

Questions

Elizabeth Mitcham: This is the location for typing in your questions. Enter the question in the small white box below and press the enter key (with an arrow).

Elizabeth Mitcham: Good morning!

James Simon: good morning!

Rodolfo Juliani: Good morning to all!

James Simon: can you put the cover page and full proposal details on the screen again

James, I cannot show the proposal call and see your questions at the same time, so we will only show it to answer a question.

Jean Ristaino: Elizabeth,

James Simon: ok, thanks- will you type in where the full pdf information will be as do not see it yet on your web-site- perhaps it is to be sent to each of us?

Harbans Bhardwaj: Sub-award budget: Should I just type the amount in Excel table and provide details in a separate sheet?

Sub award budget has a separate excel sheet that will auto fill on the main budget sheet

Harbans Bhardwaj: How do I access the sub-award budget form?

Sub award budget is a separate tab on the excel sheet

James Simon: I know but the no attachment came with the notice of invitation to submit the full proposal

The call for full proposals was emailed to each of you last Wed/Thurs. If you did not receive it, we can send it again.

James Simon, we will resend the call to you after this session.

Jean Ristaino: I read the rfp and am wondering about letters of support from collaborators. I will include their 2 page cv but can I attach support letters - if so where in the proposal?

J Ristaino - The letter of support can go at the end of your proposal document.

Eunice Bonsi: We did not get the e-mail. please can you send it again. Please copy cobonsi@tuskegee.edu

Kate Scow: Will the transcript of this chat be available after this conversation is over, for future reference

Eunice Bonsi: Thanks

Bielinski M. Santos: Good morning

conrad bonsi: Please resend call for proposal with all attachments to Eunice Bonsi again

Eunice - is there another email address we need to use for you?

Michael Reid: Kate Yes - we'll set up a FAQ on the website so everyone can see the relevant questions and answers.

Rodolfo Juliani: Is there any cap on the overhead? Is there a required matching component? If so what is the ratio and can include unrecovered F&A.

Cap is 20% MTDC. Matching required is 25% of the total amount funded.

Kate Scow: Thanks. Also, I could use some help with understanding what matching funds is defined as.

Kate, matching is cash or in-kind contributions

Michael Reid: The instructions for proposal preparation and supporting documents are at:

Michael Reid: http://hortcrsp.ucdavis.edu/main/IIP_proposals.html

Kate Scow: I see what is in the call for proposal. Would the tuition and fees of a grad student working on the project but not paid be considered matching?

Kate, if their fees are paid from a non-grant fund source, then yes.

Bielinski M. Santos: How detailed should the cooperator budgets be? Time is tight and in Latin America they might drag their feet on getting too specific for the narrative part of each budget form.

Cooperator budget narratives may be brief as long as they hit the key points.

D Dsouza: Hi good morning. I understand that PI's salary can be included as matching funds in percent effort, can we also include the collaborator's (co-PI) salary from the developing country as matching funds depending on percent effort

Dsouza, yes. As long as salary is able to be cost-shared according to their institution's guidelines

Rodolfo Juliani: Should we assume that we can include unrecovered F & A? We got permission to have a minimum 26% of overhead. The remaining 6% can then be used as part of our match?

Rodolfo, yes. But you will need to go by the dollars, since any fees, some parts of your sub, etc. are exempt from ICR

Eunice Bonsi: you can send it to ebonsi@gmail.com or cobonsi@tuskegee.edu

The instructions for proposal preparation and supporting documents are at:

http://hortcrsp.ucdavis.edu/main/IIP_proposals.html

Rodolfo Juliani: We do not have the RFP, so want to know what are the documents we need to provide (support letters, SF424, budget pages, etc)?

Bielinski M. Santos: About half of the cooperators and scientists are female, as well as one-half of the proposed trainees, would that be sufficient for gender purposes?

Dr Santos - The USAID guidelines as well as all the other needed supporting documents are on the proposals web-page above. 50% gender involvement is a guideline in the USAID gender equity document.

D Dsouza: Regarding the Performance Indicators table there are four categories in blue, do we need to meet the requirements for each of the four categories or just some of one or two categories

D Souza - You do not have to hit all the categories in the performance indicator tables. Focus on the evaluation criteria in the RFP, but consider the indicators that USAID is looking for in developing your proposal as well.

Prosper Doamekpor: How many institutions were invited to submit a full proposal?

Dr Doamekpor about 38 proposals were selected for full proposal development - not sure the number of institutions because some had more than one.

Bielinski M. Santos: I understand and saw that, but I am also wondering if there are examples of activities or goals that would be favorable to further enhance that part other than having female scientists and trainees.

Santos - Gender considerations are an important consideration, but not the only criteria for success. Other factors include innovation, quality of program. In the gender issue, we want to assure that training activities reach woman farmers, and sometimes extra effort is required to assure this happens.

Jean Ristaino: Thanks. Also someone at NCSU mentioned US AID mission contacts. Do we need to do this before the grant goes in or will it be sufficient to make the contacts after we know who is funded since the turn around time is very short.

J Ristaino - It is not necessary to make contact with USAID missions before you are funded. Just make sure you are communicating with any direct collaborators on your proposal.

J Ristaino - The letters of support can go at the end of your proposal document.

Peter Chege: I have the same question as D Dsouza about whether we can use the salary of co-Pis from the lead US institution as well as those of collaborators or other staff in developing countries to meet the 25% requirement.

Peter, yes, you may. The institution will need to sign off on the cost-share in their letter of support. The Co-PIs from the lead should not be cost-sharing from any federally paid funds, of course.

Prosper Doamekpor: How many of these proposals do you anticipate to fund?

P. Doamekpor - We invited 38 PIs to submit a full proposal. A minimum of 14 will be funded, depending on the budget requested, we may be able to fund more.

Peter Chege: Are you going to send to us our pre-proposals with reviewers' suggestions? I thought you had mentioned something to that effect in the announcement e-mail that went out on 11/25.

P Chege - There are some comments on pre-proposals and these will be going out in the next day or two. Not every proposal has comments that are relevant.

Bielinski M. Santos: I have the same question as Peter's about suggestions.

Prosper Doamekpor: Thanks for the update.

Rodolfo Juliani: is there any expectation of travelling to a central point to present results by end of year?

D Dsouza: I saw in the RFP that we should include in our budget travel to east Africa for a meeting (this includes PI and coPI from developing country). Is this correct? and if so, what is the estimated amount for the meeting including travel, hotel, registration?

D Dsouza, the meeting is for 3 days. You can budget accordingly. Per diem rates should be used for international travel. Please use the standard rates that your institution uses. Per diem is not necessary for domestic travel--actual charges will more likely apply.

Peter Chege: About your answer to my Q about matching funds from developing countries; do you mean that the institution there has to sign off on the cost-share in the letter of support? So far I know the signature page is for the lead insitution and if I get you correctly we need letters of support from the collaborating institutions, right?

P Chege, yes, you will need a letter of collaboration from any/all of your subawards. This is also probably standard procedure from your SPO.

Louise jackson: Good morning, I am Felipe Barrios representing Louise Jackson. For the signature page or any other document, do we need to have approval from the collaborating institution (office of research)?

Felipe, the signature page is for the lead institution to sign. Letters of collaboration should come from any of your subawards.

Rodolfo Juliani: Is there a specific contact person we can call/email to make sure the submission is ok? or if we have more questions regarding the RFP?

For questions on the budget in the future, you may contact Heather Kawakami at 530-754-7968 or hekawakami@ucdavis.edu

For questions regarding the RFP that are not related to the budget, you can email hortcrsp@ucdavis.edu or call 530-752-7992.

Louise Jackson: Who or how is the subaward be managed?

For the subaward(s), funds will go to the lead institution, and then subs will be issued according to institutional guidelines.

Robert Blanchette: When filling out the budget forms and justification for travel it is suggested that per diem rate be used, are these to be based on U.S. Department of State rates?

James Simon: The 3 day meeting in east africa is to be budgeted using international per diem us gov rates but as we do not know where in east africa, hard to properly budget- Nairobi seems to be a key usaid meeting place do we use that as term of ref?

D Dsouza: Is there a registration fee for the 3 day meeting and which part of east Africa so one can budget accordingly

D Dsouza, no registration fee. Unfortunately, the location has not been set, so you will have to somewhat generously estimate the travel costs you may have.

Prosper Doamekpor: How is IRB approval going to be handled (if any)?

IRB approval should be pending at the time of submission, if applicable. Final approval can be obtained at the point of funding.

James Simon: As only seeing the guidelines now perhaps I missed it but are there page limits in total and for each section of the technical parts of the proposal?

Thomas E Byers: This is a one year contract. Results and impact should occur during this year. However, there is an expectation that good work will be supported by additional multiyear funding, rightly or wrongly. My question, should the proposals be written in such a way that they can be ramped up seamlessly if an opportunity arises? Or should they be written as if they are design to evaluation documents with a clear exist strategy?

Dr Byers. We recognize that these projects may set the foundation for a follow-on major grant (Pilot Project). However, we will be looking to fund projects that will deliver outcomes and impacts in the one-year time span of the IIPs.

Peter Chege: When is the meeting in East Africa going to be? Can we tie the trip to that meeting to our other project activities since our project is focusing on East Africa? If the meeting dates don't line up with our project activities schedule it might mean two trips to the region.

The inception workshop will likely be held in East Africa, and May /June is our preferred timing.

James Simon: ok, see the page limits now on tech part and word limit to abstract- the other supporting sections have no limit

conrad bonisi: since we did not receive our call for full proposal to read the RFP, is this proposal going through Grants.gov?

It seems there are a number of folks who did not receive the call for full proposals. I suggest you go to the following website to get the full instructions as this will be fastest. The website is http://hortcrsp.ucdavis.edu/main/IIP_proposals.html.

No to grants.gov. It will be an e-mail submission.

conrad bonisi: Thanks

Louise jackson: Documents from collaborating institutions and interested stakeholders have to be "ALL" in english for submission?

Louise, If the supporting documents are in French or Spanish we can accept them as such. In local languages, it would seem appropriate that they be accompanied by an english translation. But the main body of the proposal needs to be in English, please.

Thomas E Byers: When should we expect the reveiew to have been completed?

Dr Byers. We hope to have the reviews completed and make the awards in the middle of January.

Brian Whipker: The question was asked earlier about subaward management. Will funds go directly to the subcontract or thru the lead institution?

Peter Chege: Thanks for the clarifications. Please post this chat transcript and give us the link at your earliest convenience so we can refer to it later and also share with our collaboators. Thanks.

P. Chege - We plan to develop a list of the questions and answers and post on the website soon.

Bielinski M. Santos: Thanks for your time.

Thomas E Byers: The difference in airfare from my location to Lilongwe Malawi is approximately \$1000 more than to Nairobi and probably less to a place like Johannesburg.

Dr Byers - one of the considerations in choosing the location of the inception workshop will be ease (and cost) of access for participants from all regions

Jean Ristaino: Sorry I stepped out of my office and missed the answer to my question on USAID mission contact

J Ristaino - It is not necessary to make contact with USAID missions before you are funded. Just make sure you are communicating with any direct collaborators on your proposal.

Kate Scow: I echo Peter's request. Please let us have access directly to the chat transcript rather than to a FAQ's summary of this.

Kate - ok - we'll do both. The transcript will certainly be quicker and easier for us!

Kate Scow: Thanks.

James Simon: when should we all hear back relative to final decisions on which projects are to funded this round?

Jim - we expect mid-January

Elizabeth Mitcham: Are there still PIs who need us to email the call for full proposals?

conrad bonsi: Eunice Bonsi is one of them

Prosper Doamekpor: I just went to the website to download the RFP. I found an error which needs immediate attention. The due date on the document is December 18, 2010. I believe it 2009. Is there a way to extend the date?

Dr Doamekpor Thanks for pointing that out, and apologies for the confusion. The due date is December 18, 2009 - we recognize the brevity of the time available, but the intent was to fund 'shovel ready' projects that are already in near-final form. We'll correct the inconsistency in the call.

conrad bonsi: Can you share the list of those you invited for full proposal?

C. Bonsi - No, we consider this private information. We will share the list of funded projects in the end of the process

James Simon: given you've just sent to us the url for the guidelines that should be fine; but as many of us did not receive the original guidelines and/or any reviewer comments/suggestions, please re-send and for my address anyway, please include sending it to : jesimon123@hotmail.com as your original notification got spammed and filtered out so we did not know till this past monday when we inquired. Thanks

Jim - we will add that email to our information for you.

Jim - will do - along with a corrected pdf.

Prosper Doamekpor: Thanks.

Jim, Beth just sent you the PDF file of the full call (not yet corrected on the due date year). Did you receive it?

James Simon: Got it as of 12:04pmp so nice when email works! please always use this address as well. Thank you!!

Thanks everyone for your patience and understanding with the bumps along the road as we try to get the Horticulture CRSP up and running as rapidly as feasible. We feel that the momentum we'll gain by putting the IIPs into the field in the short term will benefit the CRSP in the long term.

Louise Jackson: Thank you for your time.

James Simon: Thanks for hosting this chat session

Peter Chege: Thanks (Elizabeth, Heather and Mike) for all your efforts to pull the hort CRSP together and taking time to answer our questions.

badini: Oumar Badini: Can we an idea of the geographical distribution of the accepted pre-proposals?

Kate Scow: Thanks very much.

Badini - We have approximately 50% of the proposals involved in Sub-Saharan Africa and the remaining roughly split among Latin America and South Asia. Our selection of pre-proposals was based on quality for this call and the one year time frame, so we did not manipulate the numbers to match any regional distribution.

Prosper Doamekpor: Thanks for the chat session, we look forward to having you post the transcript for reference.

Our pleasure. Glad to hear it was helpful. We are excited to make use of technology to make the job easier.

D Dsouza: Please can we get comments and/or our initial preproposal by email with any suggestions that will help us

Dr D'Souza We will send comments and/or suggestions from the reviewers and the review panel in the next couple of days, but these are sometimes quite brief, since the selected proposals were usually very highly ranked.

D Dsouza: Thanks again for all the efforts in putting this together to help us better understand and help us improve our submission

Prosper Doamekpor: Do you plan having a session of the sought before the submission due date?

We'll do that - we feel that this session has been helpful to us and to you, so tentatively we'll plan another chat on December 15 at 9 a.m. PST for those who have last-minute questions.

badini: Thanks very much for answerin all those questions

Prosper Doamekpor: Thanks so much!

D Dsouza: Is it possible to have it a bit earlier like December 10 somewhere in the middle so that we do not get too close to the deadline, IF possible only

We think December 15 will be a good date for folks reaching the submission point. If you have questions earlier, please feel free to send them to hortcrsp@ucdavis.edu. You may send budget questions directly to Heather at hekawakami@ucdavis.edu

Jan Boll: How strict is the end date of the project? January 2011 is in the middle of a growing season, so results wouldn't be complete.

For budget purposes, the project budget should be spent in a year's time along with the cost-sharing. For reporting purposes, you can appeal to the ME on a case-by-case basis for a no-cost time extension. The burn rate on the funds is especially a factor with USAID, so we need to take that into consideration.

Thanks to all. We are signing off now and will send a link to the transcript soon. Beth

Bye all, and thanks for your interest and enthusiasm. Michael

Thank you, all. Heather.

D Dsouza: Ok thanks so much

Jan Boll: I understand. Thank you!

Rodolfo Juliani: Thank you for the answers!