

[CRSP-CONDENSED] USAID GOALS AND GUIDELINES FOR THE FISHERIES & AQUACULTURE CRSP RFP WEBSITE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

USAID GOALS AND GUIDELINES AS REFERENCED UNDER THIS RFP

KEY GOALS AND STRATEGIES

1. USAID's Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Aid
http://pdf.dec.org/pdf_docs/PDACG244.pdf

USAID's Country-Level Foreign Assistance Framework (pdf available through the USAID links from the CRSP RFP Website) 10/12/06 version

CRSPs are required to work in a manner that is consistent with the Agency's strategic goals as currently outlined in the January 2006 *Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Aid*. It is assumed that most of the CRSPs' activities will focus on work related to issues relevant for transformational and fragile states, with some contribution to the Agency's global, self-standing issues as well. The Agency's programming and resources will be aligned with the following five core goals that are articulated in the *Policy Framework for Bilateral Foreign Aid*:

1. Promote transformational development: Promote far-reaching, fundamental changes in governance and institutions, human capacity, and economic structure, so that countries can sustain further economic and social progress without depending on foreign aid. This goal pertains to reasonably stable developing countries, with emphasis on those with significant need for concessional assistance and with adequate (or better) commitment to ruling justly, promoting economic freedom, and investing in people.
2. Strengthen fragile states: Reduce fragility and establish the foundation for development progress by supporting stabilization, security, reform, and capacity development in countries characterized by instability and weak governance, when and where U.S. assistance can make a significant difference.
3. Support strategic states: Help achieve major U.S. foreign policy goals in specific countries of especially high priority as key allies from a strategic standpoint.
4. Provide humanitarian relief: Help meet immediate human needs, save lives, and alleviate suffering in countries afflicted by violent conflict, crisis, natural disasters, or persistent dire poverty.
5. Address global issues and other special, self-standing concerns: Undertake activities that relate to concerns such as HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, climate change, biodiversity, direct support for international trade agreements, and counter narcotics efforts.

The newer (in progress) Agency *Country-Level Foreign Assistance Framework's* goal is: Helping to build and sustain democratic, well-governed states that will respond to the needs of their people and conduct themselves responsibly in the international system. At present, it is unclear whether this second strategy subsumes the first, or how the strategies will be used together. Five country categories are listed in the new *Framework*:

- Rebuilding Countries - States in, or emerging from and rebuilding after, internal or external conflict.
- Developing Countries - States with low or lower-middle income, not yet meeting MCC performance criteria, and the criterion related to political rights.
- Transforming Countries - States with low or lower-middle income, meeting MCC performance criteria, and the criterion related to political rights.
- Sustaining Partnerships Countries - States with upper-middle income or greater for which U.S. support is provided to sustain partnerships, progress and peace.
- Restrictive Countries - States of concern where there are significant governance issues.

Global or Regional Goals are described as activities that advance the five objectives, transcend a single country's borders, and are addressed outside a country strategy. The five objectives are: peace and security; governing justly and democratically; investing in people; economic growth; humanitarian assistance.

2. USAID Agricultural Strategy, Title XII reports and other documents from the Office of Agriculture: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/agriculture/index.html

CRSPs will support the strategic themes described in USAID's Agriculture Strategy. The four themes of the Agriculture Strategy are:

1. To expand trade opportunities and improve the trade capacity of producers and rural industries;
2. To improve the social, economic, and environmental sustainability of agriculture;
3. To mobilize science and technology and foster capacity for innovation; and
4. To strengthen agricultural training and education, outreach, and adaptive research.

3. USAID/EGAT Office of Agriculture and Office of Natural Resources Management: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/agriculture/crsp/index.html

CRSPs will support EGAT/AG's *strategic objective* to strengthen agriculture's contribution to broad-based economic growth, better health, and effective natural resources management. The *intermediate results* are:

- The development and dissemination of innovative food-based technologies;
- The creation of an enabling policy environment and institutional innovations to support rural economic growth, natural resources management and private sector investment; and
- Improved competitiveness and capacity to access markets.

CRSPs will support EGAT/NRM's *strategic objective* to improve human well-being through healthy ecosystems and sustainable resource management. The *intermediate results* are:

- Improved management and conservation across diverse landscapes through science, interdisciplinary approaches and the adoption of best practices;
- Promotion of equitable natural resources governance and management of natural resources conflicts; and
- Increased economic opportunities through sustainable production, marketing and trade of natural resource-based products and services.

4. USAID/EGAT Priority Setting for CRSPs: http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/agriculture/crsp/index.html

The priority setting process for CRSPs identified eight **Focal Areas for Development Results** that are intended to direct CRSP research towards ultimate development impact. These focal areas are:

- improving nutrition and health;
- maximizing water and soil quality and productivity;
- broadening market access;
- mitigating post harvest constraints;
- enhancing productivity and livelihoods in marginal areas;
- advancing integrated pest management practices;
- increasing incomes; and
- improving food quality, processing, and food safety.

5. Other USAID strategic objectives, initiatives and congressional earmarks.

A. The Presidential Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA):

http://www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/initiatives/ieha.html

IEHA: The Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP must direct at least 25% of its total budget to support IEHA objectives. The six countries currently included in IEHA are Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda and Zambia. There are also three regional platforms in West, East and Southern Africa. Additional IEHA countries may be added that are particularly chronically food insecure, “hunger hotspots.”

Country and regional action plans for IEHA are structured around six themes for maximum impact:

1. Scientific and technological applications that harness the power of new technology (e.g., information technology and biotechnology) in order to raise the productivity of food and export products and increase the stability and volume of supplies.
2. Agricultural trade and market systems that add value to products and processes, deliver high-quality safe products, reduce costs for consumers, and create a climate and infrastructure that attract private and foreign investment to African agricultural businesses.
3. Community and producer-based organizations that contribute to agricultural growth by providing a wide variety of business, training, and leadership development services and by giving a political voice to the economic interests of farmers who are normally too poor and too scattered to be heard.
4. Development of human capital and institutions that shape and lead agricultural policy and research, as well as provide agricultural education. Infrastructure development in transportation, energy, water/sanitation, and telecommunications is also increasingly urgent.
5. Integration of vulnerable groups and countries in transition into sustainable development processes that: (1) help the chronically poor and hungry in rural Africa find viable paths out of poverty by accumulating assets; (2) reduce the vulnerability of poor people to weather-, market-, and conflict-induced shocks; and (3) enhance the capacity of countries to manage shocks that have regional and national impacts.
6. Environmental management that contributes to agricultural and rural sector growth through conservation and production of environmental goods and services that generate public and private economic benefits.

B. Congressional earmarks on biodiversity conservation and biotechnology.

Biodiversity: USAID’s Guide to Biodiversity Conservation http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADE258.pdf Congress has directed USAID to dedicate substantial funds to biodiversity conservation. The Agency’s environmental regulations establish safeguards to avoid unwarranted negative effects of Agency funded activities on biodiversity. Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP projects should consider what relevance their proposed research has to the conservation of biodiversity; what biodiversity concerns and opportunities arise with your proposed project; and how biodiversity conservation may be addressed in the implementation of your project. This earmark requirement will not pertain to every Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP project. To measure impact the Agency established four criteria to determine whether or not an activity is advancing biodiversity conservation:

1. The program must have an explicit biodiversity objective; it isn’t enough to have biodiversity conservation result as a positive externality from another program;
2. Activities must be identified based on an analysis of threats to biodiversity;
3. The program must monitor associated indicators for biodiversity conservation; and
4. Site-based programs must positively impact biologically significant areas. (Please note that this criterion applies only to site-based work).

Biotechnology: This earmark requirement will not pertain to every Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP project. Overall, USAID encourages the Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP to have a biotechnology component in some of its activities.

Biotechnology is defined here (and by USAID) as the support of modern molecular biology research including marker assisted breeding, molecular diagnostics, and genomics. This definition does not include tissue culture, embryo rescue, fermentation, bio-pesticides or bio-fertilizers, or other non-molecular forms of what is often called "traditional biotechnology." Long- and short-term training in an Agency-defined biotechnology method can be included as part of the biotechnology component. Special Note: Bureaus and Missions must ensure host-country approval/concurrence before implementing biotechnology programs/activities (see IEE regulations below).

C. Gender

USAID anticipates that the gender issues will not be addressed as discrete activities in the Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP, but will be integrated throughout the program as appropriate. Applicants should describe their vision and approach to integrate gender into their project (see Gender Inclusivity Strategy). Each project is expected to identify the key gender issues that are: 1) important to the formation of the research topic; and 2) likely to affect the implementation of the research activities it is proposing and to articulate the approach it will use to address the identified issues.

All people-level benchmarks and indicators should be disaggregated by sex.

The USAID policy on training (ADS 253.3.8) identifies an annual target of fifty percent women in new training for third-country and US enrollments. Although this policy does not apply to in-country training, it is expected that the Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP will work towards achieving these targets. The CRSP must also strive towards an equitable balance of men and women in both short and long-term training and seek to increase the number of men and women in fields where they have been historically underrepresented.

6. Correspondence with USAID's Focal Areas for Development Results

To remain focused and achieve the greatest development impact from Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP activities, we propose to concentrate research and outreach efforts on the following six target focal areas:

- Improving nutrition and health – Poor human nutrition and health can be addressed through increased fish-based consumption. Individual and family participation can also provide necessary income to allow purchase of other food items not directly produced for immediate family use thereby contributing to overall nutrition and health. Aquaculture practices indirectly affect availability of potable water and sanitation, especially in global regions having limited access to clean freshwater resources.
- Maximizing water and soil quality and productivity – Aquatic organisms cannot adequately grow and reproduce in polluted waters. Therefore, best practices associated with integrated coastal zone and watershed management must be followed to ensure ample water supplies. Soil management is also critical especially for inland aquaculture operations.
- Advancing integrated pest management practices – Similar to other agriculture commodities, aquaculture activities can be affected by pests such as weeds, diseases, insects, and vertebrates. Abuse of pesticides, fungicides and antibiotics to control these pests affects product quality and safety and must be arrested. Adoption of responsible integrated pest management technologies (e.g., appropriate biosecurity, farm best practices, use of beneficial organisms) reduces losses in productivity, decreases chemical use for controlling pests, improves product quality and safety, and increases local income generation.
- Broadening market access – Access to markets directly affects the scale of production from aquaculture and fisheries activities. Increased market outlets will introduce competition, create income for family use, and enhance overall quality of life.
- Increasing incomes – Research that optimizes aquaculture and fisheries activities will result in management efficiencies, product and species diversification, and greater economies of scale, all of which lead to greater income generation for individual entrepreneurs, managers, workers, processors, and distributors. This will have a positive impact for the family, community, region, and nation.
- Improving food quality, processing, and food safety – Inadequate processing capability results in substantial product loss following harvest and can contribute to poor human health due to consumption of spoiled fish products. Adoption of recognized food safety and quality guidelines will increase domestic and international market access thereby contributing to income generation.

Inherently, to achieve maximum benefits associated with the above target focal areas the Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP must be engaged to a degree in and positively impact each of these two peripheral focal areas:

- Enhancing productivity and livelihoods in marginal areas – Drought stricken areas are prone to become marginalized in the context of desertification and subsequent lack of suitable quantity and quality of soil and water for agricultural productivity. Aquaculture and fisheries production are both influenced by marginal conditions and will require adoption of innovative technologies for success.
- Mitigating post harvest constraints – Post harvest constraints must be addressed before aquaculture and fisheries productivity can be economically viable, especially for the export market. Alleviating processing constraints will contribute to overall human nutrition and health, food quality and safety, income generation through decreasing product losses, increasing value-added product development, improving environmental stewardship, and opening international markets for trade of value-added products.

These target and peripheral focal areas are interconnected with the four Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP Global Aquaculture & Fisheries Research Themes described in Section 1.b. of this document (Table 4). Specific issues related to these four Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP Global Aquaculture & Fisheries Research Themes and focal areas will be addressed through specific investigations submitted for funding in response to the Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP RFP.

Table 4. Cross cutting relationships between Aquaculture & Fisheries CRSP Target and Peripheral Focal Areas and proposed multi-disciplinary Global Research Themes.

Target Focal Areas	Global Research Themes ^a
Improving nutrition and health	Themes A, B
Maximizing water and soil quality and productivity	Theme B, C
Advancing integrated pest management practices	Themes C, D
Broadening market access	Theme B, D
Increasing incomes	Theme B
Improving food quality, processing, and food safety	Themes A, B, D
Peripheral Focal Areas	Global Research Themes
Enhancing productivity and livelihoods in marginal areas	Themes A, B, D
Mitigating post harvest constraints	Themes A, B, C, D

^a Global Research Themes: A. Improved Health and Nutrition, Food Quality, and Food Safety of Fishery Products; B. Income Generation for Small-scale Producers; C. Environmental Management for Sustainable Aquatic Resource Use; and, D. Enhanced Trade Opportunities for Global Fishery Markets.

REFERENCE TO REGULATIONS

1. USAID Branding Requirements: <http://www.usaid.gov/branding/assistance.html>
2. ADS Mandatory Reference “Guidance on Funding Foreign Government Delegations to International Conferences”: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/350maa.pdf>
3. Leader with Associates Awards, applicants are referred to CIB 99-10: http://www.usaid.gov/business/business_opportunities/cib/pdf/cib9910.pdf
4. USAID Environmental Procedures (IEE): http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/environment/compliance/22cfr216.htm

In the event that any activity implemented under the Leader Award wishes to use or recommend pesticides, GMOs, or non-indigenous or non-endemic non-established species, an amended IEE must be

prepared and approved by the EGAT Bureau Environmental Officer before the activity can be implemented. The cooperating university may use funds from this CRSP prior to such approval only to pay for the cost of undertaking this IEE amendment.

5. Geographic Code:

In accordance with the limitations on USAID's ability to procure goods and services outside the United States (see the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and 22 CFR 228), the source and origin of goods and the nationality of suppliers of goods and services under this CRSP will be the United States (Geographic Code 000). Local source procurement (Geographic Code 935) is also authorized. These Geographic Codes are:

- Code 000: The United States of America, any State(s) of the United States, the District of Columbia, and areas of U.S. Associated sovereignty, including commonwealths, territories and possessions.
- Code 935: Any area or country including the cooperating country, but excluding the foreign policy restricted countries.

HSE 11/06