

## **Transcript of the online Q&A on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> for the Horticulture Innovation Lab's request for pre-proposals for IPM research on nematodes in Central America.**

Q. Are you looking for proposals that cover all three countries or is it possible to focus on a single country?

A. It is definitely possible to just focus on one of those countries. We don't have a preference for projects that would work in more than one country.

Q. Will it be necessary for the proposal to have partners both in Guatemala and Honduras?

A. No, you do not have to have partners in more than one country.

Q. What kind of farmers do you want us to target?

A. We want to support research that helps people in the Feed the Future zones of these countries. But if the research benefits other farmers, that would be great too.

Q. Can I participate not being a Central American researcher?

A. Yes, you can.

Q. How many projects are you likely to fund?

A. Just one for three years up to \$450,000.

Q. Can USDA-ARS scientists be able to be lead PI on these proposals?

A. Lead P.I. should be from a U.S. University, but USDA-ARS can be a funded collaborator.

Q. Can I participate even if I already have a grant with Feed the Future?

A. Yes.

Q. Are there specific crops to work in the project?

A. We would like this to focus on horticultural crops. We would like there to be a reason for the research on a particular crop and pest.

Q. Can I target same farmers that I work with in other projects?

A. Yes, that is OK.

Q. You list quite a number of collaborators on you website. Are there some individuals especially interested in nematology?

A. The people who put themselves on our website ([http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/main/find\\_partner.html](http://horticulture.ucdavis.edu/main/find_partner.html)) are people who have found us and put their names there because they want to find partners. There are some nematologists there. Those people are looking for partners so feel free to contact them. Please also partner with people who you know. You are not required to use our list of people.

- Q. How many farmers would a project need to impact to be considered successful?
- A. Since this is a research project, your main job is to test an idea. That idea must be validated in the country to make sure that it works but your job isn't necessarily to train farmers. If you develop a sound solution for farmers, another project can scale it. Does that make sense? There is always a little training involved, of course. But it shouldn't be a major part of the research.
- Q. Can we include entomopathogenic nematodes in the proposal or just plant parasitics?
- A. If there are entomopathogenic nematodes that impact production, then yes, that is ok. Please make a case for why those are important in the country you propose to work.
- Q. How important will gender be in successful project?
- A. Gender equity is definitely important. If the solution you are researching doesn't work for both women producers and men producers then it won't be considered.
- Q. Would it be possible to see what the key horticultural crops are in the regions of Feed The Future in the 3 countries?
- A. The Feed the Future plans mostly focus on all horticulture (lumping the crops together). You can find specific country plans here: <http://feedthefuture.gov/countries>. However, if you can justify a need for a different horticultural crop that is important to people in that country, then that is fine.
- Q. Are there categorical limits in the budget like on personnel or amount to be spent in country?
- A. No, but we like to see enough funding going to the host country partner(s) to make it a partner effort. There is no set target percentage you have to meet, though.
- Q. If this is a research project why should gender be important since the technology will work regardless?
- A. If you don't consider gender equity at the beginning, you might not know if a woman farmer can implement the technology in an equal way. For example, what if the research solution is too expensive for a woman to purchase or use? Gender equity has to be thought of at the beginning of all research.
- Q. We understand that the scope of the grant focuses on nematodes. Could we also include research on other related diseases which are usually related to nematode pressure?
- A. Sure. Please outline the need for that in your problem statement.
- Q. Within the countries of Guatemala and Honduras, are there specific regions that we have to consider?
- A. Yes. We would like the research to impact farmers who live in the Feed the Future zones of those countries. <http://feedthefuture.gov/countries>

- Q. Do you have preferred ways that public-private partnerships would be effective in this kind of grant?
- A. The simplest method would be for a U.S. Institution to partner with your company as a funded collaborator/subaward.

More questions are welcome. For questions about the proposal and program, please write Amanda Crump at [acrump@ucdavis.edu](mailto:acrump@ucdavis.edu). For questions about budgeting and contracting, please write Heather Kawakami at [hekawakami@ucdavis.edu](mailto:hekawakami@ucdavis.edu).