PROPOSAL REVIEW CRITERIA
AQUACULTURE & FISHERIES CRSP
RFP WEBSITE

INITIAL SCREENING CHECKLIST
(ALL Y/N; IF N, WHY NOT.)
ELIGIBILITY (INSTITUTIONAL; RFP THEME AND TOPIC AREA; COUNTRY)
PROPOSAL CHECKLIST COMPLETENESS
SUBMISSION DATE - DEADLINE MET

COMPLETE AND ELIGIBLE PROPOSALS WILL PROCEED TO THE REVIEW PROCESS.
INELIGIBLE OR LATE PROPOSALS WILL NOT QUALIFY FOR REVIEW AND/OR FUNDING CONSIDERATION.

I. CRSP PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA: TECHNICAL PEER-REVIEW

*Much of the CRSP review process is based on NSF review guidelines, with permission from NSF.*

INTELLECTUAL MERIT (50%)

1. Soundness
   - The proposal presents a sound, multidisciplinary approach for scientific investigation of the subject.
   - The approach, design, methods, and geographic scope are practical and consistent with state-of-the-art practices.
   - The proposed project is relevant and important to research related to enhancing food security and the environment, alleviating poverty, and improving livelihoods.
   - Sufficient technical, physical, monetary, and human resources are available for the project to be successful.
   - The project can be completed in the scheduled time period.

2. Innovation
   - Results from the project can contribute to advances in scientific understanding in the field of aquaculture.
   - The proposal builds on recent discoveries, reflects innovative ideas, and explores unique or ingenious concepts or applications.
   - The project addresses more than one of the following criteria: improving the efficiency of aquaculture in a specified region; enhancing sustainability of a specified ecosystem; and benefiting the social and economic well-being of people.

3. Qualification of Researchers
   - The team of researchers is well qualified for conducting research, and each researcher has an established publication and research record in the scientific field.
   - The lead Principal Investigator (PI) is capable of serving as the administrator of the project, which will include participation by multiple institutions.

4. Application of Research
   - There are significant opportunities and a well-thought-out strategy for regional and global technology transfer, impact assessment, dissemination and near-term application.
   - Plans to disseminate research results to the academic community (journal articles, books, conferences, etc.) are reflected in the proposal.
   - The proposal presents opportunities for future synthesis with other CRSP and non-CRSP research.
The proposed research is likely to return benefits to the US and be applicable on a regional or global scale.

The proposed research is well within the scope of USAID environmental considerations as described in the RFP, and demonstrates broader application for improving ecosystem health.

COLLABORATION, CAPACITY BUILDING, AND BROADER IMPACTS (50%)

1. Education and Training
   • The project promotes Host Country (HC) and US teaching, training, and learning.
   • The project utilizes multiple methods of educational outreach (e.g., tuition support, publications, workshops, on-site training) to instruct farmers, extension agents, HC and US students, HC and US governmental and non-governmental employees, private sector and others.

2. Inclusiveness
   • The proposal identifies how diverse social groups (women, underrepresented groups, etc.) will be incorporated into the project.

3. Human Health and Welfare
   • The proposed project contributes to human health and welfare improvement in developing regions.

4. Networking and Institutional Development
   • The proposal builds on pre-established, strong relationships between HC and US researchers and institutions.
   • The proposal describes strategies to develop and strengthen institutional research capacities via capable HC and US PIs who have equal intellectual control over the project.
   • The project effectively strengthens “infrastructure” for research and education such as laboratories (CRSP funds are not to be used for construction of permanent buildings), instrumentation, networks, and partnerships.
   • The proposed project is likely able to attract further funding from extra-CRSP resources.
   • The project enhances development of local, regional, national, and global networks broadly related to aquaculture.

II. CRSP PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA: PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW

There are two consecutive tiers of review: technical and then programmatic. The programmatic review occurs after the technical review, and only for those proposals that received high rankings for technical merit.

Part 1. RFP Adherence

Program analysis of each proposal based on correspondence to the RFP
   • Adherence to all Programmatic Criteria listed in the RFP
   • Adherence to Budget Criteria, especially for match, HC funds, student support, PI FTE caps
   • Adherence to Requested information for compliance and institutional support: cost share, letters of support, deliverables, schedules, etc.

Part 2. Portfolio Balance

Regional Balance Assessment
   • Objective is for regional balance of 2-3 awards for Asia; 2-3 awards for Latin America and Caribbean; and 2-3 awards for IEHA countries in Africa. Other countries in Africa will be most successful if linked with an IEHA country. Other regions, including regions not listed above, may get 1 award. (From RFP: anticipate 8 Lead Partner Awards of @$400,000 each
to 8 different Lead Partner Institutions)
• Technical review takes into account global application of results and efforts, but the programmatic review will further evaluate global and regional application.

**Thematic Balance Assessment**
• Objective is to balance the 4 themes across the portfolio.

**Area of Inquiry (Topic Area) Representation**
• Objective is to balance topic areas with about half in Integrated Production Systems and half in People, Livelihoods, and Ecosystem Interrelationships.

**Technical Ranking within Region and Theme**
• Objective is to fund the highest technically ranked proposal within each theme and region, provided it shows close correspondence to the programmatic objectives in the RFP.

**Part 3. USAID Compliance**
(For Top Ranked Proposals following Parts 1 and 2 of the Programmatic Review)

**USAID Eligibility** (answers must be affirmative) - next steps for highest ranked projects
• Does the proposal have Mission concurrence?
• Does the PI propose work in a USAID-eligible country? Country preferences within a region will be considered under regional balance.
• Does the proposal address key USAID goals and interests as defined in the RFP materials?

**IEE Screening** (problems may delay projects, or decline projects) - next steps for highest ranked projects
• Assessment of whether there are any obvious environmental issues not raised by the technical review
• Screening process and findings
• Examination and review as necessary