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Funding Opportunity Title: Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (Nutrition CRSP)

Announcement Type: Request for Application

Funding Opportunity Number: RFA No. M-OAA-EGAT-DHWA-10-01

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) Number: 98.001

Issuance Date: April 23, 2010

RFA Applicant Questions Due: May 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

Pre-Application Conference: May 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the USAID Information Center / Library meeting room M-17 on the mezzanine level of the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20523.
***Note: The Pre-Application Conference is the last opportunity for potential applicants to ask questions of USAID.*

Closing Date and Time for Application Submission: June 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. (Eastern Standard Time)

Overview:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) seeks applications from eligible universities or colleges to serve as the Management Entity (ME) for a Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) entitled: **Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (Nutrition CRSP)**. The authority for this RFA is found in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended.

This CRSP activity will be a Leader with Associates (LWA) assistance award. The successful applicant will be awarded a five-year Cooperative Agreement Leader Award with responsibility for managing a worldwide program of research and outreach activities intended to provide results in multiple countries and/or regions. A five-year extension may be provided, subject to the following three criteria: (1) a record of good performance during the first five-year period; (2) availability of Agency funding; and (3) continued relevance of the CRSP to the overall Agency portfolio and development priorities. The applicant is required to submit a technical and

cost application as detailed in Section IV. The Recipient will be responsible for ensuring achievement of the program objectives of this CRSP. Please refer to the Program Description (Section I.(1)) for a complete statement of goals and expected results.

Additional related activities may be awarded by USAID missions or other USAID offices as Associate Awards. These Associate Awards are not competed, but rather are awarded under the Leader agreement and fit within the terms and scope of the Leader award. Associate Awards may be either cooperative agreements or grants.

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 USC. 301 note); and the United States colleges and universities which - (1) have demonstrated 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 nutrition research programs; (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 manage funding under USAID financial management standards to ensure funds accountability.

Pursuant to 22 CFR 226.81, it is USAID policy not to award profit under assistance instruments such as cooperative agreements. However, all reasonable, allocable, and allowable expenses, both direct and indirect, which are related to the assistance program and are in accordance with applicable cost standards (22 CFR 226, OMB Circular A-122 for non-profit organizations, OMB Circular A-21 for universities, and the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) Part 31 for for-profit organizations), may be paid under the Cooperative Agreement.

Applicants under consideration for an award may be subject to a pre-award audit to determine fiscal responsibility, ensure adequacy of financial controls, and establish an indirect cost rate.

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to award up to TWO five-year Leader Awards for up to \$1,500,000 per year for Africa and up to \$1,500,000 per year for Asia, for a grand total of \$7,500,000 each. Additional funds from missions via Associate Awards are anticipated not to exceed \$10,000,000 for Africa and Asia each over the life of the agreement. However, there is no guarantee on the number of awards to be issued nor the total amount

expended. The Leader and Associate Awards will specify the Total Estimated Award (TEA) amount for the Cooperative Agreement allocated over the five (5) year period. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. One university may receive both awards for Africa and Asia.

For the purposes of this program, this RFA is being issued and consists of this cover letter and the following:

SECTION I – Funding Opportunity Description
SECTION II – Award Information
SECTION III – Eligibility Information
SECTION IV – Application and Submission Information
SECTION V – Application Review Information
SECTION VI – Award and Administration Information
SECTION VII – Agency Contacts
SECTION VIII – Other Information
Annexes

For the purposes of this RFA, the term "Grant" is synonymous with "Cooperative Agreement"; "Grantee" is synonymous with "Recipient"; and "Grant Officer" is synonymous with "Agreement Officer". Also, "application" is synonymous with "proposal"; and "lead university", "leader" and "management entity (ME)" are synonymous.

The award will be made to that responsible applicant whose application offers the greatest value to the USG in furthering the goals of the CRSP.

Applications are submitted at the risk of the applicant; all preparation and submission costs are at the applicant's expense. Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of the Government, nor does it commit the Government to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application. In addition, final award of any resultant Cooperative Agreement cannot be made until funds are available for award.

This RFA and any future amendments can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov>. Select "Find Grant Opportunities", then click on "Browse by Agency", and select the "US Agency for International Development" and search for the RFA.

The applicant shall submit applications in BOTH electronic and hard copy format as described in Section IV. Applications must be received by the closing date and time indicated at the top of this cover letter. Late applications may not be considered for award. Applications must be directly responsive to the terms and conditions of this RFA. Telegraphic or fax applications (entire application) are not authorized for this RFA and will not be accepted.

Pre-Award Conference: USAID will host a pre-application conference to address issues regarding this RFA on May 18, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in meeting room M-17 of the USAID public library and information center on the mezzanine level of the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20523. This conference is open to

all potential applicants. If interested in attending, please confirm attendance to Tracy Sando at tsando@usaid.gov. Due to limited space, no more than two representatives of each organization may attend and seating will be available on a first come, first served basis.

Any clarification questions concerning this RFA should be submitted by email to Tracy Sando at tsando@usaid.gov and Vann Rolfson at vrolfson@usaid.gov, with a read receipt requested, by the date and time specified above. If there are problems in downloading the RFA from www.grants.gov, please contact the Federal Grants Help Desk at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Sattgast", with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Anne Sattgast
Agreement Officer
USAID M/OAA/EGAT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SECTION I- FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION.....	6
SECTION II- AWARD INFORMATION.....	22
SECTION III- ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION	24
SECTION IV- APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION	25
SECTION V- APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION.....	43
SECTION VI- AWARD AND ADMINSTRATION INFORMATION.....	47
SECTION VII- AGENCY CONTACTS.....	51
SECTION VIII- OTHER INFORMATION	52
ANNEXES	53
ANNEX 1. ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS.....	53
ANNEX 2. NUTRITION PRIORITY COUNTRIES	55
ANNEX 3. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK.....	56
ANNEX 4. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK STANDARDIZED PROGRAM STRUCTURE AND DEFINITIONS.....	58
ANNEX 5. USAID INDICATORS AND OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS	62
ANNEX 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	73

SECTION I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

(1) Description of the Proposed Program

A. INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) supported Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) was created in 1977 to engage the capacities of the U.S. land grant and other eligible universities in addressing the needs of developing nations worldwide while also contributing to U.S. food security and agricultural development. The U.S. Congress made this possible with the passage of the International Development and Food Assistance Act of 1975, specifically under Title XII of that Act. With the passage of the Famine Prevention and Freedom from Hunger Improvement Act of 2000, Title XII was amended and reauthorized, enabling the continuation of long-term collaborative research programs as one of several categories of U.S. university led research efforts helping “to achieve the mutual goals among nations of ensuring food security, human health, agricultural growth, trade expansion, and the wise and sustainable use of natural resources.”

With the 2000 amendment of Title XII, Congress has directed that support be provided to mobilize the capacities of U.S. universities and public and private partners of universities for: 1) global research on problems affecting food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries; and 2) improved human capacity and institutional resource development for the global application of agriculture and related environmental sciences. These activities are intended to benefit both developing countries and the United States.

USAID’s Office of Agriculture manages a range of research grants and agreements, including the CRSPs that bring the experience and expertise of U.S. universities, non-governmental organizations (NGO), International Agricultural Research Centers (IARC), and U.S. government agencies to bear on critical development questions in the areas of agriculture and natural resource management.

CRSPs are defined by these characteristics:

- They are coordinated, multi-disciplinary research programs that are collaboratively developed and cooperatively implemented, with shared responsibilities between U.S. and host country institutions and scientists. CRSP goals are consistent with the goals of USAID to support economic growth and to reduce poverty through the generation of knowledge and technologies important to the development of agriculture and natural resources of developing and transition countries, while also contributing to the improvement of agriculture in the U.S.
- They are long-term activities which, to the maximum extent possible, are carried out within developing countries.
- They develop the human and institutional capability of research organizations in the countries where CRSP activities are located. The institutional relationships established between CRSPs and host country institutions are intended to be enduring and to transcend the life of the CRSP.

- They address human capacity development and, in addition to using research projects as a vehicle for this capacity development, they may accommodate training needs through graduate degree programs, research assistantships, and workshops.
- They employ a “program approach” in their research design and implementation, working collaboratively among several institutions in the U.S. and overseas, drawing on the expertise of several disciplines to solve identified constraints to agricultural problems.
- They follow a “global plan” of research goals and strategies. Research applications are selected in open competition according to their ability to address the identified constraints in the CRSP’s¹ global plan. These plans are subject to approval by USAID.
- They select research sites to achieve quality research results and consider: the importance of the research to a specific country economy, the presence of adequate institutional research capacity in country, the interest and commitment of the host country government or institutions in the research program, the interest of the relevant USAID Bureau and/or country Mission, and the availability of sufficient resources to do the research.

B. DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGE

i. Background:

One billion people in the developing world live with chronic hunger. Eighty percent of the world’s undernourished live in just 20 countries across four regions: Africa, Asia, Western Pacific and the Middle East². Available data demonstrates that women and children in these countries are not achieving recommended levels of weight gain, linear growth and improved nutritional status due to a combination of factors that include distribution of income within the household, nutritional and cultural practices, the lack of a nutritious diet, unsafe water, inadequate sanitation, and ineffective illness management; these factors play a significant role in suboptimal nutritional outcomes and food insecurity for the affected populations³. The Global Hunger Index, a tool for regularly tracking the state of global hunger and malnutrition, shows high mortality rates and high levels of undernourished and underweight children (under the age of five) in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa.⁴ Malnutrition is the leading cause of death among children under five years of age and South Asia has both the highest death rates and largest number of malnourished children⁵.

Globally, malnutrition accounts for about 35 percent of the disease burden in children younger than five years, 3.5 million maternal and child deaths per year, and 11 percent of the total global disability adjusted life years (DALYs).⁶ Vitamin A deficiency affects more than 254 million children, impairing their immune systems and causing blindness, early morbidity and

¹ <http://crsps.org/>

² Bryce J, et al, Maternal and child undernutrition: effective action at national level, *Lancet* 371 (2008): 65

³ De Onis M. “Accelerating the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition.” *UN SCN News* 36 (2008) : 12-16

⁴ Von Grebmer, K et al, *The Challenge of Hunger* (2008)

⁵ World Bank Report, *Repositioning nutrition as central to development, A strategy for large action*, (2006): 6

⁶ Black RE. “Maternal and child undernutrition: global and regional exposures and health consequences.” *Lancet* 371(2008): 5

mortality. Micronutrient deficiencies, especially iron deficiency anemia, significantly threaten maternal health and contribute to low birth weight infants, lowered resistance to infection, decreased work capacity and maternal deaths⁷. Further, iron deficiency anemia is responsible for 22 percent of maternal deaths and 24 percent of perinatal deaths.⁸

The rise in global food prices over the past two years will only exacerbate this situation. Poor women and children are the first to become malnourished and the most likely to suffer severe health consequences, and remain the most vulnerable to future food price volatilities and shocks. Generally, the total costs of malnutrition to the developing world are staggering in terms of human suffering, lowered economic productivity, and lost intellectual resources.

Several studies and systematic reviews of the efficacy or effectiveness of nutrition interventions have established standard approaches for preventing and treating malnutrition in women and children to dramatically reduce the devastating complications of malnutrition and achieve the Millennium Development Goals⁹. These interventions include: promotion of breastfeeding; strategies to promote complementary feeding in food secure and food insecure settings; micronutrient interventions; treatment of severe acute malnutrition; general supportive strategies to improve family and community nutrition, and reduction of the disease burden through public health measures. More specifically, the Lancet Series on Nutrition has recommended emphasizing complementary feeding strategies to improve the undernutrition of children less than two years of age and further emphasized adequate dietary intake for pregnant women to improve maternal nutrition while recognizing the importance of long term investments to improve knowledge, economic status and empowerment of women¹⁰.

These recommendations are important because the period from pregnancy to two years of age has been identified as the window of opportunity for intervention as mental, physical and psycho-biological damages caused by undernutrition are irreversible after 24 months of age.¹¹ In addition, the new World Health Organization (WHO) Child Growth Standards focus greater attention on the problem of dietary quality and diversity.¹² These new growth standards recognize that complementary feeding diets in countries with the highest burden of malnutrition are frequently deficient in key micronutrients and the proportion of energy provided by animal source foods tends to be low. As a result, dietary diversification strategies that employ linked agriculture, nutrition and health interventions aimed at improving the supply, access, consumption and utilization of nutritious foods are crucial in effectively combating malnutrition.

⁷ Micronutrient Initiative/UNICEF, Vitamin and Mineral Deficiency: A global progress report. (2009):4

⁸ Caulfield, L et al, "Undernutrition as an underlying cause of child deaths associated with diarrhea, pneumonia, malaria, and measles" American Journal of Clinical Nutrition 80 (2004):193–8.

⁹ The studies include De Onis M, "Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Undernutrition." UN SCN News 36(2008) ; USAID Independent Evaluation Report, Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance II Project Evaluation (2008), World Bank Report, From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes (2007), World Bank Report, Repositioning nutrition as central to development(2006) and The Copenhagen Consensus(2004) <http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com>

¹⁰ Bhutta ZA et al, What works? Intervention for maternal and child undernutrition and survival, Lancet 371(2008) : 41

¹¹ World Bank Report, Repositioning nutrition as central to development(2006) and Lancet 371(2008)

¹² De Onis M. Child undernutrition based on the new WHO child growth standards and rates of reduction to 2015(2008), and "Accelerating the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition." UN SCN News 36 (2008):14

Considerable evidence indicates¹³ that intensified agriculture and nutrition interventions often prevent or reverse malnutrition providing an important strategy to effectively combat malnutrition. However, the following five key problem areas, among others, impede sustained improvements in malnutrition at scale: 1) most countries with high levels of undernutrition (in Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia) are not implementing these proven interventions at scale due to challenges that include lack of political commitment defined as the allocation of human, financial, and organizational resources for effective actions at sufficient scale and intensity to improve nutrition in populations; lack of proper targeting to ensure that interventions reach those in need; and lack of strategic and operational capacity defined as the availability of adequate capacity for leadership and strategic management of the nutrition agenda¹⁴, 2) dietary diversification strategies that affect dietary quality have not been adequately assessed or proven to affect nutritional status or micronutrient indicators on a large scale,¹⁵ 3) efficacy trials and reviews in the Lancet Nutrition Series addressed more of the proximal determinants of undernutrition (food and nutrient intake for mother and child) with less attention paid to the distal or underlying determinants of malnutrition such as strategies to reduce poverty, empower women and reduce gender inequality which is critical for significant and sustained progress in improving maternal and child nutrition¹⁶, 4) studies on the impact of agriculture on nutrition document impacts on several intermediary outcomes such as food security, income, and women's empowerment, without directly modeling the pathways of impact to nutrition outcomes,¹⁷ and 5) in many countries, increased agricultural productivity and income have not been shown to proportionally translate into better food access and utilization for the most vulnerable, especially women and children.

As a result, it is important to: (a) gather evidence that documents the factors that hinder nutrition agendas at the country level, (b) develop country level capacity to review existing strategies and programs to combat malnutrition, (c) prioritize interventions with a proven effect on undernutrition in the target population groups, (d) develop feasible strategies for increasing public demand for these interventions, and (e) implement these interventions at scale¹⁸. A long term research agenda is needed to gather such evidence and accomplish all of the above tasks. Several components from the National Nutrition Programs in Thailand, Senegal, Mexico and Brazil may serve as potential models.

ii. RESEARCH NEEDS:

A Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (Nutrition CRSP) is needed not only to support a long term research agenda to accomplish the above tasks but also to ultimately

¹³Studies include “De Onis M, Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Undernutrition.”UN SCN News 36(2008); USAID Independent Evaluation Report, Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance II Project Evaluation (2008), World Bank Report, From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes (2007), World Bank Report, Repositioning nutrition as central to development(2006), Bryce J et al, Maternal and child undernutrition: effective action at national level, Lancet 371(2008):511-523

¹⁴ Bryce J et al, Maternal and child undernutrition: effective action at national level, Lancet 371(2008):511-523

¹⁵ Bhutta ZA. “What works? Interventions for maternal and child undernutrition and survival.”Lancet 371(2008):58

¹⁶ Ruel MT. “Addressing the underlying determinants of undernutrition: examples of successful integration of nutrition in poverty reduction and agriculture strategies, Accelerating the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition.”UN SCN News 36 (2008):21

¹⁷ World Bank Report, From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes (2007)

¹⁸ Bryce J et al, Maternal and child undernutrition: effective action at national level, Lancet 371 (2008):78

determine if and what kinds of investments in agriculture-based strategies, human and institutional capacity, agricultural and food system policies and human health and nutrition can be used to achieve:

- Large scale and sustainable improvements in nutrition outcomes in children less than two years of age and vulnerable adults especially pregnant women measured by the prevalence of underweight children (weight for age) and prevalence of malnourished women (BMI <18.5), respectively.
- Significant and sustained increase in the number of households with improved dietary quality and diversity.
- Improved national nutrition policies and community capacities to combat malnutrition.
- Significant and sustained increase in the number of households with improved infant and young child feeding practices.
- Advancement of new tools to improve nutrition.

In addition, the Nutrition CRSP is intended to investigate effective ways of translating research results into widespread development practice. The CRSP anticipates the development of a well balanced research strategy that is both innovative and problem-solving and responds to the food and nutrition scientific needs, as well as capacity development requirements of selected nutrition priority countries.

Based on the U.S. Food Security Initiative, Global Hunger Index, World Bank Reports, The Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance Program, Lancet Nutrition Series, the Landscape Analysis on Countries' Readiness To Accelerate Action In Nutrition, Poverty Reduction Strategic Plans, Nutrition Governance, Country Progress in Reaching MDG 1 and the Prevalence of Undernourished and Underweight Children in countries, USAID has identified nutrition priority countries. (See Annex 2 for the list of nutrition priority countries)

The initial Nutrition CRSP will commence in two nutrition priority countries, with one program in Africa and one program in Asia, with funding divided equally between the two countries. Other nutrition priority countries, including Latin American countries may be added during the award period through mission buy-in.

C. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

i. Program Vision:

As already mentioned several studies and systematic reviews of the efficacy or effectiveness of nutrition interventions have established standard approaches for preventing and treating malnutrition in women and children.¹⁹ These approaches have been proven to effectively reduce malnutrition and its devastating consequences on the most vulnerable especially women

¹⁹ The studies include De Onis M, "Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Undernutrition." UNSCN News 36(2008); USAID Independent Evaluation Report, Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Project II Evaluation 2008, World Bank Report, From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes (2007), World Bank Report, Repositioning nutrition as central to development(2006) and the Copenhagen Consensus(2004) <http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com>, Bhutta ZA et al, What works? Interventions for maternal and child undernutrition and survival, Lancet 317(2008):41

and children and represent a significant positive stride in efforts to combat malnutrition. However, five key problem areas as described in Section I.(1)B.i. of this RFA remain an impediment to sustainable and scaled up improvements in malnutrition. The Nutrition CRSP will leverage university networks to propose solutions to the development challenges described in Section I.(1)B.i. of this RFA and build local and national capacity through research, training, curriculum development and outreach. The CRSP is designed to address USAID mission priorities and initiatives in nutrition, agriculture and food security.

The **vision** of this program is to reduce malnutrition in women and children and to improve their incomes and livelihoods.

ii. Goals and Objectives:

The **goal** of this program is to empower stakeholders to conduct and apply research, augment academic training and bolster technical capacity to improve income and nutrition outcomes for the targeted population groups. USAID expects approaches based on collaborative partnerships among U.S. universities, host country governments and universities, agricultural organizations, NGOs, nutrition institutions and other public/private sector partners that help USAID programs achieve measurable impact and goals in terms of improved nutritional status, improved incomes/livelihoods, improved human and institutional capacity and increased agricultural productivity.

The **objectives** of this program are to:

- Build local and national, scientific, technical, human and institutional capacity in nutrition and agriculture.
- Apply research findings and technical knowledge to increase farmers' incomes, productivity, livelihoods and participation in markets.
- Improve the nutritional status of women and children through agriculture and food based programs in selected nutrition priority countries in Africa and Asia.
- Support the development and implementation of policies and programs that improve nutritional status.

iii. Program Themes

The Nutrition CRSP will meet the aforementioned goals and objectives primarily through addressing three major themes.

Theme (a): Scientific Research

USAID seeks to foster the development of effective, cost effective and sustainable research studies in the selected countries in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa. This theme will support activities that:

1. *Implement five-year nutrition research programs that provide integrated clinical, operational, agricultural, translational and public health nutrition research for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of malnutrition.* For the purposes of this Nutrition CRSP, clinical research includes biomedical and behavioral studies of currently available proven interventions, combinations of proven interventions and clinical approaches to the delivery and monitoring of proven interventions intended to prevent malnutrition or to diagnose, treat and monitor malnutrition in selected nutrition critical countries. Operational research encompasses the translation of knowledge and practice related to currently available proven interventions into widespread and sustainable clinical and public health and community practice. Critically important, is an examination of why proven interventions to reduce malnutrition have not been implemented at scale in selected nutrition critical countries to have a sustained and significant impact on improving nutritional outcomes and identify solutions to challenges that hinder implementation of these proven interventions at scale. Agricultural research examines the availability and access to a year round diverse food system to meet nutritional needs. Public health nutrition research examines the organization, financing, management and delivery of proven interventions including studies of quality and cost effectiveness.

Proven interventions are established standard approaches for preventing and treating malnutrition in women and children to dramatically reduce the devastating complications of malnutrition and achieve the Millennium Development Goals²⁰ that include promotion of breastfeeding; strategies to promote complementary feeding in food secure and food insecure settings especially complementary feeding strategies to improve the undernutrition of children less than two years of age; micronutrient interventions; treatment of severe acute malnutrition; general supportive strategies to improve family and community nutrition; and, strategies to promote adequate dietary intake for pregnant women to improve maternal nutrition while recognizing the importance of long term investments to improve knowledge, economic status and empowerment of women; and reduction of the disease burden through public health measures.²¹

This theme shall support an integrated research program that focuses on translating knowledge and practice from research conducted into widespread development

²⁰ The studies include De Onis M, “Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Undernutrition.” UN SCN News 36(2008) ; USAID Independent Evaluation Report, Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance II Project Evaluation (2008), World Bank Report, From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes (2007), World Bank Report, Repositioning nutrition as central to development(2006) and The Copenhagen Consensus(2004) <http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com>

²¹ Proven Interventions found in studies include De Onis M, “Accelerating the Reduction of Maternal and Child Undernutrition.” UNSCN News 36(2008); USAID Independent Evaluation Report, Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Project II Evaluation 2008, World Bank Report, From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes (2007), World Bank Report, Repositioning nutrition as central to development(2006) and the Copenhagen Consensus(2004) <http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com>, Bhutta ZA et al, What works? Interventions for maternal and child undernutrition and survival, Lancet 317(2008):41

practice. As such, operationalizing research results and identifying constraints and solutions to operationalize research results shall be a key component of the theme. A focus on utilizing host country capacities to conduct this research and building such capacities where lacking is anticipated.

2. *Build research capacities to conduct national food consumption and nutrition surveys with biochemical assessment.* In order to address food insecurity and undernutrition in a timely and appropriate manner, a country needs strong nutrition surveillance systems, and reliable, regularly collected data on food consumption and nutritional status of populations to measure both nutrient deficits and excesses, and monitor and evaluate the impact of nutrition interventions. Efforts to set up strong nutrition surveillance systems have been successful in several countries. However, it still remains crucially important to build the capacity of national and regional organizations/institutions to collect, analyze, and interpret nutrition assessment data, including food composition, biochemical assessments, dietary diversity, and food security surveys in many nutrition priority countries. Equally important, shall be building the capacity to assess the knowledge, attitudes, behavior and practices of infant and young child feeding.
3. *Build capacity to conduct a nutrition assessment and gap analysis.* The nutrition assessment and gap analysis is necessary to measure and evaluate: the primary determinants of undernutrition, systems supporting food and nutrition interventions and the capacity needed to deliver interventions likely to achieve the MDG's in a cost effective manner (including the capacity to deliver health-related nutrition programs at the national, district and community levels.) The analysis also provides recommendations on evidence based, interventions across relevant sectors and describes gaps in information that need to be addressed by sectors that influence nutrition outcomes.

Years 1–3: Up to 70 percent of leader award funding for this CRSP can be used to address Theme (a).

Years 4-5: Up to 10 percent of leader award funding for this CRSP can be used to address Theme (a).

Theme (b): Human and Institutional Capacity Development

Human capacity is lacking at all levels in the countries with the highest burden of malnutrition and the most vulnerable to food price volatility²². Trained nutrition advisors are lacking at the national, provincial and local government ministries to support nutrition information systems, administer prevention and treatment programs, develop nutrition policy, plan for emergency responses, promote nutrition in the development of poverty and food security plans and develop nutrition budgets at the country level²³. To improve country capacity to address nutrition, many of the enduring points in the national nutrition policy need to be re-examined in relation to

²²Bryce J et al, Maternal and child undernutrition: effective action at national level, *Lancet* 371(2008):77

²³USAID Independent Evaluation Report, *Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance II Project Evaluation* (2008):13

developing capacity, especially from a sustainability perspective²⁴. This re-examination should include the role of political will, institutional arrangements and operational capacity for acting at scale including the strategic scale-up of proficient nutrition technical staff by collaborating with key stakeholders (i.e., universities, local and international NGOs).

This theme will support activities in the following areas:

- University and International and Local NGO Linkages

Programs will be designed to expose technical and teaching staff of host country universities and/or technical training institutions to new nutrition and agricultural technologies, advanced teaching methods, and practical community-based work experiences. This assistance will focus on: (1) broadening curricula in local universities and technical training institutions, (2) enhancing development linkages between these institutions and international NGOs in host countries, (3) implementation of comprehensive nutrition and agriculture programs designed to improve nutritional status, incomes, livelihoods and productivity, and (4) supporting the participation of technical and teaching staff of host country universities and/or technical training institutions in international development and scientific meetings to share their scientific and technical experiences.

- Scientific Exchange Programs

University staff exchange programs and sabbaticals will be encouraged to create a dynamic learning environment between U.S. universities and participating host country universities. Scientific exchange programs that may include visiting professor programs and other opportunities to share experiences are envisioned with the ultimate aim of fostering the free exchange of information and technology.

- Student Programs

Provide students academic and practical research experiences in a dynamic learning environment between U.S. universities and participating host country universities. The focus shall be master's degrees in nutritional sciences for selected host country students to foster the growth, development, and sustainability of the next generation of trained nutrition staff who can appropriately meet the country's management and research needs.

- Nutrition Extension and Paraprofessional Development

Assistance will be directed at building local extension service capacity in the nutrition sector. Specifically, activities targeting the training of women as nutrition extension specialists and paraprofessionals will be encouraged. Because women are the primary care givers at the household level, they are often the end users of nutrition extension services. As such, the development of processes to involve women in decision making related to nutrition extension services, especially decisions related to adopting good nutritional practices, is important and

²⁴ Pelletier D. "Commitment, consensus and strategic capacity: An evidence based agenda: Accelerating the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition." UN SCN News 36(2008):42

shall be supported. In addition, the adoption of better nutritional practices may in some cases require significant costs in terms of labor and time that tend to place a greater burden on women whose time resources are already spread thinly among numerous enterprises because of women's roles as primary producers, processors and caregivers.²⁵ It is intended that involving women in the decision making process related to nutrition extension services shall lead to the design of nutrition extension services that have an impact on household nutritional outcomes and are also sensitive to women's labor burden especially in poorer households.

- Program Management

Assistance will be directed at building host country program management skills e.g. operations, fiscal, monitoring and evaluation, analytical, writing and information dissemination. This activity should enhance the ability of the next generation of trained nutrition staff to effectively and efficiently manage nutrition programs in the country.

Years 1 – 5: Up to 20 percent of leader award funding for this CRSP can be used to address Theme (b).

Theme (c): Improving the Nutritional Status of Women and Children Through Agriculture and Food Based Programs

For this theme, five factors are important to improving the nutritional status of families, especially women and children.

- 1) Information and research results generated from the Nutrition CRSP thematic areas of scientific research, human and institutional capacity development and other data sources will be used to support activities that improve maternal and infant and young child nutrition. Specifically, information and research results will be used to facilitate the expansion of programs to (a) improve the quality of maternal diets, including community-based activities to promote diverse diets before and during pregnancy; (b) promote the essential package for maternal and infant nutrition, exclusive breastfeeding, and introduction of appropriate locally available complementary foods; (c) improve the agricultural production and utilization of nutritious crops and animal source foods that provide protein and essential macronutrients and micronutrients to complement basic staples; and (d) improve access to water, hygiene and sanitation infrastructures as proposed by the Lancet Series and other key documents²⁶.

²⁵USAID Independent Evaluation Report, Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance II Project Evaluation (2008):17-18

²⁶The studies include Lancet 371 (2008), De Onis M, "Accelerating the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition." UN SCN News 36(2008), USAID Independent Evaluation Report, Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance II Project Evaluation (2008), World Bank Report, From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes (2007), World Bank Report, Repositioning nutrition as central to development (2006), NEPAD, Framework for African Food Security (2008) and, Robert Fogel, Bruno Frey, Justin Yifu Lin, Douglass North, Thomas Schelling, and others "Ranking the Opportunities." Global Crises, Global Solutions, ed. Bjorn Lomborg, 2004

- 2) In supporting agriculture and food based programs to improve the nutritional status of women and children, two components must be addressed by the research: (a) agriculture enabling environment training and agriculture sector productivity training. It is anticipated that agriculture sector productivity training and agriculture enabling environment training will lead to improvements in income, agricultural livelihoods and food availability and that the linking of these agricultural interventions to nutrition and health interventions will lead to improvements in nutritional outcomes.²⁷
- 3) Improving the nutritional status of families means addressing the problems of micronutrient deficiency. Theme (c) will support activities that improve macronutrient and micronutrient content of staple foods; provide incentives for the local production, processing and marketing of nutritionally rich foods; support training initiatives and agricultural programs in household dietary diversification; support the production of vegetables, fruits and meats for household consumption and income generation; and support the development of communications, education and behavioral change tools to promote healthy and diversified diets.
- 4) When the status of women is improved, evidence shows that agricultural productivity increases and poverty is reduced²⁸. In Africa and Asia, women produce 60-80 percent of the food crops and constitute a substantial part of the agricultural workforce²⁹. Women's education and status in the household is directly correlated to better nutritional outcomes for children³⁰. Analyses show that strengthening women's control over agricultural production can increase agricultural output by an average of 10 percent³¹, and that equalizing gender status in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa would reduce the number of underweight children under age three by 15 million³². Theme (c) will support activities that place a significant focus on women for improved nutrition. Program activities are encouraged to strengthen women's leadership and technical capacity, support community-based and participatory approaches to reduce food insecurity, increase opportunities for employment and income generation activities especially for women, strengthen income-oriented food production for sale in markets, and tailor agricultural extension systems to better meet the needs of women³³, bearing in mind the importance of cultural competence and the need not to marginalize men in these efforts. Moreover, gender issues as described in the Gender Criteria in Section IV of this RFA shall constitute a significant component in the formation of the entire Nutrition CRSP and the development of the portfolio of projects.

²⁷ USAID Independent Evaluation Report, Gender Informed Nutrition and Agriculture Alliance II Project Evaluation (2008)

²⁸Ruel MT. "Addressing the underlying determinants of undernutrition: examples of successful integration of nutrition in poverty reduction and agriculture strategies: Accelerating the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition." UN SCN News36 (2008):23

²⁹Mehra R and Rojas M.H, A significant shift. "Women, food security and agriculture in a global market place." ICRW(2008) :3-8

³⁰De Onis M: "Child undernutrition based on the new WHO growth standards and rates of reduction to 2015, Accelerating the reduction of maternal and child undernutrition," UN SCN News36 (2008):15.

³¹Mehra R and Rojas M.H. "A significant shift: Women, food security and agriculture in a global market place." ICRW,(2008):12

³² Wainright E, Nutrition and Food Security, USAID.

March2009.<<http://www.africanhunger.org/uploads/articles/31562256295793b1582007da614c1acb.pdf>>

³³World Bank Report , From Agriculture to Nutrition: Pathways, Synergies and Outcomes (2007):

5) The Nutrition CRSP is expected to conduct research that yields concrete and applicable recommendations for policy, practices and programming in the substantive areas outlined in the program description. The Management Entity (ME) will design and implement outreach activities to engage policymakers and development practitioners. Additional strategies for ensuring that research will be relevant to and used by policy makers, practitioners and development professionals should be incorporated. This may include building research activities with reference to planned or existing development programs that are conducted by a USAID Mission or other donor organization, or that are being undertaken by the host country government or its private sector. Activities could inform project design or refinement, or pilot test innovations. Again, support by the appropriate Mission, host country policy makers and/or private sector practitioners would be key to assure adoption. Program activities are expected to foster the collaboration between public and private nutrition and agriculture organizations in designated countries to design a program that facilitates the incorporation of clinical, operational, agricultural, translational and public health nutrition research results into practice through the implementation of pilot projects. USAID expects that the CRSP will produce a variety of outputs over the course of its five-year award period that are expected to lead to specified project outcomes. See Section I.(1)D., Development Impacts of this RFA, below.

Years 1-3, up to 10 percent of leader award funding for this CRSP can be used to address Theme (c).

Years 4-5, up to 70 percent of leader award funding for this CRSP can be used to address Theme (c).

Crucially important to addressing the CRSP themes is the following:

- (a) Although these three themes are described independently, an integrated, holistic approach shall be a prerequisite to meeting program goals and objectives.
- (b) In planning activities under the themes, host country program and government partners must be an integral part of problem and gap identification, selection of appropriate program activities and implementation plans in order to ensure that there is sufficient local and national buy in and proper identification and solutions to the most important national nutrition development challenges.
- (c) Gender considerations must be integrated throughout the program in a manner consistent with the gender criteria stipulated in Section IV. of this RFA

D. DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS

The Nutrition CRSP is expected to demonstrate development impacts aimed at the successful reduction of malnutrition.

i. Annual Reporting Requirements

Annual reporting requirements are stipulated in Section VI.(3) of this announcement. Development impact annual reporting shall be through USAID's reporting system - the Foreign Assistance Framework (See Annexes 3 and 4), using output indicators listed below (Also see Annex 5 for list of indicators and definitions)

ii. Expected Program Results:

Theme (a): Scientific Research

Outcome 1: Improved host country nutrition and food security monitoring, analytics and surveillance capacities

Output Indicators:

1. Number of U.S. and host country institutions who have gained enhanced capacity in nutrition monitoring and surveillance methodologies, nutrition information systems and practices with USG assistance
2. Number of national food consumption and nutrition surveys with biochemical assessment designed, conducted, completed, analyzed and/or disseminated with USG assistance
3. Number of U.S. and host country institutions who have completed a nutrition assessment and gap analysis

Outcome 2: Increased human and institutional nutrition research capacity of host country and U.S. institutions.

Output Indicators:

4. Number of U.S. and host country institutions who have gained enhanced capacity in clinical, operational, agricultural, translational and/or public health nutrition research aimed at the reduction of malnutrition with USG assistance
5. Number of integrated research studies aimed at the reduction of malnutrition conducted with USG assistance
6. Number of U.S. and host country institutions undertaking capacity assessments to determine nutrition research capacity

Outcome 3: Increased number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices

Output Indicators:

7. Number of new technologies or management practices made available for transfer with USG assistance
8. Adoption of targeted technologies with USG assistance

Theme (b): Human and Institutional Capacity Development

Outcome 4: Improved host country academic and technical capacity in nutrition and agriculture

Output Indicators:

9. Number of males/females (disaggregate) who have received long term training in nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition, agricultural sector productivity or

- agricultural enabling environment at host country institutions and at institutions located outside host country (disaggregate) with USG assistance
10. Number of males/females (disaggregate) who have received short term training in nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition, agricultural enabling environment or agricultural sector productivity at host country institutions and at institutions located outside host country (disaggregate) with USG assistance
 11. Nutrition Enabling Environment and Capacity - Number of public and private institutions with advanced capacity to assess, plan, design, implement, monitor and/or evaluate nutrition programs, policies and practices
 12. Number of peer-reviewed journal articles co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance
 13. Number of brief articles and presentations co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance

Theme (c): Improving the Nutritional Status of Women and Children Through Agriculture and Food Based Programs

Outcome 5: Improvement in nutritional status of women and children

Output Indicators:

14. Nutrition - Improvement in the nutritional status of children and adults with USG assistance
 - a. Prevalence of underweight children (weight/age)
 - b. Prevalence of malnourished women (BMI < 18.5)
 - c. Increase availability and use of Prevention Programs
 - d. Population Based Nutrition Service Delivery
15. Percentage of households experiencing severe hunger as indicated by a score of four or more on the household survey
16. Improved Dietary Diversity for women and children
17. Improved Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices
18. Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of infants under six months
19. Prevalence of maternal and child anemia
20. Number of nutritional and agricultural policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed and/or advanced for which implementation has begun with USG assistance

Outcome 6: Improvement in agricultural productivity

Output Indicators:

21. Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG assistance
22. Number of women with access to agricultural inputs, technologies, information and finance with USG assistance
23. Number of women involved in agricultural economic enterprises with USG assistance
24. Number of women's organizations/ associations assisted as a result of USG assistance
25. Number of agriculture related firms benefiting directly from USG supported interventions
26. Number of Public-Private Partnerships formed as a result of USG assistance
27. Number of producer associations, water user associations, trade and business associations and community based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance

Outcome 7: Increased household agricultural incomes

Output Indicators:

28. Change in women's and men's income in beneficiary households
29. Gross margin per hectare or per animal for targeted commodities.
30. Jobs created by increased growth and investment in the agricultural value chain

Outcome 8: Enhanced programmatic application of research results and lessons learned

Output Indicators:

31. Number of research activities which generated pilot projects with USG assistance
32. Number of pilot projects which have been scaled up with USG assistance

These program outputs will gauge movement toward achieving development outcomes with the aim of having development impact during and after the program life of the CRSP. As such, USAID shall in addition to program outputs, measure eight development outcomes at the end of the fourth year of the CRSP as described in Section I(1)D.iii., Expected Development Outcomes, of this RFA.

Also, the applicant may propose other appropriate measures to document development impacts. Development of effective and user-friendly communication tools e.g. brochure(s) that explain the CRSP programs and accomplishments tailored for, and targeted at major CRSP stakeholders, e.g. Congress, USAID missions, and the general public are encouraged. Successful applicants implementing such communication tools must follow and satisfy USAID marking and branding policy requirements. (See 22 CFR 226.91 and ADS 320.3.3).

iii. Expected Development Outcomes:

USAID, in response to the Board for International Food and Agriculture Development's (BIFAD) guidance, asks that all CRSPs achieve measurable outcomes by the conclusion of their five year award. At the end of the fourth year of the five-year award, the Nutrition CRSP will be evaluated, in part, on its achievement of the following development outcomes.

1. Improved host country nutrition monitoring and surveillance capacities
2. Improved human and institutional nutrition research capacity of host country and U.S. institutions
3. Increased number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices
4. Improved host country academic and technical capacity in nutrition and agriculture
5. Improved nutritional status of women and children
6. Increased agricultural productivity
7. Increased household agricultural incomes
8. Enhanced programmatic application of research results and lessons learned

(2) Authorizing Legislation

The authority for this RFA is found in the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, and specifically under Title XII—Famine Prevention and Freedom From Hunger.

(3) Program Eligibility Requirements

The types of organizations eligible to apply under this CRSP activity will be Title XII Institutions as defined by the 2000 amendment of Title XII and other U.S. universities having: (1) demonstrable capacity in teaching, research, and extension (including outreach) activities in the agricultural and nutritional sciences; and (2) ability to contribute effectively to the attainment of the objective of this RFA.

(4) Administration of the Award

The Nutrition CRSP Cooperative Agreement Leader Award will be administered in accordance with 22 CFR 226—Administration of Assistance Awards to U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations, applicable OMB circulars, and the Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients. For non-U.S. organizations, the Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental Recipients will apply. Applicants may obtain copies of the referenced material at the following websites:

22 CFR 226:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_06/22cfr226_06.html

OMB circulars:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/>

Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Recipients:

<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303maa.pdf>

Standard Provisions for Non-U.S., Nongovernmental Recipients:

<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.pdf>

SECTION II – AWARD INFORMATION

(1) Estimated Funding Level

Subject to the availability of funds, USAID intends to award up to two five-year Leader Awards for up to \$1,500,000 per year for Africa and up to \$1,500,000 per year for Asia, for a grand total of \$7,500,000 each. Additional funds from missions via Associate Awards are anticipated not to exceed \$10,000,000 for Africa and Asia each over the life of the agreement. However, there is no guarantee on the number of awards to be issued nor the total amount expended. The Leader and Associate Awards shall specify the Total Estimated Award (TEA) amount for the Cooperative Agreement allocated over the five (5) year period. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. One university may receive both awards for Africa and Asia.

USAID intends to award without discussions. Therefore, each application should contain the applicant's best terms from a technical and cost standpoint. However, USAID reserves the right to hold discussions if deemed necessary.

(2) Anticipated Start Date and Performance Period

USAID anticipates a start date in or about September 2010 and a performance period of five years.

(3) Award Type and Substantial Involvement

Award Type: The Government intends to award up to two Cooperative Agreements resulting from this RFA to the responsible applicants whose applications conform to this RFA offering the greatest value in furthering the goals of the CRSP as described in this RFA. The Government may (a) reject any or all applications, (b) accept other than the lowest cost application, (c) accept more than two applications, (d) accept alternate applications, and (e) waive informalities and minor irregularities in applications received.

Substantial Involvement: The intended purpose of the Agreement Officer's Technical Representative's (AOTR) substantial involvement during the administration of the Leader Award is to assist the recipient in achieving the supported objectives of the cooperative agreement. As delegated by the Agreement Officer, the substantial involvement of the AOTR during the administration of the Leader Award Cooperative Agreement will be limited to:

- A. Review and approval of annual implementation plans for the Leader Award;
- B. Approval of specified key personnel. The CRSP Director is designated as key personnel and will require USAID approval;
- C. Agency and recipient collaboration or joint participation:
 1. Collaborative involvement in selection of members of advisory committees. USAID will become a member of these committees.

Advisory committees shall concern themselves only with technical or programmatic issues and not routine administrative matters;

2. USAID will review and comment on solicitations for sub-awards;
3. USAID will approve the selection of sub-award recipients; and
4. USAID will approve the recipient's monitoring and evaluation plan and annual implementation plans.

Specific substantial involvement provisions, if any, for Associate Awards will be identified for each award. These provisions may include (A) Approval of recipient's implementation plans; (B) Approval of specified key personnel; and (C) Agency and recipient collaboration, joint participation or approvals.

SECTION III - ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

(1) Types of entities that may apply

Eligible universities or colleges may submit an application for the Management Entity (ME) Cooperative Agreement Leader Award for the Nutrition Collaborative Research Support Program (Nutrition CRSP).

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 USC. 301 note); and the United States colleges and universities which - (1) have demonstrated 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.”

(2) Applications From Potential New Partners

USAID strongly encourages applications from potential new partners.

(3) Cost Sharing

Cost share is required; however, there is no mandatory cost share percentage requirement.

(4) Other Minimum Qualification Requirements

In keeping with USAID’s intent to encourage broad-based participation among universities, U.S. and host country institutions and the respective private sectors, applications that clearly demonstrate a plan to promote the broad participation of U.S. universities, including Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs), and the cooperating institutions noted will receive favorable consideration.

SECTION IV – APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

(1) Application Package Availability

All application materials are contained in or referenced in this RFA and available on www.grants.gov. If there are problems in downloading the RFA from www.grants.gov, please contact the Federal Grants Help Desk at 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov for technical assistance.

(2) Form of Application Submission

The chart below lists each element required for submission of a complete application.

What to submit	Required content	Required form or format
A. Application for Federal Assistance	Per required form, as described in Section IV.(3)A.	SF-424
B. Technical Application	Narrative as described in Section IV.(3)B.	Word
C. Cost Application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Information – Nonconstruction Programs • Cost spreadsheets • Budget narrative • Supporting Documentation 	Per required form, as described in Section IV.(3)C.i. As described in Section IV.(3)C.ii. As described in Section IV.(3)C.iii. As described in Section IV.(3)C.iv.	SF-424A Excel Word
D. Certifications, Assurances, and Other Statements of the Recipient <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assurances-Nonconstruction Programs • Certifications, Assurances, and Other Statements of the Recipient (May 2006) 	Per required form, as described in Section IV.(3)E.i. Per required format, as described in Section IV(3)E.ii.	SF-424B Format available with RFA at www.grants.gov

(3) Content of Application Submission

All applications received by the date and time indicated in the cover letter will be reviewed for responsiveness to the specifications outlined in this RFA. To facilitate the competitive review of

the applications, USAID will consider only applications conforming to the format prescribed below.

Other instructions:

- a. Applications must be prepared in English.
- b. Narrative portions of the application must be prepared in Microsoft Word in Times New Roman in font size 12. The budget portions of the cost application must be prepared in Microsoft Excel with formulas shown. Certifications and other signed pages may be submitted in Adobe Acrobat.
- c. Page size cannot exceed 8 ½ x 11” for the technical application and 8 ½ x 14” for the cost application spreadsheets.
- d. All pages except for the cover page must be numbered. Technical and Cost applications must be numbered separately and presented in separate binders and separate electronic files.

A. Application for Federal Assistance

The applicant must fill out the SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance, as indicated by the form. This form is available at: http://www.grants.gov/agencies/aapproved_standard_forms.jsp.

B. Technical Application

The technical application must be prepared in accordance with the structural format set forth below and should demonstrate the applicant’s capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of the program. While applicants are expected to follow the format and the instructions contained herein, they should also be aware of the Selection Criteria in the solicitation and ensure that their applications reflect and address these criteria. :

i. Page Limitations and Required Sections

The application must address all items requested under the sections listed below. The technical application must **not exceed thirty (30) pages**. Both the overall page limit and the individual section page limit must be adhered to. Pages in excess of stated limitation will not be considered. However, the list of items with no page limits below is not included in either count.

The technical application will include the following sections with page limits noted in parentheses.

Technical Application (30 pages total)

- a. Cover Page (1 page)
- b. Executive Summary (5 pages)
- c. Technical Approach (15 pages)
- d. Management Approach (9 pages)

The following will not be counted within any page limits:

- e. Sample Solicitation
- f. Table of Contents: The technical application must have a table of contents following the cover page.
- g. Dividers
- h. Annex: Past Performance
- i. Appendix: Curriculum Vitae (CV) / resume for the proposed Director
- j. Other CVs or resumes

The hard copy application submitted will be used for the official page count.

ii. Technical Application Format

a. Cover Page: The cover page shall include the name of the lead university applying for the award. If any partner organizations are included in the application, they should be listed separately, and indicated as subordinate to the principal organization. A summary table should be included that lists the prime applicant and all partner organizations as well as the percentage of overall program activities that each partner will contribute. The cover page should also identify a point of contact, hereafter referred to as the “agent,” with the authority to negotiate and sign on behalf of the applicant. The individual's name (both typed and his/her signature), title or position in the organization, email and postal addresses, telephone and fax numbers should be included.

b. Executive Summary: This section shall provide a concise summary of the applicant's program description, including the specific African or Asian country of focus, program methodology and expected results. The executive summary should clearly explain research program focal areas and describe how the research will address priority constraints or opportunities related to improving the nutritional status of women and children through agriculture and food based programs in targeted developing countries and regions.

c. Technical Approach: The technical approach must address the CRSP thematic areas described in Section I(1)C. of the RFA and must include a discussion of the following:

1. Technical Leadership: The applicant should describe its overall vision for a portfolio of high quality, innovative research, extension and education activities consistent with the themes discussed in the program description that are designed to achieve long-term development impact on host country beneficiaries.

The application should summarize important trends and state of art knowledge in those areas the applicant desires to work in and justify the selection of these areas where program results are sought. A conceptual framework that shows the interrelationships between the substantive areas and establishes some priorities for directing research should be provided. The application should explain how the program will capitalize on the publicly available lessons learned from existing USAID programs and other relevant donors, universities or research institutes programs as determined by the applicant.

2. Achieving Development Impact: This discussion must include a strategy for achieving program outputs and longer term development outcomes as stipulated in Section I(1)D of this RFA as described in Section I(1)D., Expected Program Results, of this RFA. The

applicant should articulate the process by which indicators/outputs will be measured. The applicant should be aware that proposed results and outputs may be incorporated into the award document.

The applicant should pay careful attention to the emphasis USAID is increasingly placing on public-private partnerships (sometimes called ‘alliances’). The dynamics of the contemporary Nutrition ‘sector’ include the significant prospect of productive alliances or partnerships with industry e.g., farmers, food processors, national/international associations and bodies that promote better nutrition, international agriculture research centers, and governments. It is anticipated that the Nutrition CRSP would access and interact with these entities. The application should identify potential partnerships for the core program.

The application should outline a strategy for dissemination of knowledge in a manner that leads to engagement of and influence on USAID field Missions and Bureaus, host-country policy makers and practitioners, as well as other development and donor organizations.

3. Training and Capacity Development: The application must include a strategy to maximize long-term degree training opportunities for developing-country nationals. This description should include the strategy (ies) that will be used to increase the capacity of developing-country universities and institutions to analyze relevant problems, develop appropriate recommendations, and conduct outreach to key government and non-governmental actors for the implementation of recommendations. Strategies that leverage funds for training from other sources are encouraged.

The application should also describe approaches for short-term training that will benefit developing country researchers and extensionists, policymakers, and producers. Efforts should be made to ensure balance in access to training and capacity development opportunities in terms of the gender of trainees and other participants, and integrate appropriate gender sensitivity into all activities (see USAID policy in ADS 253.3.8). Again, strategies that leverage funds are encouraged.

4. Gender Criteria: In accordance with ADS 201.3.9.3, all applications must have a discussion of meaningful approaches to identified gender issues as a means to demonstrate that applicants understand these issues and intend to apply gender considerations to activity interventions. Applying lessons learned from previous USAID investments to combat malnutrition, the application should demonstrate that gender considerations will be integrated throughout the program. Specifically, the application should demonstrate a focus on women because of their unique role in the household as primary caregivers, producers and processors of food. Because many proven interventions to improve nutritional outcomes in women and children often place an extra time and labor burden on women, especially in poorer households, the application is expected to examine whether proposed interventions place extra time and labor burdens on women and where they do, show that benefits more than compensate for the extra time and labor resources. Equally important is the recognition of role of men in the control of household resources that are often needed to promote better nutritional and health

practices needed to improve better nutritional outcomes. As such, the application is expected to describe strategies that ensure men's support in the allocation of household resources need to support better nutritional and health practices to ensure the sustainability of these interventions. Secondly, in accordance with ADS 203.6.1, the application should examine how anticipated intervention results may affect men and women differently and show that these considerations have informed design of program interventions to ensure equitable and sustainable results. To achieve this, the application is expected to take into account not only the different roles of women and men, but also the relationship between and among women as well as the broader institutional and social structures that support them. Consequently, it is expected that the application will describe strategies for social/community and institutional support for all program interventions that have the anticipated result of improving the status, asset base, agricultural productivity, incomes, and health and nutritional knowledge, technical capacity and leadership of women with a focus on ensuring that shifts between women and men in access to resources and status are accepted in targeted communities and institutions to ensure sustainability. Community and Institutional support will also ensure avoiding intended consequences such as raised tensions that may arise because of shifts between men and women in access to resources and status.

5. Consistency and relevance to USAID's Operational Plan and Foreign Assistance Framework and Global, Regional or National Importance Of Research Problem: The applicant should frame the discussion using the categories and language of the *Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Assistance* (See Annex 4; Also see Section VI(3) General Information on Reporting Requirements and Section I(1)D, Expected Program Results. The application should take note of the new U.S. Government (USG) Food Security Initiative (see www.state.gov/s/globalfoodsecurity), other current initiatives and key issues such as food security and the food price crisis. The application should demonstrate an understanding of those issues and to the extent possible describe how it will address them. Specifically in addressing key issues, the applicant is encouraged to take note of the recent U.S. Government's response to the global food crisis and food insecurity in general. Specifically, describe how the CRSP intends to address the following: 1) increasing agricultural productivity and production, 2) promoting agriculture enabling environment, 3) increasing the livelihoods and incomes of farmers and 4) improving the nutritional status of women and children.

d. Management Approach:

The successful university recipient(s) of this award will be the primary liaison with USAID for this award. It will be responsible for the day-to-day management of Nutrition CRSP research and outreach activities, and will represent it on the CRSP Council (<http://crsps.org/>). The quality of the work done under this CRSP will depend upon the leadership, coordination and administration provided by the lead university. One of the most important functions of the lead university will be to design and manage a portfolio of high quality and innovative research, outreach and implementation activities that speak to the needs of small farmers, vulnerable populations, policy makers and development professionals. It will also be the responsibility of

the lead university to focus the potentially diverse portfolio of individual research activities into a coherent global program that addresses critical gaps in knowledge regarding specific development constraints and to synthesize findings across common themes in the research portfolio. While each activity in the CRSP portfolio should have a communication and outreach strategy, it is the lead university that supports these country-level strategies and ensures communication and outreach for impact more broadly.

The application must include a proposed management structure for the CRSP. The role and responsibilities of the CRSP leadership and the relationship envisioned between that body and its individual activities must be described. A streamlined management structure that minimizes administrative costs in order to maximize research, outreach, and capacity development activities is encouraged.

1. Management Structure and Approach with focus on the following elements:

- (i) Applicants must describe the proposed CRSP organizational structure, including proposed lines of responsibility, authority and communication, and procedures to ensure productivity as well as cost and quality control.
- (ii) A strategy for synthesized planning, reporting, and analysis across activities, to include monitoring of both sub and Associate Awards, that result in on-going improvement of activities and evaluation of lessons learned and reporting of results.
- (iii) A plan for open and transparent competition, selection and management of sub-awards. This plan should describe how to attract broad participation of U.S universities, including Minority Serving Institutions (MSI), and cooperating institutions in developing countries. The applicant should include discussion of how they will ensure a participatory process between the U.S. university community, host country researchers and development partners, and other stakeholders in defining the research agenda and implementing research activities. Specific discussion should be included on how the CRSP will encourage Mission engagement in CRSP activities and, at minimum, will avoid activities to which a Mission objects. The applicant's plan should include safeguards to avoid conflicts of interest in the solicitation, submission and evaluation of Associate Awards.
- (iv) The process by which Associate Awards will be sought, developed, and implemented. The capacity of the management office to implement Associate Awards directly or identify appropriate resources to ensure successful implementation.
- (v) Applications must include the full curriculum vitae (CV) or resume, signed biodata sheet, and letter of commitment, of the proposed Director as an appendix. S/he should be a recognized expert within both academic and development communities and be able to demonstrate leadership roles in a variety of academic and development fora. Within the narrative, the applicant should describe the strengths of the proposed Director to provide leadership and build a cohesive program from a potentially diverse set of research topics; to lead an international, collaborative and outreach community research program and to successfully link research with development practices and policy change.

- (vi) The time allocation of staff that is less than full time. The applications should also explain any other management entity personnel, their roles and responsibilities, and explain how possible attrition of staffing (in particular, replacement of Director) will be addressed.

2. Principal management responsibilities

- (i) The proposed Director for the Nutrition CRSP shall be a respected faculty member, researcher, or administrator at the lead university and have significant experience in leading research in the broad substantive areas outlined above. S/he should be a recognized expert within both academic and development communities, and be able to demonstrate leadership roles in a variety of academic and development areas.

- (ii) The lead university will be responsible for putting in place a competitively selected portfolio of activities in the broad topical areas outlined above: research, training, capacity development and improving the nutritional status of women and children through agriculture and food based programs. The lead university is encouraged to support activities that have strong USAID Mission interest and involvement. No activity will be pursued where there is USAID Mission objection.

Activities should maximize U.S.-host country scientist collaboration and engagement with USAID Missions and the host country institutions and organizations. The lead university could consider developing partnerships as well as innovative use of grant cycles and planning grants to facilitate this collaboration. For instance, part of the portfolio could be used to support more conventional research activities, while part could be awarded to conduct applications.

- (iii) The lead university will be responsible for administration of Associate Awards received from USAID's Missions and Washington Bureaus. Work under an Associate Award may be conducted by the lead university or its nominee. No further competition is required; however, the lead university may choose to hold a competition to identify appropriate candidates.

- (iv) The lead university will be responsible for managing the portfolio of research activities. This will include facilitating communication across research activities to maximize synergies and avoid duplication, especially important where multiple research activities are operating in the same host country. The lead university should also actively promote efforts to appraise appropriate USAID Missions of CRSP findings and accomplishments.

- (v) The lead university will be the primary contact point to the CRSP for USAID. It will be responsible for tracking progress of each of the research activities, and is encouraged to make current information on research activities available through on-line trip reports and/or other mechanisms. The lead university will be responsible for an annual workplan and annual reports as described in Section 6 of this RFA.

- (vi) The lead university will be responsible for drawing together lessons learned and recommendations across research activities from its portfolio to form a set of coherent overall program results. The lead university, working with Principal Investigators,

should synthesize important findings, develop success stories, identify methods to integrate research findings into policy, programming or practices, lessons and recommendations across these themes.

(vii) Within reason, the lead university will be asked to act as an “on call” advisor and intellectual resource to USAID in the substantive areas associated with the Nutrition CRSP as outlined above. They may be asked periodically to comment on strategy documents, make presentations to USAID staff, or participate in USAID-sponsored events related to the topics and themes on which they work.

e. Interdisciplinary Approach:

Applications should describe how research is demand driven and how the composition of project team(s) assures the quality of partnership arrangements with host country institutions. An interdisciplinary approach is very important. The proposal must clearly demonstrate a program design that reflects a fully integrated agriculture and health program. The program must demonstrate that it will be executed by a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral agriculture, nutrition, health and gender team and involve these sectors in project implementation. Other related elements which will be evaluated include: standing of principal applicant, co-applicant with regard to collaboration and experience in implementing international nutrition development projects, quality of partnership arrangements with host country agriculture, nutrition and health institutions, demonstrated capacity that project team personnel have the appropriate educational level, expertise, depth and breadth of experience in the fields of international nutrition, agriculture, food security, human health, nutrition monitoring and gender. Evidence of the applicant’s effectiveness and cost efficiency will be demonstrated by its success in effectively monitoring and evaluating program performance and quantifying achievement of program results. The interdisciplinary approach and gender as a cross-cutting topic should be incorporated into the technical narrative.

f. Sample Solicitation:

The applicant should include a sample solicitation for sub-awards, as an indicator of the likelihood of generating a portfolio of activities that meet the research, training/capacity development, and development impact requirements of the CRSP. The sample solicitation must fully describe the evaluation and selection process.

g. Past Performance References

Applicants must provide in an annex a list of all contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements involving similar or related programs during the three years before the application. At least three of the references must be for programs managed by the proposed director. Reference information must include the location, award numbers (if available), a brief description of work performed, and a point of contact with current telephone numbers. If an all-inclusive list of similar or related programs for the applicant’s institution would result in more than six references, the applicant may provide references for the immediate department only where the work will be performed and the proposed director. The applicant should use the past performance references to demonstrate capacity for creativity and leadership, to deliver high-

impact results, and effectively partner with universities, policy makers, practitioners and donor organizations (may include USAID).

As part of this review, USAID may contact some of the applicant's past or current customers and partners to find out whether the applicant (1) exhibits creativity and leadership in this field of inquiry; (2) was capable, efficient, and effective in carrying out the activity; (3) conformed to the terms and conditions of its contract/agreement/grant; and (4) was responsive to and collaborative with the sponsor during the activity implementation. In addition to contacting some of the references provided by the applicant USAID may also contact other sources of information, including, but not limited to: other government agencies, better business bureaus, published media, and electronic data bases. For institutions or proposed personnel who have been previously involved with CRSPs, USAID may consider such sources as past Administrative Management Reviews and External Evaluation Reports, past partners and collaborators, and the AOTRs.

h. Other Format Information

Applicants are encouraged to construct the technical application as a single document, separating sections into distinct PDF attachments just before uploading the files. This approach will enable applicants to better monitor formatting requirements such as page limits. All attachments must be provided to USAID in PDF format, filenames must be included with no spaces or special characters, and a pdf extension must be used. Appendix materials should be limited, as is consistent with the exploratory nature of the Collaborative Research Support Program mechanism. The following materials may be included in the appendix

- Up to five publications, manuscripts (accepted for publication), abstracts, patents, or other printed materials directly relevant to this project. Do not include manuscripts submitted for publication.
- Publications in press: Include only a publication list with a link to the publicly available on-line journal article or the PubMed Central (PMC) submission identification number. Do not include the entire article.
- Manuscripts accepted for publication but not yet published: The entire article may be submitted electronically as a PDF attachment.
- Manuscripts published by an online journal link: The entire article may be submitted electronically as a PDF attachment.
- Surveys, questionnaires, data collection instruments, clinical protocols, and informed consent documents.
- No images may be included in the Appendix that are not also represented within the Research Plan.
- Do not use the Appendix to circumvent the page limitations of the Research Plan. An application that does not observe these limitations may be delayed in the review process. No publications or other printed material, with the exception of pre-printed questionnaires or surveys, may be included in the Appendix.

C. Cost Application Format

The cost application includes specific cost information for this project and additional required information from the applicant. Certain documents are required to be submitted by an applicant in order for an Agreement Officer to make a determination of responsibility.

The cost application must cover the budget for all core funds. While the specific funding levels for sub awards will not be known until the research portfolio is competed and awarded, the five-year budget can use indicative levels and correspondingly should identify any illustrative countries and to the extent possible names and roles of potential sub-awardees. In this way, the applicant can show approximately how many sub awards the Management Office intends to fund, and at what funding level. The budget should also show expected funding levels for outreach, synthesis and other “intellectual leadership” activities. The application will be assessed for cost effectiveness, and applications that minimize management costs in order to maximize research, outreach, and capacity development activities will generally be considered a better value.

i. SF-424A, Budget Information – Nonconstruction Programs. The applicant must complete the SF-424A in its entirety for the Leader award budget only. (See Section II(1) for the Government Estimate of funding available for the Leader Award). The Associate Award budgets should not be proposed at this time; the Government estimate for the Associate Awards is provided so that the recipients understand the magnitude of the program. This form is available at: http://www.grants.gov/agencies/aapproved_standard_forms.jsp.

ii. Cost spreadsheets. Cost spreadsheets must be prepared in Excel which detail the breakdown of each line item captured in the SF-424A. The Excel spreadsheets must be submitted electronically and text accessible. Spreadsheets must include the following detail:

- a. Separate costs for the applicant, each proposed assistance subrecipient, and each proposed procurement contractor involved in the program. Clearly designate whether organizations other than the applicant are proposed as subrecipients or procurement contractors.
- b. The name, annual salary, fringe benefits, and expected level of effort for each person to be directly charged to the program, including regular personnel and consultants;
- c. A breakdown of the financial and in-kind cost share contributions, converted to dollar value, of all organizations involved in implementing the Cooperative Agreement;
- d. Allowances by type and by person;
- e. Travel and per diem costs must be detailed according to the number of trips, destination, number of per diem days, and applicable per diem rate;
- f. Each type of “other direct costs” must be listed as a separate line item (including but not limited to passports, visas, equipment, and facility costs) indicating quantity and per unit cost.

iii. Budget narrative. Narrative cost notes must be provided containing detailed explanation regarding each cost proposed and must be written in the third person. Detail must be adequate for USAID to evaluate the necessity, reasonableness, allocability, and allowability in accordance with applicable cost principles of each cost element. The budget narrative must include the following detail:

- a. If not included in an indirect cost rate agreement with the U.S. Government, specify the applicable fringe benefit rates for each category of employee, and all benefits covered by the rate;
 - b. Explanation regarding the proposed cost share: Because the pursuit of CRSP research goals is intended to benefit both U.S. universities in improving U.S. agricultural and economic development as well as USAID efforts to achieve development results from its provision of foreign assistance, each CRSP grantee is required to provide cost share. The cost share must consist of non-federally funded contributions that meet all the criteria detailed in 22 CFR 226.23, and must be discussed in detail within the budget narrative, including a clear description of whether the cost share is to be cash or in kind. The applicant should determine the appropriate cost share and the sources for meeting this cost share within the overall program. Cost share, once accepted, becomes a condition of payment of the federal share;
 - c. An explanation of the basis for budgeted allowances. All allowances must be in accordance with the U.S. Department of State's policies on Allowances and Differentials and consistent with the applicant's written personnel and compensation policies;
 - d. Travel, per diem, and other transportation expenses must be fully described including departure and destination locations, the reason for the proposed trip, the source(s) of airline quotations, the number of per diem days, and the source and rate of the per diem rate used; and
 - e. The basis for proposed other direct costs, including the source of any estimate. If equipment is proposed, an equipment list must be provided detailing the budgeted cost of each item and the source of the estimate.
- iv. Supporting documentation. An annex to the budget narrative must contain the following supporting documents and information.
- a. Biographical Data Sheets (see the link at <http://www.usaid.gov/forms/AID1420-17.doc>). Biographical Data Sheets must be provided for any salaries or wages that will be charged directly to the award.
 - b. A current Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) with USAID or alternatively an Indirect Rate Agreement with another federal agency, or financial statements as described below for the Management Office and proposed partner organizations must be submitted.
 - c. Applicants that do not currently have a NICRA from their cognizant agency, applicants who have never received a USAID grant, cooperative agreement, or contract, or applicants who have not received an award from any Federal agency in the last five years must also submit the following information:
 1. Copies of the applicant's audited financial statements for the previous three-year period, which have been audited by a certified public accountant or other auditor satisfactory to USAID; and
 2. Projected budget, cash flow and organizational charts for the organization, and

3. Copies of applicable policies and procedures, including those related to accounting, purchasing, property management, and personnel.
- d. Applicants must submit information for USAID to make a determination of responsibility. The information submitted must be provided in third-person and substantiate that the Applicant:
 1. Has adequate financial resources or the ability to obtain such resources as required during the performance of the award;
 2. Has the ability to comply with the award conditions, taking into account all existing and currently prospective commitments of the applicant - nongovernmental and
 3. Has a satisfactory record of performance. Past relevant unsatisfactory performance is ordinarily sufficient to justify a finding of non-responsibility, unless there is clear evidence of subsequent satisfactory performance;
 4. Has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics; and
 5. Is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive a grant under applicable laws and regulations (e.g., EEO).
- e. Applicants that have never received a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract from the U.S. Government are required to submit a copy of their accounting manual and personnel and policy manual. If a copy has already been submitted to the U.S. Government, the applicant must advise which Federal Office has a copy, and provide a point of contact with contact information (i.e., phone number).
- f. Proposed ceiling rate on all applicable indirect rates.

D. Certifications, Assurances and Other Statements of the Recipient

i. Assurances-Nonconstruction Programs

Applicants must complete the SF-424B, Assurances-Nonconstruction Programs, as indicated on the form. This form is available at:

http://www.grants.gov/agencies/aapproved_standard_forms.jsp.

ii. Certifications, Assurances, and Other Statements of the Recipient (May 2006)The required certifications, as established at ADS 303.3.8

The following certifications, assurances and statements are required: 1)Assurance Of Compliance With Laws And Regulations Governing Non-Discrimination In Federally Assisted Programs, 2)Certification Regarding Lobbying , 3)Prohibition On Assistance To Drug Traffickers For Covered Countries And Individuals , 4)Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing Implementing Executive Order 13224, 5)Key Individual Certification Narcotics Offenses And Drug Trafficking, 6)Survey On Ensuring Equal Opportunity For Applicants, And 7)Other Statements Of The Recipient. These certifications can be found on www.grants.gov as an attachment to this RFA.

(4) Method of Application Submission

Applications must be submitted via <http://www.Grants.gov> following the instructions on the website. However, in the event of technical difficulties preventing submission through www.grants.gov, the application may be submitted via e-mail to Tracy Sando (tsando@usaid.gov) and Vann Rolfson (vrolfson@usaid.gov).

In addition, the original, two hard copies, and one CD-ROM version must be submitted. The CD-ROM version must contain the files that were prepared in Word and Excel in a text accessible format. The original must include original signatures. Technical and cost applications must be submitted in separate three ring binders, for a total of three hard technical applications and three hard cost applications. Hard copies must be submitted in a package with the name and address of the applicant and RFA number inscribed, to:

Via U.S. Postal Service/UPS/ FedEx:

Vann Rolfson
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Room 7.10-035
Ronald Reagan Building; M/OAA/EGAT
Washington, DC 20523
Attention: Vann Rolfson

Hand-carried:

Tracy Sando
U.S. Agency for International Development
14th Street Entrance
Ronald Reagan Building;
Washington, DC 20523

From lobby call ext 2-4866 or 2-1277

Applicants should retain for their records one copy of the application and all enclosures which accompany their application. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the application. If there is a conflict between the hard copy of the application and the electronic version of the application, the hard copy version will be used as the official application. Applications which are incomplete may not be considered in the review process.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is received in hard copy, via email and that it has been submitted in Grants.gov in its entirety. USAID strongly recommends applicants to deliver hard copy applications in person at USAID. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes.

(5) Deadline for Submission of Applications

Hard copies and electronic copies of the application package must be received by the closing date and time indicated at the top of the RFA cover letter. In the event of technical difficulties with the www.grants.gov site that require submission of the electronic package by email, the application must still be received by the closing date and time indicated. Applications received after the deadline may not be considered.

(6) Funding Restrictions

- A. Authority to Obligate the Government. The Agreement Officer is the only individual who may legally bind the Government for the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed Cooperative Agreement may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Cooperative Agreement or a specific, written authorization from the Agreement Officer.
- B. The Applicant is reminded that U.S. Executive Orders and U.S. law prohibits transactions with, and the provision of resources and support to, individuals and organizations associated with terrorism. It is the legal responsibility of the Applicant/Recipient to ensure compliance with these Executive Orders and laws. This provision must be included in all subcontracts/sub awards issued under this contract/agreement.
- C. Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences - Funds in this agreement may not be used to finance the travel, per diem, hotel expenses, meals, conference fees or other conference costs for any member of a foreign government's delegation to an international conference sponsored by a public international organization, except as provided in ADS Mandatory Reference "Guidance on Funding Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences [<http://www.info.usaid.gov/pubs/ads/300/refindx3.htm>] or as approved by the AO.

(7) Other Important Information

- A. Acknowledgement of Amendments to the RFA: By submitting an application in response to this RFA, applicants acknowledge receipt of any amendments to the RFA.
- B. Preparation of Applications:
 - 1. Applicants are expected to review, understand, and comply with all aspects of this RFA. Failure to do so will be at the applicant's risk.
 - 2. Each applicant shall furnish the information required by this RFA. The applicant shall sign the application and print or type its name on the Cover Page of the technical and cost applications. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the application. Applications signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.
 - 3. Applicants who include data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the U.S. Government except for evaluation purposes, should:
 - (a) Mark the title page with the following legend:

"This application includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the U.S. Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed - in whole or in part - for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, a cooperative agreement is awarded to this applicant as a result of, or in connection with, the submission of this data, the U.S. Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting cooperative agreement. This restriction does not limit the U.S. Government's right to use information contained in

this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets marked:” and

(b) Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend:

"Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application."

- C. Explanation to Prospective Applicants. Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this RFA must request it in writing by the date listed on the cover letter to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a Cooperative Agreement will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this RFA will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this RFA, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.
- D. Branding and Marking Requirements per ADS 320. In an effort to more accurately credit the American people for the foreign assistance they finance, USAID has engaged in a branding campaign. Effective January 2, 2006, all USAID-sponsored assistance awards are required to adhere to branding policies and revised marking requirements for grants and cooperative agreements in accordance with AAPD 05-11. This includes visibly displaying the USAID Standard Graphic Identity that clearly communicates assistance is, “From the American people” on all programs, projects, activities, publications, public communications, and commodities provided or supported through USAID assistance awards. AAPD 05-11 requires that, after the evaluation of the applications, the USAID Agreement Officer will request the Apparently Successful Applicant to submit a Branding Strategy that describes how the program, project, or activity is named and positioned, how it is promoted and communicated to beneficiaries and cooperating country citizens, and identifies all donors and explains how they will be acknowledged. USAID will not competitively evaluate the proposed Branding Strategy.

<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/320.pdf>

http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/aapd05_11.pdf

- E. LWA Assistance Mechanism. This RFA is issued for a Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement. The Leader Award will be issued to the successful applicant/s and will provide for the management office to oversee a worldwide program which will carry out specific research and outreach activities through sub awards. USAID Missions, or other USAID operational units, may fund additional work through Associate Awards. These Associate Awards will each have their own activity description, but must fall within the overall scope of the Leader program description (as outlined in the Leader Award agreement), and will otherwise be considered to be covered by the terms and conditions of the Leader Award. The Management Entity will be the recipient of all funds for this Agreement, including for any Associate Awards. Responsibility for the leader award program under the Leader Award and

any Associate Awards remains with the management office even though it may make Associate Awards for implementation.

After the Leader Cooperative Agreement is awarded, a copy of the award will be sent to all USAID Missions along with any necessary guidance or instructions regarding issuance of Associate Awards.

1. Issuance of Associate Awards. Prior to issuance of an Associate Award, the requesting office in the Mission (or USAID/W) shall consult with the Agreement Officer's Technical Representative (AOTR) in EGAT. After receiving EGAT AOTR concurrence, the appropriate Mission personnel shall request the recipient to provide an application (specific Program Description and budget) to the Mission. The application shall be reviewed by the appropriate technical personnel, and the Agreement Officer shall be responsible for cost review and negotiation of the Associate Award. The Mission has the discretion to decide whether or not to award the Associate Award. The cognizant Mission Agreement Officer and Mission are responsible for the administration of the Associate Award.
2. Grant vs. Cooperative Agreement. Regardless of whether the Leader Instrument is a grant or cooperative agreement, Missions may issue an associate instrument as either a grant or cooperative agreement.
3. Competition. Once a recipient is selected pursuant to this LWA RFA, no further competition or waiver of competition is required for any Associate Grants awarded within the terms of the RFA. The competition under this RFA covers the initial Leader Award, which will provide leadership for regional and/or worldwide activities and for subsequent Associate Awards providing support to missions and offices. In this manner, Missions and USAID/Washington bureaus may fund specific activities of the recipient that fit within the RFA/Leader program description through Associate Awards without further competition.
4. Period of Performance. The Leader award will be issued for a period of five years. Associate Awards may be issued until the Leader award expires and can be for a period of performance up to five years past the expiration date of the Leader award.
5. Certifications. The required certifications, including validation of the umbrella organization as a single entity with a single accounting system, shall be obtained from the applicant prior to award of the Leader cooperative agreement. Prior to award of an associate grant, the recipient must affirm that those certifications remain valid, or provide new certifications.
6. Reporting Requirements. Reporting—both financial and performance—for Associate Awards is submitted directly to the Mission or Office that issues the Associate Award. The reporting frequency (i.e. semi annually or annually), content, and format will be established in the Associate Award schedule. Copies of this reporting must be provided to the EGAT COTR for the CRSP.
7. For more information on Leader with Associates Awards, applicants are referred to CIB 99-10: http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/cib9910.pdf

F. Geographic Codes. In accordance with the limitations on USAID's ability to procure goods and services outside of the United States (see the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and 22 CFR 228), source and origin of goods and nationality of suppliers of goods and services under the project will be from the United States, Geographic Code 000. Some local procurement is also allowed. Please reference Standard Provision I.20, Local Procurement (April 1998), at the following address: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303maa.pdf>

Code 000 - The United States of America, any State(s) of the United States, the District of Columbia, and areas of U.S. Associated sovereignty, including commonwealths, territories and possessions.

G. The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, Section 117 requires that the impact of USAID's activities on the environment be considered and that USAID include environmental sustainability as a central consideration in designing and carrying out its development programs. This mandate is codified in Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Parts 201.5.10g and 204 (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ADS/200/>), which, in part, require that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. Recipient environmental compliance obligations under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this Cooperative agreement.

1. In addition, the contractor/recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern.
2. No activity funded under this Cooperative Agreement will be implemented unless an environmental threshold determination, as defined by 22 CFR 216, has been reached for that activity, as documented in a Request for Categorical Exclusion (RCE), Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), or Environmental Assessment (EA) duly signed by the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO). (Hereinafter, such documents are described as "approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.")
3. As part of its initial Work Plan, and all Annual Work Plans thereafter, the Recipient, in collaboration with the USAID Agreement Officers Technical Representative and Mission Environmental Officer or Bureau Environmental Officer, as appropriate, shall review all ongoing and planned activities under this CA to determine if they are within the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.
4. If the Recipient plans any new activities outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation, it shall prepare an amendment to the documentation for USAID review and approval. No such new activities shall be undertaken prior to receiving written USAID approval of environmental documentation amendments.
5. Any ongoing activities found to be outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation shall be halted until an amendment to the documentation is submitted and written approval is received from USAID.

H. It is understood that the actual research and outreach activities will be determined by a competitive process and, as such, it will be incumbent on the lead university to ensure that environmental issues are considered and incorporated into its research, training and outreach activities. To this end, the lead university must identify the consideration of environmental issues, as appropriate, in both solicitations for Associate Awards and as a selection criterion.

Most activities would qualify for Categorical Exclusions, per 22 CFR 216.2(c). However, a negative threshold determination with conditions provides for review of all subsequent Associate Awards and for activities that may involve the procurement or use, or recommendation for the procurement or use, or research on pesticides or genetically modified organisms. The conditions recommended are:

- No pesticides may be procured or used, or recommended for procurement or use without first completing an amendment to this Initial Environmental Examination that addresses the requirements of 22 CFR 216.3(b) including a Pesticide Evaluation Report/Safe Use Action Plan which must be approved in writing by the EGAT Bureau Environmental Officer. This includes pesticides used in research that may eventually be recommended for use.
- No Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) are procured, used or created, or recommended for procurement or use without first completing the required USAID bio Safety review and using the resulting information as part of the basis for undertaking an amendment to this IEE which must be approved in writing by the EGAT Bureau Environmental Officer. This includes research on GMOs or building partner country capacity to research GMOs.
- Any subsequent Associates Awards shall be required to complete a separate Initial Environmental Examination and be approved in writing jointly by the funding Bureau's Bureau Environmental Officer and the EGAT Bureau Environmental Officer prior to being approved as an Associate Award.

The lead university must use funds from the CRSP prior to such approval only to pay for the cost of undertaking this IEE amendment. Separate IEEs shall be required for any subsequent Associate Awards. Those IEEs will be prepared by the USAID operating unit that issues the Associate Award.

SECTION V – APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

The technical applications will be evaluated in accordance with the Technical Evaluation Criteria set forth below relative to the information provided to applicants in **Section I- Funding Opportunity Description** of this RFA. An award will be made to a responsible applicant, whose application offers the greatest value, considering cost and other factors. The evaluation criteria are presented in descending order of importance, with subfactors considered essentially equal unless stated otherwise (by language or specific points).

Applicants should note that the evaluation criteria serve to: (a) identify the significant matters which applicants should address in their applications, and (b) set the standard against which all applications will be evaluated. To facilitate the review of applications, applicants should organize the narrative sections of their applications in the same order as the evaluation criteria.

I. TECHNICAL APPROACH (50 points)

The application will be evaluated on its relative merits to the elements outlined in the technical application format of this RFA with point distribution for each element as follows:

A. Technical Leadership (15 points)

The application will be evaluated on the scope and strategic relevance, originality, clarity and innovativeness of proposed research with evidence that overall program innovation, rationale, strategy, and technical approach demonstrates the potential for scaled up and sustainable nutritional outcomes.

The application will be evaluated on its description of a portfolio of high quality, innovative, research activities. The portfolio will be evaluated specifically on the clarity and compelling nature of its conceptual framework and its articulation of recent trends and critical issues related to the Nutrition CRSP thematic areas, including gender, as discussed in the program description. It will also be judged on its vision for the role this university-led collaborative research can play in improving long-term developing country capacity to conduct research and capitalize on lessons learned from USAID nutrition programs and other relevant nutrition programs.

B. Achieving Development Impact and Appropriateness of Research Scope Vis-à-Vis Objectives (20 points)

Evidence that proposed activity will lead to improved nutritional status of women and children, increased household income, improved human and institutional research capacity of host country institutions and increased agricultural productivity. The application will be judged on its overall approach and the potential for achieving development impact including the approach to assure use of research findings by the research community, development practitioners, and the donor community, particularly USAID field Missions and Bureaus.

Applications will be evaluated on their ability to effectively identify and address priority constraints or opportunities related to the relationships and interactions between agriculture, nutrition and human health including gender considerations that maximize the development impacts of program interventions. The application will be judged on the logic and feasibility of the focal research areas, a multi-disciplinary research approach on nutrition issues and whether the CRSP program approach will effectively address nutritional sectoral challenges. Additional elements which will be evaluated regarding policy relevance include: contribution of research to promoting policy dialogue with national government(s), level of planned consultation with other key stakeholders in the country (ies) (e.g. USAID Mission, members of legislative assemblies, local government officials, civil society groups, local academics, private sector, etc.), and level of joint action and consensus-building that builds ownership and coalitions for change in order to promote achievement of desired outcomes

C. Level of Capacity Development Efforts (10 points)

Evidence of U.S. University and international NGO collaboration in technical assistance and training with host countries to build local human capacity and institutions.

The application will be evaluated for the logic, feasibility and appropriateness of its proposed strategy for maximizing long-term and short-term training and capacity development for both individuals and institutions, as discussed in the instructions and program description.

D. Consistency and Relevance to USAID's Operational Plan and Foreign Assistance Framework. (5 points)

Evidence that impact of proposed research will result in improved nutritional outcomes.

The application will also be judged on its discussion of and strategy to align its programs to relevant USAID food security initiative as well its use of the categories of the *Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Assistance* as described in the program description.

II. MANAGEMENT APPROACH (15 points)

The applicant shall be evaluated upon logic, transparency, and efficacy of the proposed management structure and approach. Applications which streamline management structure in order to maximize research outreach and capacity development will be favored. Of particular interest are the proposed staffing and organizational structure (including the structure and use of advisory bodies in decision making); strategies for planning, reporting, and synthesis of findings across research activities; for competing, selecting, and managing research activities which attract broad participation (including from MSI's); and for ensuring effective outreach and utilization of research findings. The qualifications of the proposed Director will also be considered. Additional elements which will be evaluated include: planned host country participation, evidence of applicant's effectiveness and cost efficiency and demonstrated success in effectively monitoring and evaluating program performance and quantifying achievement of program results.

III. INTERDISCIPLINARY APPROACH (20 points)

An interdisciplinary approach is very important. The proposal must clearly demonstrate a program design that reflects a fully integrated agriculture and health program. The program must demonstrate that it will be executed by a multi-disciplinary, multi-sectoral agriculture, nutrition, health and gender team and involve these sectors in project implementation. Other related elements which will be evaluated include: standing of principal applicant, co-applicant with regard to collaboration and experience in implementing international nutrition development projects, quality of partnership arrangements with host country agriculture, nutrition and health institutions, demonstrated capacity that project team personnel have the appropriate educational level, expertise, depth and breadth of experience in the fields of international nutrition, agriculture, food security, human health, nutrition monitoring and gender.

IV. PAST PERFORMANCE (10 points)

Applicants will be evaluated on past performance both of the institution(s) (i.e., the applying university and any partner organizations) and of the proposed Director. Applicants will be evaluated based on past performance references for relevant current programs or those completed during the past three years. Any past performance references older than three years will not be evaluated. Past performance will be evaluated on whether they indicate creativity and leadership in areas related to nutrition and/or agriculture; the degree to which the applicant is reported to have been effective, efficient, capable, reasonable and cooperative; whether the applicant conformed to the terms and conditions of the contract/agreement /grant application; and client satisfaction. The applicant's technical accomplishment in international research on nutrition (including food production and safety, human nutrition, socio-economic and policy research) as well as applicant's ability to form strong partnerships with a range of research institutions/organizations in both the U.S. and host countries will also be evaluated closely.

Director past performance (6 points of the 10)

Institutional past performance (4 points of the 10)

V. SAMPLE SUB-AWARD SOLICITATION (5 points)

Transparency of the evaluation and selection process for subawards outlining the opportunity for participation by all eligible U.S. institutions and their public and private partners is important. The sample solicitation will be evaluated for its likelihood of generating a portfolio of activities that meet the research, training/capacity development, and development impact requirements of the CRSP as discussed in the program description.

VI. COST APPLICATION (No points)

The applicant's proposed Cost Application will not be scored, however, the results from its analysis have scoring implications. The overall costs and pricing are expected to be fair, reasonable, allowable, allocable and cost effective, and shall be subject to a cost realism analysis. Cost share will be evaluated as a measure of cost effectiveness. Information gathered from such

considerations may clarify the evaluators' understanding of various application details and lend itself to an adjustment of scored. In the event technical applications are ranked/scored substantially the same, cost/price with best value considerations may be the determining factor for the award.

The Government's evaluation shall include any proposed cost share and other leveraged resources of the Management Office and any partners that it proposes to engage in the implementation of the Leader Award. Cost share needs to be clearly marked as in-kind or cash contribution. While cost sharing is required, it will not be scored.

The review and selection process consists of a Technical Evaluation Committee supported by the Agreement Officer.

SECTION VI – AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

(1) Post-Selection Information

Following selection of an awardee, USAID will inform the successful applicant concerning the award. A notice of award signed by the Agreement Officer is the official authorizing document, which USAID will provide either electronically or in hard copy to the successful applicant's main point of contact.

USAID also will notify unsuccessful applicants concerning their status after selection has been made.

(2) Standard Provisions and Deviations

There are no standard provision deviations contemplated under this award.

(3) General Information on Reporting Requirements

A. Financial Reporting

The Recipient shall submit an original and one copy. Financial Reports shall be in keeping with 22 CFR 226.52.

The recipient shall list each country included in the program and the total amount expended for each country under the award for the reporting period in the “Remarks” block on the Federal Financial Form (SF-425), or on a separate sheet of paper. Financial Reports will be required on a quarterly basis. The recipient shall submit these forms in the following manner:

For recipients without a letter of credit:

The Recipient must submit one original to the Agreement Officer’s Technical Representative (AOTR) with one copy to the Agreement Officer of Standard Form 425 (SF-425) on a quarterly basis.

For recipients with a letter of credit:

(1) The recipient must submit the Federal Financial Form (SF-425) on a quarterly basis via electronic format to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (<http://www.dpm.psc.gov>). The recipient must submit a copy of the FFR at the same time to the Agreement Officer and the Agreement Officer’s Technical Representative (AOTR).

(2) The recipient must submit the original and two copies of all final financial reports to USAID/Washington, M/CFO/COMPLOC Unit, the Agreement Officer, and the AOTR. The recipient must submit an electronic version of the final Federal Financial Form (SF-425) to U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in accordance with paragraph (1) above.

Electronic copies of the SF-425 can be found at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/ff_report.pdf and
<http://www.forms.gov/bgfPortal/docDetails.do?dId=15149>.

Line item instructions for completing the SF-425 can be found at:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants/standard_forms/ffr_instructions.pdf.

4. Reporting on Foreign Taxes shall be in accordance with Standard Provision II.15., Reporting of Foreign Taxes (March 2006), at the following address:
<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303maa.pdf>

B. Monitoring and Reporting Program Performance

1. Reporting Requirements for the Leader Cooperative Agreement: The Recipient shall submit an original and two (2) copies of a performance report to the AOTR in USAID/Washington. The performance reports are required to be submitted annually and shall present the information contained in 22 CFR 226.51(d). In addition, the report shall be included under both the Leader Cooperative Agreement and all Associate Agreements.
2. All country-level and global research activities implemented through the Leader Agreement shall be incorporated in the Recipient's Annual Report and Implementation Plans.
3. The Annual Report and Implementation Plan shall be submitted in a format and on a time schedule agreed to between the AOTR and CRSP Management Entity.
4. Reporting should include progress made toward benchmarks and result indicators of development impact, as discussed in the program description of this RFA. In addition, qualitative descriptions of success stories and achievements to illustrate the applications of CRSP research should be included when possible.

The Annual Report for the Leader Award should include information concerning any Associate Awards that summarizes activities undertaken, progress made/results achieved, trends, problems, etc. under both the Leader grant and Associate grants.

5. Cost and Benefit Analysis: The recipient shall conduct a cost benefit analysis to determine the cumulative costs in Years One through Four to reduce malnutrition amongst women and children. The analysis will be submitted as a semiannual report in Year Five and will stipulate direct and indirect costs and benefits.

Definitions:

Direct costs will describe financial resources needed to implement activities including but not limited to salaries, equipment, workshops, travel and any other cost directly associated with program implementation. In calculating direct costs,

the applicant will specify the total number of beneficiaries and the cost per beneficiary.

Indirect costs will include costs accepted by beneficiaries while participating in program activities.

Direct benefits shall be those that accrue directly to target beneficiaries.

Indirect benefits shall include expenses to beneficiaries that are expected to be averted due to effective interventions.

C. Final Report

The final performance report shall contain the information contained in 22 CFR 226.51(d). The Recipient shall submit a final report that replaces the last annual report and includes: an executive summary of the recipient's accomplishments in achieving results and impact, conclusions about lessons learned, future challenges and opportunities, an overall description of the Recipient's activities and attainment of results by country, region, or theme, an assessment of progress made toward accomplishing the objectives and expected results, significance of these activities, and important research findings, comments and recommendations. The final report must also include a final fiscal report that describes how funds were used.

D. Submission of Reports

The Recipient shall submit an original to the Washington AOTR, one copy to the Agreement Officer, and one electronic copy of the final report to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC). Documents submitted to the DEC should be sent in original format via email to:

E-mail (the preferred means of submission):
docsubmit@dec.cdie.org

U.S. Postal Service:
Development Experience Clearinghouse
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 210
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Fax Number: (301) 588-7787

Please reference web site http://www.dec.org/submit_doc.cfm or contact one of the following concerning any questions your organization may have on the reporting requirements:

Development Experience Clearinghouse
E-mail: docsubmit@dec.cdie.org
Phone: (301) 562-0641

USAID/PPC/DEI

E. Evaluation

There are two types of assessments that are required of the CRSPs. Both may be done by the same team and at the same time. The first, the external evaluation, evaluates the quality and progress of the research, the achievement of outreach and development impact benchmarks, and the degree to which the research activities achieve integration and relevance to development policy and programming, in-country and more broadly. The second, also external, is the administrative/ management review which evaluates the administrative and management effectiveness of the CRSP, including the relationship between Management Office and sub award institutions, the relationship and communication with USAID/W and Missions, fulfillment of cost share requirements, and the outreach and intellectual leadership activities undertaken by the Management Office. These two evaluations are related and have some overlap in areas of inquiry, however, the two assessment processes are distinct; the two assessments have different primary audiences, and rely on different types of information. Both evaluations are generally conducted by the end of the fourth year of the five-year award.

These evaluations provide input into the renewal extension for a possible second five-year award. The nature and funding source of these evaluations are external to the CRSP. The cost application must not budget for an external evaluation.

SECTION VII – AGENCY CONTACTS

The points of contact for this RFA and any questions during the RFA process are Tracy Sando and Vann Rolfson.

Tracy Sando
7.10-061, RRB
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
tsando@usaid.gov

Vann Rolfson
7.10-035, RRB
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20523
vrolfson@usaid.gov

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this RFA must request it in writing by the date listed on the cover letter to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants before the submission of their applications. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a Cooperative Agreement will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this RFA will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this RFA, if that information is necessary in submitting applications or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

SECTION VIII – OTHER INFORMATION

USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Awards are subject to the availability of funds. Funds are not currently available, but are anticipated by the time of award.

DRAFT

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Acronyms and Definitions

The following acronyms are particular to this Request for Application:

AAPD- Acquisitions and Assistance Policy Directives

ADS – Automated Directives System

AOTR – Agreement Officer ‘s Technical Representative - A USAID employee designated by the Agreement Officer to oversee a grant or cooperative agreement on behalf of USAID

BIFAD – Board for International Food and Agricultural Development

CA - Cooperative Agreement

CBO – Community Based Organizations

CFR- Code of Federal Regulations

CRSP – Collaborative Research Support Program

CRSP Council – Administrative body consisting of the Program Directors and Chairs of the Boards of Directors and Technical Committees from each active CRSP

DALYs – Disability Adjusted Life Years

EGAT - Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade

FAR – Federal Acquisition Regulations

Global Plan - The overall plan of a CRSP for research on problems and constraints, global in nature, whose results are applicable and transferable regionally and globally (worldwide)

Host Countries - A developing country in which a CRSP has formal activities

IARC - International Agricultural Research Center

LWA – Leader with Associates, a USAID assistance mechanism that may be either a grant or cooperative agreement. The Leader Award establishes the agreement relationship under which associates may be awarded without further competition

ME- Management Entity

Mission - A formally organized USAID operating unit in a host country led by a Mission Director or a Country Representative

MSI – Minority Serving Institutions

NARS - National Agricultural Research Systems

NICRA – Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

NOG- Non-governmental Organizations

OAA- Office of Acquisition and Assistance

PI - Principal Investigators – A scientist in charge of the research for a defined segment or a scientific discipline of a CRSP

RFA - Request for Application

Sub-award Agreement - A formal agreement made between the Leader Awardee and a participating institution under authority of the Leader Award agreement with USAID

TEA – Total Estimated Amount

Title XII - The Title XII Amendment to the International Development Food Assistance Act of 1975 as passed by the United States Congress and subsequently amended

USAID - United States Agency for International Development

USAID/W - Washington headquarters of the United States Agency for International Development.

USG – U.S. Government

WHO – World Health Organization

Annex 2: Nutrition Priority Countries - Select one country from Africa or one country from Asia for the initial application process. Additional countries, such as Latin American countries may be added later with mission buy-in.

The application shall be based on one country from Asia or Africa. The University may submit two separate applications, ie, one for Africa and one for Asia.

Africa:

Uganda

Ghana

Tanzania

Rwanda

Liberia

Senegal

Mali

Asia:

Bangladesh

Nepal

Cambodia

Tajikistan

Annex 3: Foreign Assistance Framework (As of July 2007) Next Page

AS OF JULY 10, 2007

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE FRAMEWORK

Goal		"To help build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that respond to the needs of their people, reduce widespread poverty and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system."					End Goal of US Foreign Assistance	Graduation Trajectory
Objectives	Peace and Security	Governing Justly and Democratically	Investing in People	Economic Growth	Humanitarian Assistance			
Accounts within State/USAID	FMF, TI, IMET, ESF, INCLE, NADR, PKO, ACI, FSA, SEED	DA, TI, SEED, IO&P, DF, ESF, INCLE, IO&P, ACI	DA, CSH, ESF, IDFA, IO&P, FSA, SEED, GHAI, ACI, Title II	DA, ESF, SEED, FSA, IO&P, ACI, Title II	IDFA, MIRA, ERMA, ACI, Title II			
Foreign Assistance Program Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Counter Terrorism > Combating WMD > Stabilization Operations and Defense Reform > Counterterrorism > Transnational Crime and Response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Rule of Law > Human Rights > Good Governance > Political Competition and Consensus-Building > Civil Society 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Health > Education > Social Services and Protection for Vulnerable Populations <p>Other USG Agency Contributions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Macroeconomic Foundation > Trade and Investment > Financial Sector > Infrastructure > Agriculture > Private Sector > Competitiveness > Economic Opportunity > Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Protection, Assistance and Shelter > Disaster Readiness > Migration Management 			
Category Definition								
Rebuilding Countries	States in or emerging from and rebuilding after internal or external conflict.	Assist in creating and/or stabilizing a legitimate and democratic government and a supportive environment for civil society and media.	Start or restart the delivery of critical social services, including health and educational facilities, and begin building or rebuilding institutional capacity.	Assist in the construction or reconstruction of key internal infrastructure and market mechanisms to stabilize the economy.	Address immediate needs of refugees, displaced, and other affected groups.	Stable environment for good governance, increased availability of essential social services, and initial progress to create policies and institutions upon which future progress will rest.	Advance to the Developing or Transforming Category.	
Developing Countries	States with low or lower-middle income, not yet meeting MCC performance criteria, and the criterion related to political rights.	Support policies and programs that accelerate and strengthen public institutions and the creation of a more vibrant local government, civil society and media.	Encourage social policies that deepen the ability of institutions to establish appropriate roles for the public and private sector in service delivery.	Encourage economic policies and strengthen institutional capacity to promote broad-based growth.	Encourage reduced need for future HA by introducing prevention and mitigation strategies, while continuing to address emergency needs.	Continued progress in expanding and deepening democracy, strengthening public and private institutions, and supporting policies that promote economic growth and poverty reduction.	Advance to the Transforming Category.	
Transforming Countries	States with low or lower-middle income, meeting MCC performance criteria, and the criterion related to political rights.	Provide limited resources and technical assistance to reinforce democratic institutions.	Provide financial resources and limited technical assistance to sustain improved livelihoods.	Provide financial resources and technical assistance to promote broad-based growth.	Address emergency needs on a short-term basis, as necessary.	Government, civil society and private sector institutions capable of sustaining development progress.	Advance to the Sustaining Partnership Category or graduate from foreign assistance.	
Sustaining Partnership Countries	States with upper-middle income or greater for which U.S. support is provided to sustain partnerships, progress, and peace.	Address issues of mutual interest.	Address issues of mutual interest.	Create and promote sustained partnerships on trade and investment.	Address emergency needs on a short-term basis, as necessary.	Continued partnership as strategically appropriate where U.S. support is necessary to maintain progress and peace.	Continue partnership or graduate from foreign assistance.	
Restrictive Countries	States of concern where there are significant governance issues.	Foster effective democracy and responsible sovereignty. Create local capacity for fortification of civil society and path to democratic governance.	Address humanitarian needs.	Promote a market-based economy.	Address emergency needs on a short-term basis, as necessary.	Civil society empowered to demand more effective democracies and states respectful of human dignity, accountable to their citizens, and responsible towards their neighbors.	Advance to other relevant foreign assistance category.	
Global or Regional	Activities that advance the five objectives, transcend a single country's borders, and are addressed outside a country strategy.	Prevent the acquisition/proliferation of WMD, support CT and counter narcotics.				Achievement of foreign assistance goal and objectives.	Determined based on criteria specific to the global or regional objective.	

*The highlighted cells indicate the implied concentration of resources by Country Category and Objective. The highlighted cells outlined in red indicate the concentration of MCC resources.

Annex 4: Foreign Assistance Standardized Program Structure and Definitions

Program Area 4.5: Agriculture

Agriculture is the science and practice of food, feed, and fiber production (including forestry, wildlife, fisheries, aquaculture and floriculture) and its relationships to natural resources, processing, marketing, distribution, utilization (including nutrition), and trade.

Program Element 4.5.1: Agricultural Enabling Environment

Definition: Support agricultural policies, laws and regulations, and institutions that: foster adoption of improved technology; promote investment in infrastructure at all levels, and enhance the natural resource base in ways that respond to the needs of men and women producers.

Sub-Element 4.5.1.1: Agricultural Resource Policy

Definition: Support institutions and equitable policies that foster sustainable utilization of land, water, plant, and animal resources to enhance agricultural productivity and incomes, increase resource quality and quantity, and decrease degradation of productive resources. This includes access to and securing property rights over agricultural resources, including by female-headed households and returning internally displaced persons and refugees, and it includes increasing returns of agricultural labor.

Sub-Element 4.5.1.2: Food Policy

Definition: Support institutions, policies and incentives aimed at ensuring that adequate, safe, and nutritious food is available; markets function efficiently; and that low-income groups and those vulnerable to food insecurity (e.g., female farmers with small land holdings, female-headed households, children, and HIV-affected) are able to access and appropriately utilize that food.

Sub-Element 4.5.1.3: Agricultural Market Standards and Regulations

Definition: Improve laws, institutions, and policies that impact market transactions of agricultural goods, inputs, practices, and services. This includes international policies such as agriculture-related agreements of the WTO; domestic science-based regulation to ensure food, feed, and environmental safety; and market-based or industry-led quality grades, standards, and certification.

Sub-Element 4.5.1.4: Public Investment Policy

Definition: Improve institutions and policies that encourage increased and more effective public and private investments in agricultural institutions and infrastructure to provide the basis for expanded productivity in the agricultural sector. This includes support for (1)

scientific and technological advances through research and development, (2) governmental actions that provide a positive climate for innovation and investment, and (3) efforts to comply with international treaties and encourage international cooperation and public-private partnerships.

Program Element 4.5.2: Agricultural Sector Capacity

Definition: Sustain the productivity of the agricultural sector through investments that foster increasing returns to land, labor, and capital. Targeted interventions to male and female producers provide improvements in technology and management practices, expanded access to markets and credit, increased organizational and market efficiency, and restoration and protection of resiliency in production and livelihood systems.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.1: Research and Technology Dissemination

Definition: Support scientific research and technology, including biotechnology that generates improvements in production systems (crop, nutrition, farm, forest, and fisheries), value-added products, and management practices leading to sustainable productivity gains, mitigation of risk, and income growth. It also supports dissemination and adoption of productivity-enhancing and post harvest technologies, value-added products, and management practices in these areas by reducing the barriers that may constrain male or female producers, processors, and manufacturers.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.2: Land and Water Management

Definition: Develop and invest in the quantity and quality of land and water resources, including irrigation and soil fertility, riparian and range management, and water resources to improve and sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes. This includes related land and water administration systems.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.3: Rural and Agricultural Finance

Definition: Increase equitable access to financial services by male and female farmers in rural areas and for agricultural enterprises to purchase necessary inputs; introduce new technologies; expand productive capacity; and finance storage, transport, and marketing costs. Also includes access to mechanisms and products that reduce seasonal income and consumption variability, protect and build assets, and mitigate price and weather risk. (Link to Microfinance 7.1.2 and Financial Services 3.2, as appropriate.)

Sub-Element 4.5.2.4: Agribusiness and Producer Organizations

Definition: Support the growth of small and medium agro-enterprises, including producer organizations/associations, which are engaged in producing, marketing, or adding value (e.g. processing and quality enhancement) to crop, nutrition, forestry, and fishery products. Support addresses the needs and capacities of both men and women producers and includes such areas as adoption of technology and technical processes, businesses

and human resources management, environmental regulatory compliance, and organizational governance.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.5: Markets and Trade Capacity

Definition: Build capacity to link small-scale producers (men and women), pastoralists, and small to medium enterprises to the economic opportunities of commercial markets. This includes both input and output markets at the local, regional, and international levels. Interventions include areas such as the development of risk management strategies; warehouse receipt, agricultural commodity trading and accessible market information systems; meeting market standards; and public and private investments that support efficient agricultural marketing such as storage facilities, cold storage, packaging facilities, and agricultural processing facilities.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.6: Emerging Agricultural Threats

Definition: Strengthen plant and animal disease surveillance and the control of emerging agricultural pests and diseases (e.g. Wheat Stem Rust) to mitigate productivity losses, allow access to international markets, reduce risks to human health, improve food safety, and reduce the risk of introduction of diseases into the U.S.

Sub-Element 4.5.2.7: Agricultural Livelihood Services and Safety Nets

Definition: Support risk management and economic diversification, transfer and adaptation of proven technologies and human organization innovations to increase market access, food or cash transfers in exchange for public works; and resource transfers and/or agricultural inputs (e.g. seeds, tools, and nutrition) which enable male and female producers to try new technologies and production methods that would otherwise not be available to them.

Program Area: Social Services and Protection for Vulnerable Populations

Program Element 3.1.9: Nutrition

Definition: Increase availability and use of proven nutrition interventions to reduce mortality, morbidity, and food insecurity, including nutrition education to improve maternal diets, nutrition during pregnancy, exclusive breastfeeding, and infant and young child feeding practices; fortified or biofortified staple foods, specialized food products, and community gardens to improve consumption of quality food; and delivery of nutrition services including micronutrient supplementation and community management of acute malnutrition. Strengthen host country capacity by advancing supportive nutrition and food security policies and improving nutrition information systems.

Sub-Element 3.1.9.1 Individual Prevention Programs

Definition: Improve maternal and child nutrition through prevention programs targeted to women, children under two, and the very poor. These activities may include but are not limited to: community-based social and behavior change communication programs that focus on key nutrition practices related to maternal nutrition, exclusive and continued breastfeeding, and appropriate infant and young child feeding; promoting consumption of fortified or biofortified staple foods and specialized food products; partnering with public and private sectors to ensure food quality; and supporting food-based and woman-centered programs that improve dietary quality for women and children.

Sub-Element 3.1.9.2 Population-based Nutrition Service Delivery (including micronutrient supplementation)

Definition: Support delivery of nutrition services through sustainable platforms. This sub-element includes but is not limited to micronutrient supplementation programs, community management of acute malnutrition, production of fortified foods, and strengthening nutrition service delivery systems as part of primary health care systems.

Sub-Element 3.1.9.3 Nutrition Enabling Environment and Capacity

Definition: Strengthen institutions, policies, and practices that support sustained, locally-led improvements in nutrition. Advance the capacity of public and private institutions to assess, plan, design, implement, monitor, and evaluate nutrition programs. This sub-element includes supporting an enabling environment and capacity strengthening specifically targeted to women and the very poor.

Annex 5: USAID Indicators and Operational Definitions

Theme (a): Scientific Research

Outcome 1: Improved host country nutrition and food security monitoring, analytics and surveillance capacities

Output Indicators:

1. Number of U.S. and host country institutions who have gained enhanced capacity in nutrition monitoring and surveillance methodologies, nutrition information systems and practices with USG assistance
2. Number of national food consumption and nutrition surveys with biochemical assessment designed, conducted, completed, analyzed and/or disseminated with USG assistance
3. Number of U.S. and host country institutions who have completed a nutrition assessment and gap analysis

Outcome 2: Increased human and institutional nutrition research capacity of host country and U.S. institutions.

Output Indicators:

4. Number of U.S. and host country institutions who have gained enhanced capacity in clinical, operational, agricultural, translational and/or public health nutrition research aimed at the reduction of malnutrition with USG assistance
5. Number of integrated research studies aimed at the reduction of malnutrition conducted with USG assistance
6. Number of U.S. and host country institutions undertaking capacity assessments to determine nutrition research capacity

Outcome 3: Increased number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices

Output Indicators:

7. Number of new technologies or management practices made available for transfer with USG assistance
8. Adoption of targeted technologies with USG assistance

Theme (b): Human and Institutional Capacity Development

Outcome 4: Improved host country academic and technical capacity in nutrition and agriculture

Output Indicators:

9. Number of males/females (disaggregate) who have received long term training in nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition, agricultural sector productivity or agricultural enabling environment at host country institutions and at institutions located outside host country (disaggregate) with USG assistance
10. Number of males/females (disaggregate) who have received short term training in nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition, agricultural enabling

- environment or agricultural sector productivity at host country institutions and at institutions located outside host country (disaggregate) with USG assistance
11. Nutrition Enabling Environment and Capacity - Number of public and private institutions with advanced capacity to assess, plan, design, implement, monitor and/or evaluate nutrition programs, policies and practices
 12. Number of peer-reviewed journal articles co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance
 13. Number of brief articles and presentations co-authored with host country institutions and others in country with USG assistance

Theme (c): Improving the Nutritional Status of Women and Children Through Agriculture and Food Based Programs

Outcome 5: Improvement in nutritional status of women and children

Output Indicators:

14. Nutrition - Improvement in the nutritional status of children and adults with USG assistance
 - a. Prevalence of underweight children (weight/age)
 - b. Prevalence of malnourished women (BMI < 18.5)
 - c. Increase availability and use of Prevention Programs
 - d. Population Based Nutrition Service Delivery
15. Percentage of households experiencing severe hunger as indicated by a score of four or more on the household survey
16. Improved Dietary Diversity for women and children
17. Improved Infant and Young Child Feeding Practices
18. Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of infants under six months
19. Prevalence of maternal and child anemia
20. Number of nutritional and agricultural policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed and/or advanced for which implementation has begun with USG assistance

Outcome 6: Improvement in agricultural productivity

Output Indicators:

21. Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG assistance
22. Number of women with access to agricultural inputs, technologies, information and finance with USG assistance
23. Number of women involved in agricultural economic enterprises with USG assistance
24. Number of women's organizations/ associations assisted as a result of USG assistance
25. Number of agriculture related firms benefiting directly from USG supported interventions
26. Number of Public-Private Partnerships formed as a result of USG assistance
27. Number of producer associations, water user associations, trade and business associations and community based organizations (CBOs) receiving USG assistance

Outcome 7: Increased household agricultural incomes

Output Indicators:

28. Change in women's and men's income in beneficiary households
29. Gross margin per hectare or per animal for targeted commodities.
30. Jobs created by increased growth and investment in the agricultural value chain

Outcome 8: Enhanced programmatic application of research results and lessons learned

Output Indicators:

31. Number of research activities which generated pilot projects with USG assistance
32. Number of pilot projects which have been scaled up with USG assistance

Operational Definitions:

1. Number of U.S. and host country institutions who have gained enhanced capacity in nutrition monitoring and surveillance methodologies, nutrition information systems and practices this reporting year with USG assistance tracks increased U.S. and host country institutional capacities to use state of the art tools in nutrition surveillance, food consumption, dietary diversity, and biochemical nutrition surveys, and assessments of knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors of infant and young child feeding practices.
2. Number of national food consumption and nutrition surveys with biochemical assessments in this reporting year with USG assistance tracks the number of surveys designed, conducted, completed, analyzed and disseminated. Surveys and associated activities to be counted must represent the national population. Data collected must inform the design of future research studies. Creation or improvements to existing nutrient databases must be included. Quality control strategies must be employed for survey and database management.
3. Number of U.S. and host country institutions who have completed a nutrition assessment and gap analysis measures and evaluates: the primary determinants of undernutrition, systems supporting food and nutrition interventions and the capacity needed to deliver interventions likely to achieve the MDG's in a cost effective manner (including the capacity to deliver health-related nutrition programs at the national, district and community levels.) The analysis also provides recommendations on specific, evidence based, feasible interventions across relevant sectors and describes gaps in information that need to be addressed by sectors that influence nutrition outcomes.
4. Number of U.S and host country institutions who have gained enhanced capacity in clinical, operational, translational and/or public health nutrition research aimed at the reduction of malnutrition tracks enhanced U.S. and host country institutional capacities to conduct research aimed at the successful reduction of malnutrition. The enhanced capacities must be gained during the reporting year. Clinical research includes biomedical, behavioral studies of currently available interventions, combinations of interventions and clinical approaches to the delivery and monitoring of interventions intended to prevent malnutrition or to diagnose, treat and monitor malnutrition in international rural, peri-urban and urban settings. Operational research encompasses the translation of knowledge and practice related to currently available interventions into widespread and sustainable clinical and public health practice. Public health nutrition research examines the organization, financing, management and delivery of nutrition interventions including studies of quality and cost effectiveness.
5. Number of integrated research studies aimed at the reduction of malnutrition tracks the number of studies which are interdisciplinary and include clinical,

operational, agricultural, translational and public health nutrition research aimed at the reduction of malnutrition.

6. Number of U.S. and host country institutions undertaking capacity assessments to determine nutrition research capacity measures nutrition research capabilities in host countries
7. Number of new technologies or management practices made available for transfer this reporting year with USG assistance tracks research and technology investments and progress towards dissemination. Technologies to be counted are agriculture related technologies and innovations. The definition of agriculture is a food, feed and fiber system, stretching from input supply and production through marketing and processing to domestic consumption and exports. Food and non-food crops, livestock products, fisheries, agro-forestry, natural resource based products are included. The technologies may relate to any of the mentioned products at any point on the supply chain. They may include improved practices such as sustainable land management. Significant improvements to existing technologies should be counted. An improvement is significant if among other reasons it serves a new purpose or allows a new class of user to employ it. The technology should have proven benefits and be ready for use.
8. Adoption of targeted technologies with USG assistance measures hectares brought under new technology during the current reporting year. Technologies to be counted are agriculture related technologies and innovations. The definition of agriculture is a food, feed and fiber system, stretching from input supply and production through marketing and processing to domestic consumption and exports. Food and non-food crops, livestock products, fisheries, agro-forestry, natural resource based products are included. The technologies may relate to any of the mentioned products at any point on the supply chain. They may include improved practices such as sustainable land management. Only significant improvements to existing technologies should be counted. An improvement is significant if among other reasons it serves a new purpose or allows a new class of user to employ it.
9. Number of males/females (disaggregate) who have received long term training in nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition, agricultural sector productivity or agricultural enabling environment at host country institutions and at institutions located outside host country with USG assistance tracks attendance at which significant knowledge or skills are obtained. Skills and knowledge in nutrition policy formulation and implementation should be imparted. Institutional capacity to provide academic and technical training of both public and private sector participants involved in programs, policies and strategies for reducing malnutrition through formal or informal means should be measured. Significant skills that enhance the use of improved agricultural technologies and management practices, expand access to markets and credit, increase organizational and market efficiency, increase restoration and resiliency in production, and improve

livelihood systems should be imparted through formal and informal means. Significant knowledge or skills in agricultural policy formulation and implementation also should be imparted through formal or informal means. Knowledge or skills gained through technical assistance activities will be included. If the activity provided training to trainers and if a credible estimate of follow up training can be made, this estimate should be included. Individuals attending more than one training are counted as many times as they attend training. Long term training is a six month or more advanced training program and may include a fellowship program, bachelors, masters and Ph.D programs. Attendance should be only those who received training in the current reporting year.

10. Number of males/females (disaggregate) who have received short term training in nutrition science, dietetics, public health nutrition, agricultural enabling environment or agricultural sector productivity at host country institutions and at institutions located outside host country with USG assistance tracks attendance at training programs at which significant knowledge or skills are obtained. Skills and knowledge in nutrition policy formulation and implementation should be imparted. Institutional capacity to provide technical training of both public and private sector participants involved in programs, policies and strategies for reducing malnutrition through formal or informal means should be measured. Significant skills that enhance the use of improved agricultural technologies and management practices, expand access to markets and credit, increase organizational and market efficiency, increase restoration and resiliency in production, and improve livelihood systems should be imparted through formal and informal means. Significant knowledge or skills in agricultural policy formulation and implementation also should be imparted through formal or informal means. Knowledge or skills gained through technical assistance activities will be included. If the activity provided training to trainers and if a credible estimate of follow up training can be made, this estimate should be included. Individuals attending more than one training are counted as many times as they attend training. Short term training is less than six months. Certificates of attendance or accomplishment may be awarded. Attendance should be only those who received training in the current reporting year.
11. Nutrition Enabling Environment and Capacity - Number of public and private institutions with advanced capacity to assess, plan, design, implement, monitor and/or evaluate nutrition programs, policies and practices. There is a focus on strengthening institutions, policies and practices that support sustained, locally led improvements in nutrition.
12. Number of peer-reviewed journal articles co-authored with host country institutions and others in county in this reporting year with USG assistance tracks the number of manuscripts written in collaboration with host country researchers. Procedures for authorship should be written jointly by U.S. and host country

institutions. Manuscripts should be submitted to relevant U.S. and international journals.

13. Number of brief articles and presentations co-authored with host country institutions and others in country in this reporting year with USG assistance tracks the number of nutrition technical briefs and presentations prepared in collaboration with host country researchers for host country, regional and international audiences.
14. Improvement in the nutritional status of children and women with USG assistance measures: a) the prevalence of children under two years of age with improved weight/age, b) prevalence of women with BMI <18.5, c) increase availability and use of Prevention Programs designed to improve maternal and child nutrition. These activities may include but are not limited to: community-based social and behavioral change communication programs that focus on key nutrition practices related to maternal nutrition, exclusive and continued breastfeeding, and appropriate infant and young child feeding; promoting consumption of fortified or biofortified staple foods and specialized food products; partnering with public and private sectors to ensure food quality and production of weaning foods; and supporting food-based and women-centered programs that improve dietary quality for women and children, and d) Population Based Nutrition Service Delivery - Improve delivery of nutrition services through sustainable programs, including but not limited to: community based programs, production of fortified foods, community management of acute malnutrition, and delivery of nutrition programs as part of primary health care systems.
15. Percentage of households experiencing severe hunger as indicated by a score of four or more on the household survey.
16. Improved Dietary Diversity measures the percentage of women and children consuming foods from four or more food groups.
17. Improved infant and young child feeding of children 6-23 months of age measures: a) the percentage of infants and young children consuming foods from four or more food groups, b) Minimum meal frequency: proportion of breastfed and non-breastfed infants and children who receive solid, semi-solid, or soft foods (but also includes milk feeds for non-breastfed children) the minimum number of times or more, c) Minimum acceptable diet - Proportion of children who receive a minimum acceptable diet (apart from breast milk), d) Consumption of iron-rich or iron-fortified foods: Proportion of children who receive an iron-rich food or iron-fortified food that is specially designed for infants and young children, or that is fortified in the home.
18. Prevalence of exclusive breast feeding of infants under six months measures the percentage of infants 0 to 5 months who are fed exclusively with breastmilk.

19. Prevalence of maternal and child anemia measures the percentage of all women age 15 to 49 and children 6 to 23 months who have hemoglobin less than 11.9 g/dl (women) and 10.9 g/dl (children).
20. Number of nutritional and agricultural policy reforms, regulations, administrative procedures passed and/or advanced for which implementation has begun with USG assistance measures the number of nutritional enabling environment policies, regulations, and/or administrative procedures in the areas of nutrition surveillance, food consumption, dietary diversity, biochemical nutrition surveys, and/or assessments of knowledge, attitudes, behaviors and infant and young child feeding practices for which implementation has begun during the current (reporting) year.
21. Number of rural households benefiting directly from USG assistance tracks access and equitable access to services in targeted area. A household is a beneficiary if it contains at least one individual who is a beneficiary. An individual is a beneficiary if s/he is engaged with a project activity and either already has shown benefit from the activity or has a likelihood of gaining benefits due to his/her significant level of engagement with the project. Beneficiaries do not include those merely touched by an activity through brief attendance at a meeting or gathering. The definition rural should be the definition used by the respective national statistical service. Beneficiaries include people who receive training. If a project's tactic is to work through a group or association to create benefits for membership of that group or association, the members of the group can be counted as direct beneficiaries, even if the technical assistance is not provided directly to those individuals. The implementing partner needs to be able to demonstrate from the records of the group that the assistance was transmitted to its membership. This would be particularly clear and feasible for small producer groups and trade associations; it would not be credible for an apex cooperative association that might have hundreds of thousands of members. Rural households reported as benefiting should be those benefiting in the current reporting year. Taking the example of a benefit derived from technology adoption, if a household adopted an agriculture technology the previous year and continued to use it in the current (reporting) year, then that household should be counted.
22. Number of women who have gained access to agricultural inputs, information, technologies and finance with USG assistance tracks the capacity of women to gain access to agricultural inputs, services and finance. Agricultural inputs are all substances or materials used in the production or handling of agricultural products. Agricultural information refers to any knowledge given to farmers to help them identify and analyze their agricultural production problems and become aware of the opportunities for improvements. Agricultural finance refers to monetary receipts for expenditure in improving agricultural productivity, handling, processing and marketing.

23. Number of women involved in agricultural economic enterprises with USG assistance tracks the capacity of women to generate incomes through agriculture. Agriculture is defined as a food, feed and fiber system, stretching from input supply and production through marketing and processing to domestic consumption and exports. Food and non-food crops, livestock products, fisheries, agro-forestry, natural resource based products are included. Economic enterprises refer to any unit of economic activity whether individual or as part of an organization relating to any of the mentioned products at any point on the supply chain.
24. Number of women's organizations and associations that directly benefited from USG assistance tracks USG investments to increase capacity of women in agriculture. Organizations assisted are those that are engaged with a project activity and have already shown benefit from the activity or have a likelihood of gaining benefit due to their significant level of engagement with the project. Organizations assisted do not include those merely contacted or touched by an activity through brief attendance at a meeting or gathering. Only those Organizations whose primary purpose is to serve women should be counted. Men and women can be members of these Organizations so long as the primary intended beneficiaries are women.
25. Number of agriculture related firms benefiting from USG assistance tracks private sector capacity building to increase agriculture sector productivity. A firm is a private sector entity and is a beneficiary if it is engaged with a project activity and either already has shown benefit from the activity or has a likelihood of benefit due to its significant level of engagement with the project. Benefiting firms do not include those merely contacted or touched by an activity through brief attendance at a meeting or gathering. Agriculture is defined as a food, feed and fiber system, stretching from input supply and production through marketing and processing to domestic consumption and exports. Food and non-food crops, livestock products, fisheries, agro-forestry, natural resource based products are included. Benefiting firms include those whose employees receive training. In some cases, producer organizations or other organizations operate firms. In these cases, both entities can be counted under organizations assisted and under firms assisted if both the organization and the firm receive appropriate and presumably different kinds of assistance. Regional organizations sometimes work with private firms as both partners and beneficiaries; when this is the case, these firms should be counted in both categories. Agricultural- related firms reported benefiting should be only those benefiting in the current reporting year. Taking the example of a benefit derived from credit, if a firm received a loan facilitated by USG assistance and continued to benefit from that capital and/or continued to access credit with the same lender in the current (reporting) year, then that firm should be counted.
26. Number of Public-Private Partnerships formed as a result of USG assistance measures USG leveraging of agricultural and nutritional sector resources to promote development. Public entities include national governments, multilateral

development institutions, universities and other arms of national governments. For-profit enterprises and NGOs are considered private. A partnership is formed when there is a clear agreement usually written, to work together to achieve a common objective. There must be either a cash or in-kind significant contribution to the effort by the public and private entity.

27. Number of producer associations, water user associations, trade and business associations and community based organizations that benefited directly from USG assistance tracks private sector and civil society capacity building to increase agricultural sector productivity. Organizations assisted are those that are engaged with a project activity and either already have shown benefit from the activity or likelihood of gaining benefit due to their significant level of engagement with the project. Organizations assisted do not include those merely contacted or touched by an activity through brief attendance at a meeting or gathering. Organizations whose primary purpose is to serve women are not included because they are counted in a separate indicator. In some cases, producer associations or other organizations operate firms. In these cases both entities could be counted under organizations assisted and under firms assisted if both the organization and the firm receive appropriate presumably different types of assistance. Producer organizations, water users' associations, trade and business associations and CBOs counted as benefiting should be only those benefiting in the current year from USG assistance. Any producer organizations, water users' associations, trade and business associations or CBOs that benefited in a previous year but that is no longer benefiting in the reporting year from the assistance it received through USG assistance should not be included.
28. Change in women's and men's income in beneficiary households is a measure of the percentage change in per-capita consumption expenditures among program beneficiaries. Separate estimates should be made for women and men. Indicator focuses on households' expenditures rather than income per se because expenditures are far easier to measure. Measuring income requires some way to measure changes in the value of assets from one year to the next, and many other challenges. However since the interest is in learning about the change in agricultural related income, analysis during data collection must be able to ascertain that agricultural factors and not other factors like remittances led to the change in income.
29. Gross margin per hectare or per animal for targeted commodities is a measure of net income for that farm activity. Input costs included should be those significant input costs that can be easily ascertained. These are likely to be the cash costs. To conserve data collection resources, only those input costs estimated to be at least 5% of the total input cost should be included. Most likely items are: purchased seed, feed, fertilizer, pesticides, hired labor, and hired machine and veterinary services. Reporting of current-year results for individuals and firms who have benefited in previous years from this same USG assistance should be included along with current-year results of current beneficiaries. Reporting all

data elements (Area, Production, Quantity of Sales, Value of Sales, and Purchased Input Cost) requested is critical.

30. Jobs created by increased growth and investment in the agricultural value chain with USG assistance measures the number of jobs created in agriculture as a result of USG assistance. Agriculture is defined as a food, feed and fiber system, stretching from input supply and production through marketing and processing to domestic consumption and exports. Food and non-food crops, livestock products, fisheries, agro-forestry, natural resource based products are included. A firm is a private sector entity. The firm reporting a job created must be a beneficiary of the USG assistance by being engaged with a project activity and either has already shown benefit from the activity or has a likelihood of benefit due to its significant level of engagement with the project. Benefiting firms do not include those merely contacted or touched by an activity through brief attendance at a meeting or gathering.
31. Number of research activities which generated pilot projects as result of USG assistance measures whether research results are being tested for their efficacy by development practitioners. Only results of a research activity that are part of ongoing pilot projects during the reporting year are to be counted. Results of a research activity that were tested in a pilot project for the first time in the previous year but are still being tested in the pilot project in the current reporting year should be counted. Any research activities that generated a pilot project that ended the previous year should not be counted. A pilot project refers to any activity planned as a test or trial for the efficacy of research results in an international development context.
32. Number of pilot projects which have been scaled up measures the translation of lessons learned from pilot projects into wider development practice. A pilot project is defined as any activity planned as a test or trial for the efficacy of research results in an international development context. Only ongoing scaled projects during the current year should be counted. Scaled up projects that commenced in the previous year but are ongoing in the current reporting year should be counted. Scaled up projects that ended in the previous year should not be counted.

ANNEX 6: Bibliography

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