Africa Lead/CNC Small Grants Program for Non-State Actors

Issuance Date:	13 July 2017
Questions for First Round of Evaluations Due By:	Questions accepted continuously
Final Closing Date:	25 August 2017
Submit Concept Papers via online application:	https://africa-lead.forms.fm

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Background

Africa Lead — Feed the Future's Building Capacity for African Agricultural Transformation Program — supports the advancement of agricultural transformation in Africa as proposed by the African Union Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). Africa Lead also contributes to the Feed the Future (FTF) goals of reduced hunger and poverty by building the capacity of Champions — i.e., men and women leaders in agriculture — and the institutions in which they operate to develop, lead, and manage the policies, structures, and processes needed for transformation.

The CAADP Non-State Actors Coalition (CNC), a key partner of Africa Lead, is a platform for African NSA engaged in agriculture to coordinate their support to the CAADP agenda. NSAs included in the CNC include food producers, pastoralists and farmer organizations, private sector, women, smallholders, youth, media, and academic organizations. CAADP is a pan-African policy framework to transform agriculture, reduce poverty and improve food security across the continent. Though continental in scope, CAADP aims to align diverse stakeholder interests around local programs that promote agricultural development and improve food security.

Since 2010, CNC has been operating as a loose network of NSAs with the aim of enhancing citizen engagement in CAADP implementation through evidence-based policy advocacy and capacity development. It was launched at the CAADP Partnership Platform in March 2015 by Her Excellency Rhoda Peace Tumusiime, Commissioner for Department of Rural Economy and Agriculture of the African Union. The CNC is currently housed for an interim period within the Headquarters of the Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD) in Nairobi, Kenya.

The inclusion of NSAs in CAADP implementation ensures that the policy process is accountable and responsive to and effective for citizens, and that the concerns of small holder farmers, entrepreneurs,

and local agribusinesses are reflected in the national agenda. A key mechanism to achieve CAADP goals at a national level is to develop a country-specific agriculture investment plan that is linked to or representative of the CAADP process under Malabo. As such, many CAADP countries are currently revising their national agriculture investment plans to be consistent with Malabo Declaration commitments and targets. NSA must play an active and constructive role in this revision process in order to ensure investments prioritize food security outcomes. NSAs also routinely participate in individual country's Joint Sector Reviews (JSR), which review a country's achievements towards CAADP goals. In addition, each CAADP country will participate in a Biennial Review in which each country will present its progress towards achieving CAADP/Malabo goals at a large gathering of Heads of State at the African Union.

The next six to nine months offer a window of opportunity to strengthen NSA participation in the revision of national agriculture investment plans and national-level Biennial Reviews. The first Biennial Review will be presented to Heads of State at the AU Summit in January 2018. Effective NSA engagement is uneven across the continent because the capability and level of awareness of local actors varies from country to country. Through the partnership between CNC and Africa Lead, the Small Grants Program aims to enhance NSA capacity in the four target countries to contribute to CAADP goals.

Overall Program Objectives

The objective of the Africa Lead/CNC Small Grants Program is to strengthen the network of NSAs aligned to CAADP to improve citizen engagement in the key food security investment priorities of the target countries. The anticipated outcome of the Program is to improve design and implementation of NSA programs which support the CAADP agenda and contribute to the NAIP in the target countries; increase the utilization or dissemination of data on CAADP progress; and generate useful data to monitor CAADP progress.

Specifically, the program aims to enhance NSA capacity to:

- Utilize data generated through CAADP monitoring activities (in particularly, through the Biennial Review process) for advocacy and strategic communication to improve citizen engagement in food security issues
- Gather and collect additional, qualitative information to contextualize and localize progress on Malabo Commitments/CAADP
- Gather and collect useful data to improve and strengthen CAADP/Malabo progress monitoring, including feedback on data availability and quality
- Design and implement programs aligned with and in support of the CAADP agenda (as prioritized in Kenya's revised NAIP)
- Promote collaboration to translate data generated by the Biennial Review process into policy recommendations for broad dissemination to the public

- Connect and create networks among NSAs in ways that encourages accountability to citizens for positive impacts on target populations, particularly smallholder farmers, according to Kenya's revised NAIP

In addition, proposals which utilize creative, participatory approaches are highly desirable.

Overview

Africa Lead and the CNC invite concept papers to explore innovative approaches and thinking to help local NSA participate in and contribute to the CAADP agenda in the target countries. To accomplish this, proposals shall focus on:

- Aligning NSA program design and development to the CAADP agenda to support relevant NAIP priorities
- Making use of agricultural performance data relevant to specific CAADP themes for advocacy and strategic communication purposes
- Generating relevant data to support the ongoing monitoring of CAADP progress

The Program seeks to broaden the network of organizations aligned with CAADP to improve citizen engagement, mobilization, and advocacy strategies in one of the following themes (which are consistent with CAADP):

- Commitment to the CAADP process
- Investment Finance in Agriculture
- Ending Hunger
- Eradicating Poverty through Agriculture
- Intra-African Trade in Agriculture Commodities and Services
- Resilience to Climate Variability
- Mutual Accountability for Actions and Results

The proposed project must be within the framework of the CAADP themes and topics (detailed below) and it must address the program objectives and outcomes described in the "Overall Program Objectives" section above.

COMMITMENT TO THE CAADP PROCESS

Country CAADP Process
CAADP based cooperation, partnership, and alliance
CAADP based policy and institutional review/support

INVESTMENT FINANCE IN AGRICULTURE

Public expenditures to agriculture
Domestic private sector investment in agriculture
Foreign private sector investment in agriculture
African Agriculture Investment Bank

ENDING HUNGER

Access to agriculture inputs and technologies
Agricultural productivity
Post-harvest loss
Social protection
Food security and nutrition

ERADICATING POVERTY THROUGH AGRICULTURE

Agricultural GDP for poverty reduction
Inclusive PPPs for commodity value chain development
Youth jobs in agriculture

INTRA-AFRICAN TRADE IN AGRICULTURE COMMODITIES AND SERVICES

Intra-Africa trade in agriculture commodities and services
Intra-Africa trade policies and institutional conditions

RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY

Resilience to climate-related risks
Investment in resilience building

MUTUAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR ACTIONS AND RESULTS

Country capacity for evidence-based planning, implementation, and M&E
Peer review and mutual accountability
Biennial Agriculture Review process

Award Information

Africa Lead/CNC may choose to fully fund or incrementally fund the chosen application(s). Africa Lead/CNC expects to award about 10-15 grants not exceeding $15,000 USD. The number of awards and amount of available funding is subject to change and Africa Lead/CNC reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this application.

Africa Lead/CNC anticipates an implementation period of up to 6 months, with up to an additional three

months for closeout and final reporting. The implementation phase of all grants must conclude by 31 May 2018.

Eligibility Information

Types of Organizations/Entities that May Apply

This application is issued as a public notice to ensure that all interested and qualified organizations have a fair opportunity to submit applications for funding. Organizations must be located within Kenya. Eligible organizations include non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, farmer's organizations, research institutions, think tanks, public/private universities, private organizations (which choose to forgo profit), registered foundations and civil society associations, and consortia of the above. Africa Lead/CNC encourages an approach that establishes partnerships with several partner organizations and builds them into legacy institutions capable of sustaining development projects in the future.

Some organizations are legally restricted from receiving US Government funded assistance. In addition, applicants should:

- Be legally recognized and registered, including current registration with the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS). Registration documents, statutes, and DUNS number must be submitted
- Not be affiliated with a political party nor engaged in any political activities
- Not be focused solely on religious activities

Potential New Partners and Team Composition

Africa Lead/CNC strongly encourages applications from potential new CNC partners as well as formally registered CNC members. Women participation on project teams is highly favorable. Applicants with presence in the Feed the Future Zones of Influence (ZOI) are also highly favorable.

Cost Share

Cost share is not required; applicants are encouraged to contribute at least 25% of total budget with resources from their own private or local sources for the implementation of this program where feasible.

Application and Submission Information

Africa Lead and CNC will review proposals using a two-stage process. Applicants must first submit a concept paper of no more than 800 words using the online application form. All the concept papers received within the deadline will be reviewed by a technical panel of members from the Africa Lead and CNC team. Only short-listed applicants will be requested to submit a full proposal. Guidelines for writing the full proposal will be sent to the short-listed applicants. The grants will be awarded to the applicants who would satisfactorily write the full proposals following the Request for Applications (RFA) and in line with the concept papers submitted by the applicant. The concept paper must be submitted in accordance with the instructions in the section below.

Concept Paper

In the first stage, all applicants are required to submit a short technical concept paper <u>no more than 800 words</u> that is specific, complete, and concise. The concept paper should demonstrate the applicant's capabilities and expertise with respect to achieving the goals of this program. Concept papers will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to the requirements of the application, appropriateness of subject matter, and creativity. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed work will contribute to growing the network of NSA aligned to CAADP to improve citizen engagement in key food security investment priorities in the target countries.

Prepare the application according to the structural format set forth below:

Technical approach [no more than 800 words]: This section should address the selected program objectives and should include:

- Concise title and objectives of proposed activity
- Discussion of the objectives, the methodology, the amount of effort to be employed, the anticipated results, and how the work will help accomplish Africa Lead/CNC's goal of improving citizen engagement in national food security investment priorities
- Type of support the applicant requests from the Africa Lead and CNC team (e.g., funds, facilities, equipment, materials, personnel resources, etc.)

Clear description of final outputs/deliverables: Project deliverables can be combination of the following example outputs/deliverables:

- Work Plan (mandatory)
- Final Report (mandatory)
- Advocacy manuals and other communication tools for NSAs
- Data collection and analysis which support the progress monitoring for CAADP/Malabo, such as the AUC scorecard, reference material, and/or policy briefs
- Videos, presentations, and other forms of media for strategic communication on relevant CAADP/Malabo thematic areas

Supporting information:

- Proposed total estimated cost and brief cost breakdown (e.g., salaries, travel, etc.)
- Proposed optional amount of the applicant's financial as well as in-kind participation, if applicable
- Proposed amount of prospective or existing partner(s') financial as well as in-kind participation
- Proposed duration of the activity
- Brief description of the organization's, as well as prospective or existing partner(s'), previous work or experience. This should highlight institutional capacity to manage (technically, administratively and financially) a project relevant to NSA engagement in CAADP [no more than 400 words]

Africa Lead and CNC will contact selected applicants to request a full proposal based on the evaluation of the concept paper.

Submission Instructions

All materials must be in English. The concept papers must be submitted through this online application form and will be accepted on a rolling basis until all of the funding has been allocated. Incomplete applications, applications that do not follow the formatting requirements, or those submitted after the deadline listed on this application, shall not be considered.

Application Review Information

Concept papers will be reviewed in terms of responsiveness to this application, appropriateness of subject matter, and creativity. Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate how their proposed work will contribute to developing solutions for addressing food security priorities, especially within the context of the CAADP/Malabo agenda and revised NAIP in Kenya. The following evaluation criteria will be used to evaluate the applications.

Innovative ideas -- Maximum score of 20 points

- Applications will be reviewed for new and creative solutions for strengthening the network of NSA that are engaged in CAADP in order to improve local systems for designing, implementing, and monitoring programs which address relevant food security priorities.
- Applications which utilize creative, participatory approaches are highly desirable.

Technical approach -- Maximum score of 40 points

- Demonstrated understanding of the subject content as indicated in the Background and Overview sections; applicant must also demonstrate how the proposed activities will address the emphasized outcomes using indicators.

- Degree to which the program approach and proposed strategies reflect consultation and engagement with local "data providers," such as think tanks, research institutes, and policy analysis groups, to address issues relevant to local research agendas in food security.
- Degree to which the program approach and proposed strategies identify specific audiences and consumers of information, data, and communication products which are relevant to local issues, while being creative, innovative, collaborative, and feasible.
- Collaboration, inclusion, and strengthening of local partners. Applications that include local implementing partners and female team members will be considered favorably.

Qualifications of the organization and project team -- Maximum score of 20 points

- Project management and institutional capacity in implementing USAID or other international donor programs.
- Institutional capacity to manage (technically, administratively and financially) a project relevant to NSA engagement in CAADP, especially in addressing sensitive social norms in a culturally appropriate fashion.
- Long-term experience by key staff in capabilities, where appropriate.
- Successful institutional presence in Kenya.

Clear description and creativity in the deliverables -- Maximum score of 20 points

- Evaluations will consider the clarity of deliverable descriptions within the Concept Paper as well as the level of deliverable creativity.

Full proposals will be requested for the selected concept papers after the first round of evaluations.

Award and Administration Information

Following selection of an awardee, Africa Lead will inform the successful applicant concerning the award. A notice of award signed by Africa Lead's Chief of Party is the official authorization document, which will be provided either electronically or in hard copy to the successful applicant's main point of contact. Africa Lead/CNC also will notify unsuccessful applicants concerning their status after selection has been made.

Program implementation reporting will be determined based on finalized work plan for the grant program. A performance monitoring and evaluation plan, using established baseline data and specific, measurable targets and indicators will also be agreed upon. Financial reporting will be in accordance with the requirements of the obligating document.

Small Grants Program Contacts
The points of contact for this application and any questions during the application process can be reached through the online application form and the following email

address: AfricaLeadGrants@dai.com

Any prospective applicant desiring an explanation or interpretation of this application must request it via the online form to allow a reply to reach all prospective applicants. Oral explanations or instructions given before award of a grant will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective applicant concerning this application will be furnished promptly to all other prospective applicants as an amendment of this application, if that information is necessary or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective applicants.

Other Information

Issuance of this solicitation for concept papers does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of Africa Lead, nor does it commit Africa Lead to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of an application.

Africa Lead/CNC reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. Further, Africa Lead/CNC reserves the right to make no awards as a result of this application process.

[1] In this application, the country-specific agriculture investment plans that currently under revision to more closely link to the CAADP process under Malabo are generally referred to as National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIP). While each plan is referred to differently in each country, NAIP is used as a broad term in this document for easy of discussion. Africa Lead recognizes that this terminology may not be used in the country-level context.