
Washington, D.C., Monday, September 12, 2016

Fourth Call for Proposals – GAFSP Public Sector Window

This is the fourth Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) Call for Proposals from “IDA-only countries”¹ that are not in non-accrual status to submit proposals by Monday, January 9, 2017, consistent with the *Country Guidelines for the Public Sector Window Proposals: Fourth Call for Proposals* (version: August 30, 2016), available on the GAFSP “Call for Proposals” web page: <http://www.gafspfund.org/gafsp/content/call-proposals>.

Following the first three Calls for Proposals, the GAFSP Public Sector Window has allocated \$1.02 billion in recipient-executed funding to 30 low-income countries in Africa; Central, East, and South Asia; and Latin America. These resources are being used to help finance the strategic programs of these low-income countries to alleviate poverty, improve rural incomes, and improve food and nutrition security. GAFSP projects focus on country-led investments in one or more of the GAFSP five key components: raising agricultural productivity, linking farmers to markets, reducing risk and vulnerability, and improving non-farm rural livelihoods, and through technical assistance and institutional support. The more detailed scope of the program is reflected in the Framework Document (available on the “About GAFSP” web page: <http://www.gafspfund.org/content/about-gafsp>).

While the bulk of the proposals financed to date have focused on projects aimed primarily at raising agricultural productivity, the Steering Committee would like to emphasize that there is no particular preference for any of the five key components. Technically sound proposals that reduce risk and vulnerability and increase the impact of agricultural interventions through emphasis on key components such as nutrition (direct nutrition interventions or nutrition sensitive agricultural activities), gender equality (as reflected in Annexes 1 and 2), climate smart agriculture, or public-private partnerships, are fully eligible for GAFSP funding. The Steering Committee looks forward to receiving a broad range of proposals in this Call.

The GAFSP Trust Fund was established in April 2010, following financing commitment by G8 leaders at the L’Aquila Summit in July 2009, and reaffirmed by the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh in September 2009. Current donors to the GAFSP Public Sector Window, in alphabetical order, are Australia, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Germany, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Currently available non-committed resources in the Public Sector Window of GAFSP are approximately US\$125 million, likely to be allocated to roughly the 3 to 5 highest ranked proposals. The total amount is tentative and may increase depending on further donor commitments received between now and the time of allocation. There is no guarantee that all deserving proposals will be funded given the limited availability of funds.

Proposals submitted to GAFSP are reviewed by a confidential external Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) that provides technical recommendations to the GAFSP Steering Committee. TAC is fully independent of potential Supervising Entities of GAFSP projects, including the World Bank. TAC

¹Countries that are eligible to receive concessional funding through the World Bank from the International Development Association (IDA) but do not have access to lending from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

assesses proposals in line with the criteria laid out in the *Country Guidelines* (version: August 30, 2016), i.e. country need, country readiness, and the technical quality of the proposal.

Countries that have submitted unsuccessful proposals to GAFSP in the past are strongly encouraged to apply again, although no special preference will be granted to these proposals, which will compete with new proposals for available funds. Countries that have submitted successful proposals to GAFSP in the past can also reapply. Please note that the detail requested in the proposal submissions have been updated from the Third Call for Proposals; countries are requested to review and revise previous proposals to follow the updated *Country Guidelines* (version: August 30, 2016).

The Steering Committee intends to make allocation decisions by end of March, 2017. Proposals must be submitted electronically by 11:59pm, January 9, 2017 (Washington, D.C. time) to the GAFSP Coordination Unit. Submissions can be made by email to info@gafspfund.org, or by sending an electronic device such as a CD or a flash drive by courier to: GAFSP Coordination Unit, MSN MC5-510, The World Bank Group, 3301 Pennsy Drive, Landover, MD 20785 USA. All submitted documents should be in either Microsoft Word, Excel, or PDF format.

Submission documents must meet the requirements laid out in *Country Guidelines* (version: August 30, 2016) including a document checklist clearly identifying which submitted file relates to each of the specified required documents. Please note that to ensure a level playing field, no exceptions will be made on deadlines or document formats. We strongly encourage countries to submit a few days earlier than the deadline in case of any technical problems in the submission process (and more than a few days in the case of courier submission of electronic media). Countries are responsible for ensuring that proposals are complete and in the due format specified in the *Country Guidelines* (version: August 30, 2016).

The Steering Committee would like to invite submissions by eligible governments following the above mentioned Guidelines. If you have any questions on administrative matters related to the submissions, please contact the GAFSP Coordination Unit (info@gafspfund.org). In fairness to all, the Coordination Unit cannot provide any insights on what is required for a successful proposal beyond what is posted on the website (<http://www.gafspfund.org>). Any clarifications that become necessary in the course of countries preparing and submitting proposals will itself be posted on the website as soon as possible for the benefit of all.

We very much look forward to receiving country proposals for consideration by the GAFSP Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Peters', is centered below the text 'Sincerely,'.

Dan Peters
Chair of the GAFSP Steering Committee