Frequently asked questions (FAQs):
Local Capacity Development (LCD) Request for Applications (RFA) RFA No. AID-OAA-L-15-00003-LSIL-06

Update: Please note that this document will be updated based on additional questions received from interested applicants. The new questions will be added under the "added questions" section. *This document was last updated on July 20, 2022.*

This document answers questions about the LCD RFA. Please refer to the Detailed RFA document for comprehensive information about the RFA and its requirements.

From Local Capacity Development (LCD) workshop in Nepal (April 24 and 26, 2022) and Rwanda (May 9 and May 10, 2022)

1. Can one local organization submit more than two proposals?

Answer: There is no limit to the number of proposals a local organization can submit, yet an individual principal investigator (PI) may only lead on one project. An individual may be involved in more than one project in other roles (e.g., co-PI, collaborator, mentor, etc.). Please note that only local organizations/institutions of current, active LSIL Reach and Focus Projects can apply.

2. Can different [local] organizations of a Reach/Focus Project develop the Consortium Project?

Answer: Yes. Consult the RFA Requirements Section on page 10 of the LCD RFA document.

3. Is there any difference between considering local and international mentor? Does having a mentor add extra points in the proposal evaluation?

Answer: The only difference is that the international mentor cannot receive compensation (i.e., salary or consulting payment) of any kind. However, applicants may include one international travel for international mentor if deemed necessary. In addition, review mentor's roles described on page 12 of the LCD RFA document, the LCD CCT suggests considering mentor's qualifications and experience relevant to capacity development, and how these credentials would add value to the project team of proposed LCD grant.

Having a mentor does not add points in the proposal evaluation. Consult page 19 of the LCD RFA document for Evaluation Criteria.

4. Who can be on the team for LCD grant proposal?

Answer: Consult RFA requirements on page 10 of the LCD RFA document to understand who can be included in the project team of proposed LCD grant. Note that only target-country institutions of Phase II LSIL Reach, and Focus projects can apply. Target-country institutions

can invite other local institutions, including institutions involved in Phase I LSIL Reach and Focus projects.

5. **Can you please elaborate systems thinking with an example that could apply to this [LCD] RFA?**

Answer: To use a systems thinking approach is to take into consideration all of the elements that are part of, in this case, the livestock research system – from farmers to researchers to private sector – and look at the relationships between them rather than treat them as separate actors. Systems thinking in livestock research encompasses different types of actors (research and education institutions, private sector, government, civil society, etc.) and their relationships and interactions with each other that influences how research system operates and who participates in it. For example, the impact of a three-day training to farmers conducted by a research team will be short-lived and reach limited number of farmers. Involving an extension organization that works with farmers and delivering a training-of-trainers workshop to them to train additional farmers will have longer term impact because they will reach more farmers and acquire/develop skills that can be passed to others.

<u>From LCD workshop in Burkina Faso (May 24 and May 25, 2022)</u>

6. **Will the budget support many projects? The amount is very small. How can we support many projects?**

Answer: We have $100,000 allocated per country to conduct additional LCD activities that will strengthen the Phase II LSIL Reach and Focus Projects' efforts in the target country and have systems-wide impact. With this funding we will support the best proposals up to $100,000 per country. This could mean one Individual and one Consortium project, one Consortium+ project, three Individual projects, and so on.

7. **How can the LCD team help identify experts?**

Answer: Please email <u>livestock-lab@ufl.edu</u> if you need assistance identifying a mentor/expert in local capacity development.

8. **Can the five countries with similar issues collaborate on a project?**

Answer: Unfortunately, not this time. The purpose of the current LCD RFA is to design, support, and implement LCD activity(ies) within the target country.

9. **Is there any template for proposals?**

Answer: Consult the Application Guidelines on page 13 of the LCD RFA document for Concept Note and/or Full Proposal outlines.

10. **Can we apply for individual plus consortium projects?**

Answer: Yes. The eligible organization can submit more than one proposal.

<u>From LCD workshop in Niger (May 30 and June 1, 2022)</u>

11. How many institutions/organizations can be involved in an individual project?

Answer: As many as team deems important. However, we suggest considering the role and value added of each institution/organization to be involved in the proposed LCD project. As specified on page 12 of the LCD RFA document, we suggest the teams pursing the engagement of multiple organizations/institutions to consider the following: 1) there is a mutually beneficial partnership between involved partners, 2) there is a shared participation and responsibility in the project design, implementation and uptake, and 3) there is a value added to each partners' effort.

12. Is project for one individual or one institution?

Answer: Only institutions/organizations are eligible to apply to the LCD RFA.

13. How will the funds be distributed in the budget? What can we spend the money on?

Answer: Consult Budget Section on page 16 of the LCD RFA document. Project funds should be distributed to support specific activities proposed as part of prospective LCD project.

14. Can the PI (Principal Investigator) submit multiple proposals?

Answer: No. An individual PI may only lead on one project, yet an individual may be involved in more than one project in other roles (e.g., co-PIs, collaborator, mentor, etc.).

15. Can an individual project have a mentor?

Answer: Yes.

16. How can I learn more about Phase II Reach and Focus Projects LCD activities to be able to add value in terms of capacity development?

Answer: Every Phase II Reach and Focus Project has a Local Capacity Development Plan. Please email livestock-lab@ufl.edu with a request to put you in touch with the principal investigator (PI) of Phase II LSIL Reach or Focus Project.

<u>From LCD workshop in Ethiopia (June 15 and June 17, 2022)</u>

17. Can two projects [LSIL Research or Focus Projects) apply for a Consortium award and each project individually apply for an Individual award?

Answer: Yes. The eligible organizations within the LSIL Research or Focus Projects can submit more than one proposal.

Additional questions #1

18. Will the LCD funded project start after the LSIL Reach or Focus Project starts?

Answer: LCD funded projects will most likely start after the LSIL Reach or Focus Project has been awarded and project activities have started. Application for LCD RFA will undergo similar approval process as all LSIL funded projects. We recommend LCD RFA applicants to consider January 2023 as an approximate start date to develop a schedule of project activities and budget. If proposal review and award process are extended, the start and end dates of project will be adjusted as necessary.

19. Can PI of the LSIL Reach or Focus Project be a PI or Co-PI of the LCD funded project if local institution eligibility criteria is met?

Answer: Yes. The PI, Co-PI or collaborator of the LSIL Reach or Focus Project can serve as PI or Co-PI of the LCD project as long as edibility criteria is met. Please review Eligibility & Definition of an African or Asian Institution Section on page 11 of the LCD RFA document.

20. What do you call system or systems thinking or system-wide impact? Is it an impact on the daily life of the population of the region or the country? Is it an impact on local economic development sector or education? Can you provide an example of an LCD project with an impact on the system?

Answer: See response to Question 5. An example of an LCD project with impact on the system cannot be provided as part of this response document.

21. Could we submit a consortium project of more than $30,000 and less than $70,000? For example, can we submit a consortium project with budget of $45,000 or $55,000? Or does the consortium project have a budget of $70,000?

Answer: The budget for a consortium project should not exceed $70,000 limit; it can be less. When developing budget for a proposed project, please ensure it is realistic and includes all budgetary resources needed to implement planned activities within project timeline.

22. If we want to propose an LCD project about a curriculum for students' program, is it necessary for PI or the Co-PI to be an academic?

Answer: It is up to project teams to decide which team member has the qualifications and experience to serve as a PI or co-PI of the proposed LCD project. Please review Eligibility & Definition of an African or Asian Institution Section on page 11 of the LCD RFA document. For sustainability, if a curriculum for students is offered by a non-academic, how will the higher education institution be able to offer it later?

23. During the co-designing workshop, our team proposed an LCD project to develop manuals for training producers (in a national language), develop curricula to enrich the teaching programs for students, initiate training workshops for teachers/researchers in

the meat drying technology, and create a platform for information, training and management of all requests related to meat drying technology (e.g., breeders, dryers, private or public institutions). We also plan to involve the private sector and public institutions in handling and popularizing the product as well as the training of craftsmen in the manufacturing of dryers. Is this a suitable idea for a consortium project that integrates [three LCD priority areas] of training, institutional linkages and curricula? Do you think it is a good idea [for proposed project]?

Answer: It is up to the project teams to conceptualize and develop an LCD project proposal as long as the proposed project addresses the requirements of the LCD RFA. Please review the RFA Requirements section on page 10 of the LCD RFA document. Be careful to not have too many objectives and activities.

24. **Are the development of online courses or training manuals considered as part of curricula development/upgrade?**

Answer: Yes.

25. **Can the "creation of an interactive platform that brings together breeders, dryers, traders with video course deposits and documentation on breeding, meat drying technology and marketing" be considered as an example of institution linking to train actors and develop capacity?**

Answer: Yes.

26. **Will a training in project proposal writing or research project management for young researchers or students be considered useful activities in training?**

Answer: Yes.

Additional questions #2

27. **What are targeted local community members in the LCD program? Can we have any person to participate in this LCD or only members that participate in the LSIL project?**

Answer: We do not have specific guidance on who should participate in the LCD project. This depends on your LCD project design, goals and projected activities. The LCD priority area(s) you choose to target should inform or help you determine who you should involve in your project activities (i.e., the participants). These may not necessarily be the same participants of the current LSIL Reach and Focus projects. For example, if a LSIL Focus project is targeting smallholder dairy farmers with training, your LCD intervention to enhance the training program may not necessarily target the farmers. You may choose to work with a local extension office and target a select group of extension agents to implement a training-of-trainers (TOT) approach. The trained TOTs then could be involved in delivering trainings for farmers proposed in the LSIL Focus project.

28. Can any institutions or organization participate in the project to be funded the grant (private organization or government)

Answer: We interpret this question to mean: whether any institution or organization can participate in the LCD project (including private or public organizations). Please check answers provided to questions 2 and 4 above. Additionally, ensure that the Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) is required for the lead parent of the project and all subrecipients involved.
For teams pursuing the consortia arrangement, the guidelines for selecting local partners to participate in LCD activities should be guided by the following: Are they actors of the Livestock Research System? Are they critically important stakeholders in the LCD priority area(s) identified? Is this partnership mutually beneficial? Will strengthening the capacity of partners advance my project goals? The lead partner must have a Unique Identity ID by the time of award. For more information, please consult the Eligibility & Definition of an African or Asian Institution Section on page 11 and the Lead Organization and Collaborator Roles; Contribution from Mentors Section on page 12 of the LCD RFA document.

29. Is there any restriction or rule about PI of project regarding the background of Education (BSC, MSC, PHD)?

Answer: No. Because of the nature of the LCD activities, our only recommendation is to ensure the project PI has experience and qualifications in the capacity development area that can be utilized to make the project successful.

30. How will the contractual agreement be made if there are many collaborators with the donor?

Answer: We interpret this question to mean: how will the agreements be set up if there are multiple collaborators? University of Florida will sign one subaward agreement with the primary institution on the award. The Prime institution (i.e., PI's institution) will then be able to sign separate subrecipient agreements with Co-PIs' institutions and collaborators to transfer funds or project resources. The prime institution will be responsible to submit progress reports and maintain communication with the LCD CCT team and the Livestock Lab.

31. Can we participate without having or having Unique Entity ID registration at LCD project proposal writing?

Answer: While it is not necessary to have a Unique Entity Identifier (UAI) at the proposal stage, we strongly encourage applicants to apply for a UEI as soon as they are notified that their proposal is selected for funding. Please note that every collaborator intended to be a subrecipient will also need to have a UEI in order to receive any funding.