs.

EGAT/AG encourages multi-disciplinary, innovative research proposals that involve university departments and programs in addition to animal science and other biological sciences. Proposals that demonstrate a "holistic", i.e., systems approach to knowledge creation that includes a balance of research, extension and educational training for addressing constraints, including risk management issues, and draw on the collaborative input of partners will be given special consideration. Research will be encouraged that is useful, adaptive, has high potential impact, engages in collaborative partnerships, and will result in the development of international public goods (IPG).

Advanced-degree training is appropriate within the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP framework, as has been CRSP practice. Graduate degree research programs should be conducted as part of the CRSP and in cooperation with host country institutions.

An important objective of the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP is to expand interaction and collaboration in livestock systems research between U.S. Title XII universities and pre-eminent host-country universities, as well as other established research institutions and organizations that already have funding and staff in place. These might include but not be limited to other donors, pastoral development commissions, CGIAR Centers, international NGOs, other U.S. Government agencies, etc.

3. Capacity building

Host country livestock research capacity building is encouraged. U.S. Title XII university animal scientists, range scientists, human health and veterinarians, scientists involved with climate prediction and change, as well as socio-economists are encouraged to develop programs through the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP for mentoring of colleagues in host country institutions. Animal Science curriculum development and enhancement and the enhancement of local research capacity may be a primary need for local capacity building. These programmatic efforts may be coupled with activities at U.S. Title XII universities such as faculty exchanges and long term (graduate degree) training.

As indicated previously, advanced-degree training within the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP framework is encouraged. In addition, through U.S and host country designed and developed distance learning platforms, this CRSP should offer a broad range of training formats and modules. These tools can be available to improve research methodologies and teaching, expand technical competencies, and to enhance industry qualifications and certifications of personnel in the livestock sector -- both in the U.S. and in host countries.

4. Direct benefits to the U.S. and U.S. universities (per Title XII legislation)

Numerous direct and indirect benefits to both the U.S. University and business communities are anticipated through the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP:

- ✓ Internationalizing U.S. universities: opportunities for students and faculty to engage in international student training and host country institution building
- ✓ Enhancement of U.S. university curricula in livestock production and marketing
- ✓ Institutional relationships with foreign universities
- ✓ Long-term international programs involving various components and functions of the university
- ✓ Source of international students and (faculty or industry) trainees
- ✓ Relationships with foreign or multi-national livestock industry
- ✓ Participation in international agricultural development in partnership with USAID

Direct benefits to U.S. universities will include attracting graduate students to Land Grant University campuses to work on livestock, human health and veterinary science research projects. Their graduate degree work will generate knowledge that can be transferred through implementation of pilot programs in their host countries.

Direct benefits will also include long-term partnerships of participating U.S. universities with host country research institutions and future host country leaders. Collaborative linkages will ensure mutually beneficial access to research data and field tested results and improve the quality and body of information and knowledge generation through scientific discovery and application.

Collaborative partnerships evolving from Livestock-Climate Change CRSP program activities will help to build strong internationally oriented animal, human health and veterinary sciences curricula that can be taught on U.S. campuses.

5. Technical clarifications

The word “livestock” is inclusive of all species that are kept or raised by women, men and children in transhumant or settled households, in dryland, arable land, forest or other ecosystems, in villages, towns, slums or countryside, for purposes of human consumption, barter, by-products such as hides or fiber, social standing or empowerment, traction, debt payment, savings or income generation.

Livestock-Climate Change CRSP proposals may include activities such as: climate change and sedenterization or settlement vs. livestock and other natural resources productivity in the dryland ecosystem; climate change and livelihoods in pastoral areas; climate change and mobility as a coping strategy to manage dryland sources; identifying interventions, technologies or management practices that enable producers/pastoralists to adapt to or mitigate direct and indirect effects of climate change; changes in livestock production, land resources, water resources, and biodiversity that are caused by climate change, as opposed to being driven by other causes; early warning systems for detection of climate change with more refined analysis and/or monitoring systems designed specifically for more accurate forecasts of potential future changes and subsequent impacts on households; defining, measuring spatial and temporal distribution of pathogens and zoonotic/non-zoonotic diseases and determining/implementing coping strategies; developing/implementing policy measures for climate change adaptation or mitigation; determining management interventions for grazing or non-grazing systems directly or indirectly affected by climate change. This listing is only illustrative and is included here to provoke creative and innovative thinking.