

FEED THE FUTURE INNOVATION LAB FOR LIVESTOCK SYSTEMS

**Responses to Questions Submitted About the  
Request for Applications (RFA)  
for Research and Capacity Building in Burkina Faso,  
Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda**

RFA No. AID-OAA-L-15-00003-LSIL-05

June 17, 2021

The Management Entity at the University of Florida

**Responses to questions submitted about the Request for Applications (RFA)  
for Research and Capacity Building in Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda  
that were submitted by interested applicants by the Tuesday, June 15, 2021 deadline**

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*Note: Questions are posted verbatim as phrased by the enquirer. Details not pertinent to the RFA in the questions were deleted. Similar questions from different individuals were grouped together and a single answer has been provided.*

**A. Questions related to process and general RFA aspects**

**A1. Is there any page limit for Concept Notes focusing on Reach and Focus projects?**

Yes, the limit is five (5) pages, excluding the title page, references, and qualifications. Please refer to page 32 of the RFA document for the guidelines for the concept notes.

**A2. What is the total number of pages allowed for biosketches? The solicitation says 2 pages per co-PI or collaborator, but it's unclear whether a total of 4 or 6 pages are allowed.**

For concept notes, the total number of pages for bio sketches is four. Please refer to page 33 of the RFA document for the guidelines for the concept notes.

For full proposals, applicants should provide biographical sketches for all key personnel, including Co-PIs (Maximum of 2 pages each but no total page limit). Please refer to page 35 of the RFA document for guidelines for the full proposal.

**A3. We would like to know if a preliminary Budget and letters of support for all proposed collaborating organizations must be submitted at the stage of Concept Note submission?**

**A4. Can letters of support be included with concept notes?**

Letters of support should not be included at the concept note stage.

At the concept note stage, we only require an indicative figure for the total budget that should be stated on the title page. No further budget details should be submitted.

**A5. Referring to page 15 of the RFA document, is creating a professional development plan for a graduate degree training program a requirement for our concept? proposal?**

Concept notes should show how all cross-cutting themes will be integrated into the research. At the full proposal stage, more detailed information is required, including the professional development plan for graduate degree training.

**A6. We can write the project in English or in French depending on your advice.**

All submissions, both concept notes and full proposals, should be in English. See page 32 of the RFA document.

**A7. How many participants do we need to have?**

The number of participants on a proposal is at the discretion of the principal investigator.

**A8. Is there any way to get an exact progress report of the 1st phase of this project so that in the 2nd phase it will be easy to link as well as scaling up the different areas of intervention?**

Reports on completed Phase 1 projects are available on the Livestock Systems Innovation Lab [website](#). Scaling plans for this RFA should pertain to innovations arising from the proposed Phase 2 research, not those of phase 1 projects, unless the research involves scaling an innovation developed in Phase 1.

**A9. Quels sont les critères d'éligibilité pour quelqu'un qui veut soumettre un projet à votre appel " Appel à propositions pour la recherche et le renforcement des capacités au Burkina Faso, en Ethiopie, au Népal, au Niger, et au Rwanda RFA No. AID-OAA-L-15-00003-LSIL-05**

Les critères d'éligibilité sont décrits à la page 19 de la version française du document sur l'appel à propositions.

The eligibility criteria are described on page 19 of the French version of the RFA document.

## **B. Questions related to geographical focus**

**B1. To continue the work from Phase 1, I wish to examine economic and health risk-benefit tradeoffs of aflatoxin M1 (AFM1) regulations in milk and other dairy products. Our concerns, based on our results from Phase I, is that if AFM1 regulations are TOO strict, this could harm dairy producers in LSIL's countries of interest, many of which rely on dairy sales for economic livelihood. Setting AFM1 regulations that are too strict would not benefit health much at all, but could jeopardize dairy producers' incomes.**

**My question: since this is a project that would apply for ALL nations and not just one nation, would you allow proposals that are more general like this? Or would you still like for me to identify just one target country among the five listed?**

Proposals for this RFA should target one of the five target countries listed even if the subject applies to other target countries.

**B2. Can you please clarify if it is possible to submit a multi-country proposal?**

**B3. What do you think of the proposals made by two eligible countries (Niger and Burkina Faso)?**

**B4. On page 12: ... Consider assessing approaches to overcoming barriers that provide evidence from multiple countries and have strong potential to scale...**

**Does the requirement for “multiple countries” need to be met by including other LSIL target countries (i.e., Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, and Rwanda)? Or are regional approaches featuring 1 target country appropriate?**

Proposals for this RFA should target no more than one of the five target countries listed. Please see page 8 of the RFA document for more information.

**B5. Table 1 on page 9 lists Awi zone as zone-of-influence in Amhara Region. Please could you clarify whether this is the same zone that is also referred to as Agew Awi, in Western Amhara region?**

That is correct. Yes, 'Awi Zone' is the same as 'Agew Awi zone'.

**B6. How does LSIL see zone-of-influence targeting in the case of systemic supply chain issues, such as product quality? Supply chains tend to cross geographic boundaries (such as zone borders) and issues that affect marketing of products from suppliers from a LSIL zone-of-influence may need to be addressed starting from an end-market in another zone; likewise, retailers in a zone-of-influence may source livestock products from a zone that is not a zone-of-influence.**

As indicated on page 8 in the RFA document, we understand that some research topics require a wider geographical scope than the Feed the Future Zones of Influence in a target country. Nevertheless, the research undertaken should have development impacts in the Zones of Influence.

**B7. Are projects using a local chicken (konde chicken) from an area not covered by the study but with better zotechnical performance than other local chicken breeds eligible? / Les projets utilisant une poule locale (poulet kondé) provenant d'une zone non concernée par l'étude mais ayant des performances zootechniques meilleures que les autres races locales de poulets sont-ils éligibles ?**

Research proposals on local poultry breeds will be considered as long as they meet the target country priorities listed in the RFA document and will lead to development impacts in the Feed the Future Zones of Influence.

**B8. Does our project have to have an activity/presence/impact in all 6 of the targeted districts in the Far Western Province of Nepal?**

No, we do not require projects to operate in all Zones of Influence in a target country. Rather, project activities should not take place outside the listed Zones of Influence. Please see page 8 of the RFA document for more information.

**B9. We are also focusing in one regional state which is Tigray region for the ease of implementation and to have higher impact?**

Project activities should not take place outside the listed Zones of Influence. For Ethiopia, please see the table on page 9 of the RFA document for the applicable Zones of Influence and review the separate list of target woredas that can be considered for project implementation. The list can be accessed here:

[https://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/media/livestocklabifasufledu/pdf-/Overview\\_FTF\\_Target\\_Woredas\\_and\\_Administrative\\_Zones\\_Ethiopia\\_2021\\_06\\_01.pdf](https://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/media/livestocklabifasufledu/pdf-/Overview_FTF_Target_Woredas_and_Administrative_Zones_Ethiopia_2021_06_01.pdf)

### **C. Questions related to number, types and content of the applications**

- C1. Can an NGO be a partner in several projects?**
- C2. Can a lead or collaborator submit more than 1 concept note?**
- C3. Can a team from an American University be a partner in several projects?**
- C4. Is it eligible for an organization/institution to submit multiple proposals as a lead?**
- C5. Is it possible to apply for the REACH and FOCUS Project from one team at a time?**

Organizations can submit more than one Reach or Focus project proposal. Proposals must be from institutions, not individuals. Individuals can be involved in more than one proposal. However, applicants are urged to consider time constraints in preparation of applications and to focus on quality instead of quantity. See page 17 of the RFA document for more information.

### **D. Questions related to consortia, partnerships and collaborating institutions**

**D1. If the primary investigator is a local entity and does not have DUNS, but the secondary investigator does have DUNS and SAM, is that sufficient? In other words, within a consortium, will the lead firm have to have a DUNS or would it be sufficient that one of the partners has it?**

**D2. We would like to know if a partner from the target country (Co-PI) must also have a DUNS number?**

The member organization that will enter into a Subaward Agreement with UF must have a DUNS number and SAM.GOV registration. Please see page 17 of the RFA document for further information.

**D3. It is possible to open our group from Burkina Faso to a foreign African partner which not belongs to eligible countries? To be more clear, I have a colleague from Benin who would like to join our consortium but the Republic of Benin is not on the list of eligible country. Could you please tell us more about the possible collaboration between African partners?**

The consortium should be composed of researchers from organizations in the target country and a western country. Additional researchers from other countries can be considered, if needed. Please see pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document for further guidance.

**D4. Consortium – does the local country partner PI or co-PI have to be a research partner or can development partners like NGOs also qualify to be PI or CO-PI?**

**D5. The INRAN / Purdue University / SMIL team met with Mercy Corp today by zoom. Mercy Corp will act as the lead organization. Can the PI for this Phase II RFA be a Mercy Corp staff member?**

Yes, NGOs can be the prime institution but please realize that this RFA is for research for development projects, not development projects. Please see pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document for further information.

**D6. Are collaborators shown on the concept note final?**

Please refer to page 32 of the RFA document that provides guidelines on the concept note. The title page should include information on the PI, Co-PI(s), and collaborator(s) names, titles, departments, organization, addresses, email addresses, and phone number.

The project team composition can be modified within reason with appropriate justification.

**D7. Would it be mandatory to form a partnership with Western for a proposal?**

Yes, please see page 17 of the RFA document for more information on consortia.

**D8. The Western partner must be American or European?**

**D9. Can I collaborate with the UK based research institution and make a consortium as Nepal University, Nepal government scaling partner and UK research institution without involving a US University/institution while applying for a focus grant? In such a case, as I understand, PI can be from the UK and co-PI from Nepal, or PI from Nepal and co-PI from UK, right?**

Please see page 18 of the RFA document: Examples of foreign country partners include U.S. or European universities, regional research organizations, international agricultural research centers (e.g., Centers of the Consultative Group for International Agricultural Research, CGIAR), other Feed the Future Innovation Labs, or a Western private sector actor or international non-governmental organizations.

**D10. Can we involve RISE projects (REGIS-AG, TANAGER, REGIS-R, VIM plus) as partners?**

Partnerships with Feed the Future initiatives or other U.S. government investments are recommended for both Focus and Reach projects. See page 18 of the RFA document under "Requirements".

**D11. Can international organizations (Mercy Corp) with an office or representation in the target countries be considered as partners through their representation or office? / Les organisations internationales (Mercy Corp) ayant un bureau ou une représentation dans les pays cibles peuvent-elles être considérées comme partenaires à travers leur représentation ou bureau ?**

Yes, an international organization like Mercy Corps can be considered as a project partner. However, please note that the project team needs to have at least one target country partner. An international organization such as Mercy Corps with an office or branch in the target country is considered an international partner. See page 18 of the RFA document for more information.

**D12. What does a partner institution have to do in order to show that it is a research institution? For example, is submitting examples of research work sufficient?**

There are no requirements in that regard; non-research focused organizations can be the prime applicant as long as they partner with a research organization. Research institutions are typically national (agricultural) research institutes

and universities. However, other organizations may be considered depending on the relevance of the research conducted and their peer-reviewed journal publication record.

Full proposals should clearly describe the respective roles, responsibilities and activities of the consortium members in the Management Plan section. Applicants should also complete Appendix 7, indicating current and pending support.

**D13. Does a national government partner need to be a research partner?**

Target country government representatives can be research or scaling partners. See pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document for more information.

**D14. Could you find us partners in the field of meat processing? of ruminant reproduction?**

Unfortunately, we cannot recommend specific partners to anyone. Please refer to the LSIL target country webpages for a list of potential project partners:

Burkina Faso: <https://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/countries/burkinafaso/>

Ethiopia: <https://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/countries/ethiopia/>

Nepal: <https://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/countries/nepal/>

Niger: <https://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/countries/niger/>

Rwanda: <https://livestocklab.ifas.ufl.edu/countries/rwanda/>

**D15. As an undergraduate in the last year, I have always been seeking the way to implement the integrated ideas I have accumulated so far from the critical analysis of the constraints and causes thereby deriving ways to sought them. With the joint collaboration of our Agriculture and forestry university Nepal, are we invincible team members from undergraduates eligible towards proceeding for the proposal or not ?**

Proposals must be from institutions, not individuals. The LSIL management entity encourages the involvement of students in the research projects. Thesis research can be integrated into project proposals and should be part of a larger project led by a Principal Investigator from the lead institution or organization. Please see pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document for more information about project team composition.

**D16. Would We-Empower Inc. be considered a research organization?**

**D17. Do research firms based in a target country constitute “a research agency or university in the target country” (pg. 17) for the purposes of leading a project?**

It depends on the relevance of the research conducted by the organization and its peer-reviewed journal publication record. Please refer to pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document for more information about the project team composition.

**D18. I would like to know if it is possible in the same target country to have partnership with private sector and the government for a better transposition of the results on a large scale?**

Yes, a project can have more than one scaling partner, and they can be from the private sector and/or government. Please refer to pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document for more information about the project team composition.

## **E. Questions related to Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-PI related questions**

### **E1. Can a researcher be PI of multiple projects?**

### **E2. Can the same person be PI in more than one project?**

This is allowed but not recommended given the workload involved in being a PI. See page 17 of the RFA document for more information.

### **E3. Do you have to be specialized in animal sciences to be PI?**

No, that is not required. The area of specialization of the PI must match the skillset required for the proposed research.

### **E4. What is the minimum qualification requirement to be PI (MSc or PhD holder)?**

There are no minimum requirements to be a PI, however, because these are research for development projects, we expect the PI to have the appropriate experience and skillset to lead the research activities as well as to comply with all the technical and financial reporting requirements.

### **E5. We are applying from different countries (Ethiopia, Switzerland, and USA). The PI is from Ethiopia and collaborators from Switzerland and USA. Could the PI be from the US or Switzerland in addition to from Ethiopia?**

A project should have only one PI and at least one Co-PI. Please see page 17 of the RFA document: If the Principal Investigator (PI) is from a Western country, at least one research partner in the applying consortium must be from the target country and must be a Co-PI (i.e., not just a collaborator). If the PI is from a target country, at least one partner from a Western country must be a Co-PI (i.e., not just a collaborator).

### **E6. Is it acceptable to include an organization as a Co-PI rather than a certain individual from that organization? It could be that the designated person might be transferred to another institute during the project period thus hampering the project execution.**

No, this is not acceptable, the Co-PI should be listed in the concept note and full proposal and his or her qualifications and experience should be described. If the co-PI is transferred during the project implementation period, s/he could continue to participate in the project under certain circumstances. Alternatively, s/he could be replaced by someone from the institution s/he is leaving. See also page 18 of the RFA document.

### **E7. Can a staff member of a CG center act as co-PI?**

Yes, this is allowed. Please see pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document: If the Principal Investigator (PI) is from a Western country, at least one research partner in the applying consortium must be from the target country and must



be a Co-PI (i.e., not just a collaborator). If the PI is from a target country, at least one partner from a Western country must be a Co-PI (i.e., not just a collaborator).

**E8. Does one of the co-PIs have to be a host country national or can they be from a neighboring country and based in the host country?**

Nationality of the individual team members is not relevant. A key requirement of all proposals is collaboration between a research agency or university in the target country and a research organization or university in the US or a Western country and a private sector or government scaling partner. Please see pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document for more details.

**E9. I would like to know if the Principal investigator (PI) and the Co-PI can belong to the same research organization or must be different institutions/ structures?**

If the Principal Investigator (PI) is from a Western country, at least one research partner in the applying consortium must be from the target country and must be a Co-PI (i.e., not just a collaborator). If the PI is from a target country, at least one partner from a Western country must be a Co-PI (i.e., not just a collaborator).

A Co-PI is a person who contributes to the research design and implementation as well as data analysis and publishing of research results.

Collaborators are persons who are involved in certain aspects of the project implementation but do not contribute significantly to the research design and implementation.

If there are multiple Co-PIs in a project team, it is allowable that one or more will be from the same organization as the PI. Please see page 17 of the RFA document for more information.

**E10. I would like to check if Nazi Boni University (the former polytechnique university of Bobo-Dioulasso) based in Burkina Faso can submit a concept note.**

We encourage, but do not require, target country organizations to be the lead organization in an applying consortium. If the Principal Investigator (PI) is from a target country, at least one partner from a Western country must be a Co-PI (i.e., not just a collaborator). Note that the lead organization in an applying consortium must have a DUNS number and SAM.GOV registration in order to enter into a Subaward Agreement with UF. Please see pages 17 and 18 of the RFA document for more details.

**E11. Are LSIL staff eligible to be part of research projects that want to build on previous LSIL projects (e.g. McKune et al. 2020)?**

University of Florida, including LSIL faculty are eligible to be part of one or multiple research projects. Systems are in place to avoid conflict of interest and to ensure a transparent review and selection process.

**F. Questions related to research approaches and topics**

**F1. Page 25 states dairy cattle and poultry as priority species for Ethiopia. Yet, the second sentence of the second bullets focuses on beef and small ruminant fattening. How should this be understood? (Rather, the**

**research should focus on technology adoption, namely, understanding barriers to adoption and developing interventions that will overcome them and increase their use in small scale beef and small ruminant fattening.)**

Dairy cattle and poultry are the priority species for Ethiopia, however, for research on forage adoption and reducing the price of ASF, small scale beef cattle and small ruminant fattening research can be considered.

**F2. There is an important question that your analysis does not take into account and which remains major in the countries of the Sahel of Africa: Niger and Burkina Faso, it is the question of terrorism. This scourge chased the inhabitants and the herders and their "" animals, often the herds were confiscated. The vast Sahelian zones which gathered large herds have been emptied. The populations are displaced towards the south in Kaya in the center of our and around Tillabéri in Niger. Ultimately, it is feared that we will suffer from a meat crisis if nothing is done.**

**Will you take into account the proposals relating to the resilience of the population in terms of breeding to settle in the peri-urban area?**

**I suggest you a project to improve goat production by crossing with the Boer breed for displaced people.**

As explained on page 15 of the RFA document, all project proposals need to describe how the proposed research and activities will contribute to strengthening resilience. For Burkina Faso, Niger, and Ethiopia, the security situation is a challenge. Project proposals that seek to improve the resilience of smallholders, communities and regions will be considered.

At the full proposal stage, applicants should explain how they will minimize security risks to ensure the safety of project teams and participants.

**F3. We are contacting you with regards to RFA if we are eligible to apply. Our research project is related to Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) which is the main devastating diseases of cattle in Ethiopia. Our objectives are identifying the major FMD virus serotypes circulating in the cattle population; compare them with the vaccine serotypes, and evaluating the vaccination coverage and immunity level for different subgroups of dairy cattle population. This will be used to recommend future vaccination strategy. Capacity building for laboratories and farmers will be integrated. I am wondering if you could support such projects. Does it requires to add economic analysis to the epidemiological studies?**

All types of integrated research and capacity building approaches will be considered as long as they fit within the three Areas of Inquiry indicated on pages 9-13 and meet the Ethiopia-specific priorities indicated on pages 25-27 of the RFA document. Projects focusing on basic subjects will be considered as long as they are applied to development outcomes.

Note that all laboratory and animal holding facilities research involving infectious pathogens must subject to the following criteria:

- The laboratory's facility certification must be current at the appropriate biosafety level prior to beginning, and during ALL research activities.
- The biosafety level (BSL) facility's certification at the appropriate level must be documented, and the documentation must be submitted to the LSIL management entity for further transmission to the Bureau Environmental Officer (BEO) at USAID for approval prior to initiation of any research activities.

If a BSL certification process is unavailable in the target country, then a deferral is recommended, subject to the following conditions:

- An external audit by a registered BSL certifying agent or host institution biosafety department is issued to verify biosafety equivalence as a substitute certification method for the proposed research facility. The audit report must be submitted to the LSIL management entity for further transmission to USAID.
- Upon receipt of such audit, the substitute certification must be reviewed and approved by the BEO at the Bureau of Resilience and Food Security and USAID.
- Upon receipt of the Bureau of Resilience and Food Security BEO and USAID approval, research activities in the approved facility will be subject to the negative determination with conditions.

**F4. We are interested if one can deviate from the priority livestock species listed on the country outlines.**

No, research activities should focus on the livestock species listed except if the research topic is more general like reducing ASF prices. The priority livestock species were determined in consultation with national authorities and the USAID missions in the five target countries.

**F5. Does LSIL prefer that projects address all priority livestock species in target countries (pg. 23-32)? Or is their flexibility to focus one or two priority livestock species?**

Research activities can focus on one or more of the priority livestock species listed for the target country. The priority livestock species were determined in consultation with national authorities and the USAID missions in the five target countries.

**F6. In Burkina Faso and Niger, the segment of the transformation of animal products and meat is still embryonic due to energy difficulties. The training of human resources is however important for a mastery of transformation technology."**

**What is your opinion for a Master training project in transformation and marketing of animal products?**

All types of integrated research and capacity building approaches will be considered as long as they fit within the three Areas of Inquiry indicated on pages 9-13 and meet the country specific priorities listed in the RFA document. While proposals should include local capacity development, this RFA is for research for development projects. There will be a future RFA for local capacity development.

**F7. African cultural heritage abounds in many approaches to meat processing. The contribution of new technologies such as solar dryers could revolutionize approaches to meat processing. We prepare a doctoral student on the impact of new technologies on traditional meat processing practices, microbiological and organoleptic aspects. What are the chances of such a project?**

All types of integrated research and capacity building approaches will be considered as long as they fit within the three Areas of Inquiry indicated on pages 9-13 and meet the country specific priorities listed in the RFA document. All proposals will be reviewed by a Technical Evaluation Panel of experts, the Management Entity faculty and the Livestock Systems Innovation Lab External Advisory Board.

**F8. Can another research question be included in the full Proposal if it was not stated in the Concept Note that was initially submitted?**

It is possible to rephrase, add or remove the research questions at the full proposal stage as long as the main scope of the proposed research does not change.

**F9. We are seeking clarity regarding the requirement for “integrating one primary and at least one secondary Area of Inquiry” into Reach projects.**

- a. What is meant in this instance by: primary AOI? secondary AOI?
- b. How do primary and secondary AOIs relate to the bulleted points underneath AOIs 1-3?
- c. Should all bulleted points be addressed under the AOI selected as the primary focus of a Reach project

**F10. The RFA notes that Reach projects should integrate “one primary and at least one secondary Area of Inquiry”. Does that mean we need to integrate at least two of the AOIs (1. Livestock Production & Disease Management; 2. Human Health, Food Safety & Diets and Nutrition; 3. Markets & Innovation Translation), or do the research areas within a single AOI serve as primary and secondary (Safe livestock production and food safety; and ASF consumption, dietary diversity and adequacy within AOI 2)?**

Reach projects are the larger multidisciplinary research projects that can address various research aspects of a complex topic. While the main research focus can be on one AOI, it may also include aspects of another AOI. For example, a project on livestock production (AOI#1) can also include marketing aspects (AOI#3).

The bullet points given in the AOI descriptions are topics that LSIL considers important, but research proposals do not need to be limited to what is listed. We also do not expect a research project to address all bullet points listed under an AOI.

**F11. Are we allowed to contact LSIL staff about previous research projects (e.g. McKune et al. 2020) for more information about design, costs, etc.?**

No, since Dr. McKune is part of the LSIL Management Entity, she should not be contacted with questions. Please review her publications instead. See also page 1 of the RFA document.

## **G. Questions related to budgets**

**Budget format – related questions:**

- G1. Is the budget indicated on the concept note a precise value to be matched in the full proposal, or rather an indication suggesting scope?**
- G2. We did not see any outline to provide project budget in the Concept Note other than its mention in the Title Page. Could you please let us know how the budget is to be presented?**
- G3. Are applicants expected to submit a budget summary at the Concept Note stage or only indicate the total budget amount?**
- G4. Is it ok if we submit the total budget requested or do we need to submit budget summary as well?**

At the concept note stage we only require an indicative figure that should be listed on the title page. No further budget details should be submitted.

The budget in the full proposal can diverge from the total indicated on the concept note but must stay under budget ceiling (USD 125,000 for Focus and USD 750,000 for Reach projects).

**Allowable costs-related questions:**

**G5. Are screened enclosures for the test pens funded? / Les enclos grillagés pour les essais sont-ils financés?**

No, this is not an allowable cost. Please see page 38 of the RFA document: No funding should be requested for acquisition, construction, alteration, refurbishment or repairs (including dredging and excavation) of buildings or other vertical structures.

**G6. Is the rearing equipment (waterers, feeders and nesting boxes) for the trials funded? / Le matériel d'élevage (abreuvoirs, mangeoires et pondoirs) pour les essais est-il financé ?**

**G7. Are there subsidies for the purchase of seeds and fertilizers for producers? / Y a-t-il des subventions pour l'achat de semences et d'engrais pour les producteurs ?**

Yes, these are allowable costs if used for the project activities. Please see page 36 of the RFA document.

Note that some of the items listed (seeds, fertilizer) are considered restricted commodities, may require US manufacture and procurement, and prior USAID approval will be required before they can be purchased. Please see page 36 of the RFA document.

**G8. Is the procurement of motor vehicles allowed?**

Yes, this is an allowable cost if this is well justified (at the full proposal stage) as a need for the proposed research activity. Please see page 37 of the RFA document – equipment: provide a detailed budget breakdown for purchases of durable equipment, including type, quantity, unit price and total cost.

Durable equipment is defined as any item valued US \$5,000 or more with an expected life of more than one year. All costs for durable equipment must be determined through a competitive procurement process and the applicant must be ready to provide quotes to UF upon request.

**G9. It has been clearly mentioned that no costs shall be allowed for repairs or refurbishments of buildings or any vertical structures. Is it acceptable to buy laboratory instruments such as HPLC machines, gene sequencers and MALDI-TOFF instruments, along with the budget for their installation, commissioning and training to the laboratory personnel?**

Yes, these are allowable costs if justified as needed for the proposed research activity. Please see page 37 of the RFA document – equipment: provide a detailed budget breakdown for purchases of durable equipment, including type, quantity, unit price and total cost.

Durable equipment is defined as any item valued US \$5,000 or more with an expected life of more than one year. All costs for durable equipment must be determined through a competitive procurement process and the applicant must be ready to provide quotes to UF upon request.

**G10. Can the Project's budget be used to pay the salaries of staff in local Partner Agencies, which staff are engaged in executing some of the Project's activities? If yes, is there a limit to such support and how should that support be reflected in the budget? Also, are there any conditions associated with such support? If so, what are they?**

Yes, these are allowable costs if justified as needed for the proposed research activity. Salary pay for staff in local partner agencies should reflect the local partner agency's pay structure and policies for salary support from foreign grants. Accounting systems and records must be in place to substantiate allocated time or effort devoted to the project that are consistent with salary expenses. Please see pages 36-38 for guidance on the budget.

**G11. What would be eligible expenditures under the (i) Investment costs and (ii) Operational costs items in the Project Budget?**

Institutions with a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) may recover their overhead, general, and operational costs using their indirect cost rate. Institutions without a negotiated rate may claim a 10% de minimis indirect cost rate. No investment and indirect operational cost should be directly included in the project budget otherwise. Please see pages 36-38 for guidance on the budget.

**G12. Due to the pandemic, if any in-country activities are planned to be virtual, would this still constitute as in-country spending as the beneficiaries will still be in-country participants?**

Only those payments made directly to in-country participants, or suppliers, may be considered in-country spending in this case.

## **H. Questions related to appendices**

**H1. What attachments can be added to the concept paper? Are we allowed to add annexes to the concept? How many?**

No attachments/appendices are needed at the concept note stage. Please use the template in Appendix 3 to prepare the biographical sketches and integrate these into the concept note document. Submit one PDF document that includes the concept note and the biographical sketches.

## **I. Questions related to the submission of proposals**

**I1. It is mentioned that the PI need to register in Piestar RFX proposal platform for submitting the application. If a PI has already registered in last RFA (during Phase I of LSIL), can he/she apply using the same registration? Or does he/she need to register again (new registration) to apply?**

Accounts from the Phase I proposal submission site have been migrated to <https://livestock.piestar-rfx.com/opportunities>. Individuals who submitted proposals in the past should still have an active account. The Piestar team can help if applicants experience access or password issues. Please contact them through: <https://livestock.piestar-rfx.com/help>