



Feed the Future Legume Innovation Lab Request for Proposals to Strengthen Host Country Institutional Capacity FY 2015

The Management Office (MO) of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research in Grain Legumes (Legume Innovation Lab) again invites the submission of **Proposals** from Principal Investigators (PIs) for activities that will contribute to enhancing the capacity of collaborating Host Country institutions. The Legume Innovation Lab program will be distributing approximately \$250,000 during FY2015 to support institutional capacity strengthening initiatives.

Rationale

The Legume Innovation Lab recognizes that National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS) and agricultural universities need to build and maintain capacities in strategic areas of research, training and outreach in order to effectively and sustainably address the challenges facing the grain legume sectors (bean, cowpea, etc.) and to contribute to economic growth and food and nutritional security within their respective countries. This requires investments in human resource development, scientific equipment, laboratory and field facilities, computer technology, and infrastructure.

The intent of these Institutional Capacity Strengthening awards is to address critical needs of Host Country (HC) institutional collaborators which exceed the budgetary limits of current Legume Innovation Lab projects, and to respond to the grain legume program needs of agricultural research institutions in USAID priority countries.

Priorities for Funding

Activities that will be given high priority for this funding opportunity include:

1. Innovative training activities targeted to individuals from host countries (i.e., scientists, graduate students, technicians). This includes short-term training (i.e., technical training at centers of excellence, research internships, sabbaticals, visiting scientist programs, etc.), post-graduate degree training, networking/visits by HC PIs with other grain legume research programs and CGIAR scientists, participation in professional conferences, partnering activities with private industries in grain legume sectors, etc.
2. Innovative training activities targeted to a group of participants from one or multiple host countries. This includes offering or teaching short courses in host countries, organizing regional workshops on topics of broad interest, thematic symposium on strategic topics related to grain legumes at professional conferences, training-of-trainers workshops, etc.
3. Purchase of research and/or teaching equipment (>\$5,000). This includes scientific equipment, computer technology, and facilities that are essential for the conduct of Legume Innovation Lab research and outreach activities.

The bottom line is that proposed activities should focus on strengthening HC institutional capacity to utilize and benefit from cutting-edge technologies, new skill sets and knowledge, and linkages with other research institutions so as to more effectively carry out their research, teaching and outreach missions for the benefit of developing country grain legume sectors and value chain stakeholders.

Procedure

This RFP is limited to Legume Innovation Lab host country participant institutions. To request institutional capacity strengthening funding, a U.S. lead PI in collaboration with an appropriate HC PI(s) should complete a "Proposal to Strengthen Host Country Institutional Capacity" form for each HC institution interested in requesting support. See the attached form. If a HC institution is participating in more than one Legume Innovation Lab project with distinct Lead U.S. universities, the HC institution may submit for consideration one proposal per project. The signatures of both the U.S. Lead PI and the appropriate HC collaborating PI are required on all proposals to ensure that the institutional need has been adequately discussed and confirmed by the collaborating PIs.

The MO of the Legume Innovation Lab will be presenting all proposals received to the Technical Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) for review and will solicit their advice on which initiatives to fund.

Criteria to be used in evaluating the institutional needs and making decisions on allocation of these funds will include: a) institutional justification of need; b) cost effectiveness; c) innovation; d) linkage and importance to achievement of objectives of Legume Innovation Lab projects; e) gender equity; and f) benefit to HC institution's capacity to serve the dry grain legume sectors within that HC and region.

The Budget must include an itemized list of all direct and indirect costs to be charged by the U.S. and/or HC institution to conduct the proposed institutional capacity strengthening activity. As a general guideline, we recommend that funding requests not exceed \$40,000 such that we may maximize the number of host country institutions benefiting from this funding. The time period for expenditure of the requested funds is July 1, 2015 through September 30, 2016 (subject to obligation of funds from USAID).

The MO requests that PIs submit completed Proposals to the Management Office of the Legume Innovation Lab as an attachment to an email (legumelab@msu.edu) **with the Subject Line: RFP Capacity**. Individual Proposals should be type written and NOT exceed three pages plus the Excel budget. The **deadline for receipt of proposals is Monday, February 23, 2015**.

If you have any questions or seek counsel regarding this request for Proposals to Strengthen Host Country Institutional Capacity, contact either Drs. Irvin Widders (Director) or Cynthia Donovan (Deputy Director) at widders@msu.edu or donovanc@anr.msu.edu , respectively. Again, emails should use the subject line- RFP Capacity.