

NEW HOST COUNTRY RESEARCH LOCATION CONSIDERATIONS*
AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES CRSP
RFP WEBSITE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Site Selection

Use the following criteria for selection of new primary sites from which to base your project:

- the crop, livestock, fishery, or other resources to be investigated are major sources of food and income, or the other factor(s) to be researched relate importantly to agricultural or fishery production in the primary country;
- the primary country site is representative of the ecological zone, or geographic region of the commodity, fisheries, or other resources; the primary country site could serve as the activating nucleus of a scientific network for technology transfer and exchange, depending on the commodity or condition to be investigated; the zone or region may include a number of countries less advantageously equipped to support viable research programs;
- the country government is interested in participating in the CRSP and is willing to make adequate commitments to support the research and assist the neighboring network countries;
- there exists in the country the basic institutional research capacity needed to make collaborative research viable; this capacity would be found in the ministry, or other government agency responsible for research, and in the national research stations and research system for agriculture, fisheries, or other resources which the agency or ministry supervises; the institutional research capacity might also exist at an agricultural university where it has responsibility for research in areas related to the CRSP activities;
- government policies are supportive of research, extension, and production; and
- there is reasonable assurance of political and economic stability and ability to sustain a viable research program.

Criteria

The following specific criteria are appropriate for selection of new site(s) in each major geographic region where principal multidisciplinary experiments and/or studies are to be undertaken. Briefly describe the location in terms of the 16 points below (2-page maximum).

1. Existing physical infrastructure – including ponds (or land with suitable soils for ponds), laboratory facilities, communications, housing, transportation, roads, and access.
2. Institutional collaboration – the existence of a Host Country university or agency willing to serve as Host Country collaborator and to provide the necessary personnel (Host Country PI). In addition, the specific site operators must be willing to collaborate and have a mechanism for collaboration.
3. USAID Mission support – the USAID Mission or local office goals and objectives must be compatible with Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP operations and objectives.
4. Country political stability.

5. Safety, health considerations – adequate working conditions for the HC and US participants are a consideration.
6. Species available for research – Each potential research species should be permitted for use.
7. Economic considerations – operational costs, travel, and other costs should be considered.
8. Rural aquacultural development – evaluate presence of rural fish farms and Host Country extension apparatus and operations.
9. Language – official and rural languages.
10. National strategies for aquacultural development – Host Country policies and strategies may affect research conduct and extension of results.
11. USAID eligibility status – Host Country should have USAID program eligibility without a planned termination in the near future.
12. Possibilities for leveraging funds and attracting buy-ins.
13. Environmental/ecological significance – site represents an important environment and is useful within the CRSP global perspective.
14. Shipping/customs/clearance obstacles – evaluate potential constraints for shipping project supplies, or soil samples.
15. Potential for establishing a stable, long-term presence – prefer situations where the CRSP can enter as a significant part of a site operation rather than a peripheral position with low priority to site operators.
16. Potential for improving food security and the environment in targeted areas.

Characterization of the New Research Site

Upon approval of a proposal, PI's may be asked to further characterize the new research site. Details for characterization will be provided at a later date.

* New HC Research Location Descriptions are not required for currently active Aquaculture CRSP host country sites. However, all sites (new and existing) will not be accepted for approval under the Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP until USAID concurrence is granted to the ME, per requirements of the Cooperative Agreement.