

**Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish (Fish Innovation Lab)
Responses to Written Questions
RFA-FIL-19-000001
May 10, 2019**

Below are responses to questions received regarding the request for applications (RFA). Some questions have been truncated or slightly revised to protect the privacy and research interests of submitting individuals and organizations.

Submission process

1. I want to participate in this funding. What should I do?
2. I am writing to inquire whether there is a template for the concept paper, or any guidance/instructions/formats provided?
3. Somalia Ngo is requesting application fund and guidance this opportunity for Africa Somalia country is east Africa countries and this opportunity is open, so we request Application documents.

Response to questions 1 - 3: You can apply by clicking on this link:

<https://rfx.piestar.com/opportunities/fish>, which will take you to the online Piestar submission system. Click on “learn more” and download the solicitation that will provide you with the instructions, which includes eligibility requirements. After you read the instructions, then click on “apply now” to enter into the system. If you don’t have log-in credentials, you can click on “sign up now” to create your account. The required documents can be found after you log in to Piestar. Complete the required fields and upload your documents according to the instructions in the RFA.

4. How do I submit my application or proposal? Because I have not seen the provision for it, does it mean I do not qualify?

Response: Eligibility requirements are provided in the RFA. You can find these and application instructions by following the steps in the response to questions 1-3.

5. Can we submit more than one concept note in response to the recent call for proposals. If so, are there any restrictions (concept notes/proposal per PI; per country, etc.).
6. Can someone submit more than one concept?
7. Is there a limit to the number of proposals an organization can submit?
8. May organizations submit more than one concept note for consideration under this RFA?
9. I am considering submitting several concept notes to the Fish Innovation Lab RFA. Is there any limit on the number of concepts that can be submitted by a single institution? If no formal limit, is there a preferred or suggested maximum number of submissions per institution?

Response to questions 5-9: There are no restrictions on the number of submitted concept notes or countries. However, we recommend that each individual serve as PI on only one concept note/proposal. There are no restrictions on the number of proposals an organization can submit.

10. How do I apply? Should I create another e-mail, or I should use my present g-mail and password? Can I apply as an individual or from my group?

Response: See response to questions 1-3 for application instructions. The email address that you use is at your discretion. **Fish Innovation Lab grants will not be awarded to individuals**; only institutions that have an active Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and are registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) are eligible to apply for this RFA.

11. Is the window still open for anyone to submit proposals?

Response: The deadline for the submission of concept notes is May 24, 2019, and it is still open. Based on review of the concept notes for scope and fit, the Fish Innovation Lab will invite full proposal submissions.

12. Page 1 of the RFA states that deadlines are at 12 midnight Central U.S. time. Can you clarify whether “midnight” refers to the day of or the day prior to the date referenced? For example, concept notes are due at midnight on May 24, 2019. Does this mean concept notes must be submitted by the minute after 11:59pm Thursday, May 23 (the beginning of May 24), or the minute after 11:59pm Friday, May 24 (the end of May 24 and the beginning of May 25)?

Response: Concept notes are due the minute after 11:59 p.m., Friday, May 24th.

Eligibility of Applicants

13. Is one of the regional organizations of the African Union (EAC, SADC, IGAD...) allowed to submit a proposal?
14. We are a registered society (non-profit) and has a legal status of a public charitable trust in the Indian context. However, we do not possess a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and are not registered in the System for Award Management. Is our organization eligible to apply for the current proposal for a financial grant, on *development in Feed the Future program* for a study-cum-implementation project of aquaculture?

Response to questions 13 and 14: All applicants will need to be registered in SAM and have a DUNS number before the full proposal submission if invited. If you meet the eligibility requirements, your organization can apply for a DUNS number at the concept-note stage. Please also note that the project must be implemented in a Feed the Future country. All proposals must have a host-country primary institution, and collaboration between the host-country institution and a U.S. university is encouraged.

15. May we apply with ILRI (International Livestock Research Institute) as the head office is in Kenya?

Response: CGIAR centers in an eligible country can be primary institutions or partners. We encourage CGIAR applicants to identify an additional host-country university or organization to foster collaboration and local capacity development.

16. In evaluation of concept notes, will USAID express a preference for US-based or host country-based institutions as primary sub-grantees?

Response: No preference will be given for institutional affiliation. Concept notes will be evaluated for alignment with the scope of work as research for development under one or more of the three FIL Areas of Inquiry (page 15).

17. Are Moroccan universities or research centers eligible to partner with a U.S. primary sub-award institution for the RFA?

18. Would Moroccan universities or research centers be eligible for this RFA to join a consortium of West African universities led by U.S. primary sub-award institution?

Response to questions 17 and 18: Yes, if the research is implemented in a Feed the Future country in West Africa, East Africa, or Asia. All proposals must have a host-country primary institution, and collaboration between the host-country institution and a U.S. university is encouraged.

19. I am associate professor in Malaysia. I stay in Malaysia that is not FTF country, but my idea will help not only developing countries but also FTF countries. Please let me know if I can apply for your research fund or not.

Response: A university in Malaysia can apply if it meets the eligibility requirements, but the project must be implemented in a Feed the Future country in West Africa, East Africa, or Asia. All proposals must have a host-country primary institution, and collaboration between the host-country institution and a U.S. university is encouraged.

20. Is it possible to apply for this sort of study from our institute in India? Ours is a central university institute under the Government of India.

Response: An institute from India can apply if it meets the eligibility requirements, but the project must be implemented in a Feed the Future country in West Africa, East Africa, or Asia. All proposals must have a host-country primary institution, and collaboration between the host-country institution and a U.S. university is encouraged.

21. Is your funding opportunity open to Canadian researchers?

Response: The funding is open to Canadian organizations that meet eligibility requirements, but the project must be implemented in a Feed the Future country in West Africa, East Africa, or Asia. All proposals must have a host-country primary institution, and collaboration between the host-country institution and a U.S. university is encouraged.

22. Are NGO's in the UK eligible or is it only for US organisations?

Response: An NGO from the United Kingdom can apply if it meets the eligibility requirements, but the project must be implemented in a Feed the Future country in West Africa, East Africa, or Asia. All proposals must have a host-country primary institution, and collaboration between the host-country institution and a U.S. university is encouraged.

23. Do we qualify as a University from Kenya? Kindly advise in the context that some other Kenyan institutions are already participating in the program.

Response: Kenya is a Feed the Future target country in East Africa (<https://www.feedthefuture.gov/about/>). Therefore, universities in Kenya qualify to apply as the

primary host-country institution if they meet eligibility requirements. There is no limit to the number of grants or institutions participating from a country, but we recommend that each individual serve as PI on only one concept note/proposal.

24. I am a researcher in Nigeria. Can I still participate in this program? Please let me get full information to participate.

Response: Nigeria is a Feed the Future target country in West Africa. Therefore, universities in Nigeria qualify to apply as the primary host-country institution if they meet eligibility requirements. Collaboration between the host-country primary institution and a U.S. university is encouraged. See response to questions 1-3 for application/submission information.

25. Can I as an individual write a paper and proposal, or must I collaborate with other PHD holders or institutions like Government and Universities in writing this paper?

26. I graduated with a bachelor's of science degree (chemistry major) in 2017. I am not employed under any organization or government agency. However, I have a research in mind that I believe will help the marketing of aquaculture products in Kenya. Am I eligible to apply for this RFA?

Response to questions 25 and 26: Fish Innovation Lab grants will not be awarded to individuals. Only institutions that have an active Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and are registered in the System for Award Management (SAM) are eligible to apply for Fish Innovation Lab grants.

27. I am interested in responding to the call for proposals under the funding arrangements for 2019. However, I write to find out what the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS), and the System for Award Management (SAM) are, and if my home Institute qualifies.

Response: Please contact your home institution to find out if it has an active DUNS number and is registered in SAM. Registration information for the DUNS/SAM systems can be found below:

- a. Search for your institution's DUNS number:
<https://www.sam.gov/SAM/pages/public/searchRecords/search.jsf>.
- b. Quick Guide for Foreign Entities to register for the DUNS number:
<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/SAM-Quick-Start-Guide-for-New-Registrations.pdf>
- c. Quick Guide for U.S. and Foreign Registrants to register for the DUNS number:
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/files/HI-SAMGuide.pdf>

28. Does our university qualify to register in the Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and in the System for Award Management (SAM) or do we have to partner with a US based institution which is already registered?

Response: Please see response to question 27 for information about searching for a DUNS number and registering in SAM. A host country institution is not required to partner with a U.S. institution to obtain a DUNS number and register in SAM.

Eligibility of Countries

29. "I just would like to know if Uganda is eligible to participate in this Feed the Future request for concept note. In case it is not, can we participate with clear justification? Records indicate that Uganda and Tanzania are FTF member countries."

30. Can we Uganda apply with either US, Kenya or Zambia partners?
31. Is Uganda eligible for this call?
32. On behalf of the entire membership of our organization and Uganda, our country I hereby request that we be considered for eligibility to apply for funding to undertake a research and development project under the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish's (FTF) Request for Application (RFA).

Response to questions 29-32: This RFA focuses on Feed the Future countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia. Uganda is a Feed the Future target country in East Africa; therefore, projects can be proposed in Uganda (<https://www.feedthefuture.gov/about/>). Organizations in Uganda qualify to apply as the primary host-country institution if they meet eligibility requirements. Collaboration between the host-country primary institution and a U.S. university is encouraged.

33. Is the call involve Ethiopia?
34. Your generous support will allow our university in Ethiopia to provide assistance to thousands of grant seekers and we would be very generous to submit a concept note before the deadline. with that said, do you recommend we apply to this grant call?

Response to questions 33 and 34: This RFA focuses on Feed the Future countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia. Ethiopia is a Feed the Future target country in East Africa; therefore, projects can be proposed in Ethiopia. Universities in Ethiopia qualify to apply as the primary host-country institution if they meet eligibility requirements. Collaboration between the host-country primary institution and a U.S. university is encouraged.

35. Is this opportunity applicable for India? Can we submit a proposal to be implemented in India?

Response: This RFA focuses on Feed the Future countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia. The list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition at USAID. A concept note may be submitted, and the Fish Innovation Lab will notify submitters about eligibility for a full proposal based on the list of Feed the Future countries at that time.

36. In reference to this extract of the RFA: ***“This Request for Applications (RFA) focuses on FTF target and aligned countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia. Current FIL activities are in Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya, and Zambia. The research for development priorities in this RFA were developed through stakeholder consultations in each country. Other FTF target and aligned countries may be considered if sound justification is provided”***.

On one hand it states that the RFA targets FTF target countries in West Africa, East Africa and Asia, but other FTF countries may be considered if strong justification is provided. Can you clarify the primary target of this RFA? Is it all FTF target and aligned countries or only the four countries where FIL activities are currently taking place?

37. The RFA mentions **“This Request for Applications (RFA) focuses on FTF target and aligned countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia.** Current FIL activities are in Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya, and Zambia.” We would like to confirm that other FTF target countries are eligible for funding under this opportunity besides the four mentioned with current FIL activities.

Response to questions 36 and 37: Proposals will be considered that propose projects in any Feed the Future countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia.

38. Can we propose projects in Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone and Guinea?

Response: Yes, these countries are currently listed as Feed the Future aligned countries in west Africa. Please note the list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition. A concept note may be submitted, and the Fish Innovation Lab will notify submitters about eligibility for a full proposal based on the list of Feed the Future countries at that time.

39. On the FTF website, Sierra Leone is not mentioned as an FTF target country, but in the second paragraph of page two of the RFA, it was mentioned along Ghana, Cambodia and Indonesia as FTF target countries whose fish consumption constitutes up to 50% of total protein intake. Can you clarify?

Response: These countries were listed on page 2 as examples of Feed the Future countries where fish consumption constitutes a significant proportion of animal protein intake in the population. We referred to these countries as Feed the Future countries, but we did not refer to them as Feed the Future **target** countries. In fact, Ghana is a Feed the Future target country, but Sierra Leone, Cambodia, and Indonesia are Feed the Future aligned countries (<https://www.feedthefuture.gov/about/>).

40. We have not been able to trace the list of FTF aligned countries. Can you provide us with this list?

Response: The list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition at USAID, and the Fish Innovation Lab is unable to provide a list at this time.

41. Is Morocco considered an FTF aligned county?

Response: Yes, Morocco is currently listed as a Feed the Future aligned country. Please note the list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition. With strong justification, a concept note/proposal for Morocco may be considered, but the Fish Innovation Lab's priority is to fund projects in Feed the Future countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia.

42. A lot of our colleagues in the South-West region have raised questions on the exclusion of the zone in your program, more so with the attendant challenges currently being faced in the industry. You are no doubt aware that the region plays a major role in Aquaculture and production of Fish and Fisheries products in Nigeria, with a lot of men, women and youths engaged in the region.

43. Do proposed activities have to occur within an FTF country's Zone of Influence, as delineated by a USAID-led Global Food Security Strategy plan for a specific country?

Response to questions 42 and 43: Proposed research and capacity building activities must relate to the Feed the Future Zones of Influence within the country; these zones are geographic areas targeted for Feed the Future interventions and are not determined by the Fish Innovation Lab. For information on Zones of Influence, please refer to the Feed the Future website (www.feedthefuture.gov). Proposed research and capacity-building activities must also align with the USAID Mission strategies. See <https://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/planning/country-strategies-cdcs> for relevant Country Development Cooperation Strategies.

44. Would the FIL consider a concept note for activities in an FTF country or countries in Central America (Guatemala and/or Honduras)?

Response: Guatemala and Honduras are Feed the Future target countries. With strong justification, a concept note/proposal may be considered, but the Fish Innovation Lab's priority is to fund projects in Feed the Future countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia.

45. We are interested in applying to your Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish opportunity. I've reviewed the RFA and found the proposal templates and guidance you provided to be very useful. However, I am looking for further guidance on the questions: Can you please send us the current list of 'aligned countries' as defined by the U.S. Government's Global Hunger and Food Security Initiative, and first referenced on page 4 of the RFP? We are considering projects in Equatorial Guinea and Belize and would like to confirm if these are eligible.

Response: The list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition at USAID. With strong justification, a concept note/proposal may be considered, but the Fish Innovation Lab's priority is to fund projects in Feed the Future countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia.

46. We are interested in developing a concept note with partners and collaborators for the above funding opportunity. We have noted that the request for applications focuses on FTF target and aligned countries in West Africa, East Africa and Asia. Could you please provide a full list of West African countries that are regarded as FTF target and aligned countries?

Response: The list of Feed the Future target countries is available at <https://www.feedthefuture.gov/>. The list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition at USAID, and the Fish Innovation Lab is unable to provide a list at this time.

47. Would Tanzania be considered for a project based in Kigoma on Lake Tanganyika, that would ultimately also have implications for Burundi, DRC Congo, and Zambia as they border on the lake?

Response: Tanzania is a currently a Feed the Future aligned country in the Fish Innovation Lab's priority region of East Africa, and it would be considered for a funded project. Please note the list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition. A concept note may be submitted, and the Fish Innovation Lab will notify submitters about eligibility for a full proposal based on the list of Feed the Future countries at that time.

48. We are researchers belonging to the National Institute of Sea Sciences and Technologies from **Tunisia**. We were informed about the funding opportunity offered by "Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish" (<https://rfx.piestar.com/opportunities>).

49. Aquatic animal diseases, diagnostics, biosecurity are our main focusing areas. We are interested in submitting a proposal under the relevant area of inquiry: **Reducing and Mitigating Risk to Fish Production Systems**. However, before going any further in the concept note preparation, we would like to be sure that Tunisia is an Eligible country as it is not listed within the focus country list (*Focus Countries: Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam*).

Response to questions 48 and 49: The list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition. A concept note may be submitted, and the Fish Innovation Lab will notify submitters about eligibility for a full proposal based on the list of Feed the Future countries at that time. With strong justification a concept note/proposal may be considered, but the Fish Innovation

Lab's priority is to fund projects in Feed the Future countries in West Africa, East Africa, and Asia.

50. Page 4 of the RFA states that the Fish Innovation Lab will fund country-focused projects. Will multi-country projects or projects with countries from more than one region be considered if well-justified?

Response: Yes, with good justification, multicountry or regional projects will be considered. Please keep in mind the Fish Innovation Lab priority regions of West Africa, East Africa, and Asia.

51. Page 4 of the RFA states that other FTF target and aligned countries may be considered if sound justification is provided. Is there a preference for projects focused in the four quick start project countries? What constitutes sound justification?

Response: No, there is not a preference for these four countries. Sound justification is the responsibility of the submitter, but clear demonstration of need and potential for impact in alignment with the Fish Innovation Lab Theory of Change should be provided.

Research Topics

52. Does the use of the term 'fish' in the RFP refer only to fish or does it include other aquatic animals, such as crustaceans, etc.? For example, prawns, shrimps and crabs are often produced by small holder farms and is an important food and economic resource to support the family and the farm (e.g., generates funds to buy fish feeds).

53. Does shellfish qualify?

Response to questions 52 and 53: Projects on mollusks and crustaceans (shellfish) qualify for funding under the Fish Innovation Lab.

54. Will the funding include projects that has to do with encouraging young graduates who study fishery in school practice their study by venturing into fishery instead of being Job seekers by providing inputs and clustered farm land?

Response: Funded projects will address at least one of the three major Areas of Inquiry as well as address the listed cross-cutting themes found on pages 7-9 of the RFA. Funded projects should also be connected to the Fish Innovation Lab Theory of Change. (page 10). Funding cannot be used to support business ventures unless they are directly tied to research addressing the three major areas of inquiry.

55. I am interested in research of Advancing the frontier Area. So, I request that I want to submit my proposal for advancing the productivity frontier sir. In case, I have 2 fish pond and I plan to grow the fresh water prawn and vanamei (White leg shrimp) together for my research to implement for community development and income access for the farmers, improve livelihood of the small farmers in Myanmar. Please let me know from you sir.

Response: Research on aquaculture of shrimp and prawns is eligible for funding under the Fish Innovation Lab. Research on polyculture of different species is also eligible. The list of Feed the Future aligned countries is currently in transition at USAID. A concept note may be submitted,

and Fish Innovation Lab will notify submitters about eligibility for a full proposal based on the list of FTF countries at that time.

56. We are interested in potentially submitting a proposal where we would determine the utility of insects as protein replacement in aquaculture diets, and also for sustainable agriculture by using an organic waste stream that can be used to convert waste to insect protein, and also leave a product that can be used as a biofertilizer-producing products of value that could boost the local economy.

Response: Research on fish meal replacement is eligible for funding under the Fish Innovation Lab. Funded projects will address at least one of the three major areas of inquiry as well as address the listed cross-cutting themes found on pages 7-9 of the RFA. Funded projects should also be connected to the Fish Innovation Lab Theory of Change. (page 10).

57. This proposition focused on sustainable aquaculture and fisheries development. How it addressed the agronomic needs to increase food security (page-6, AI-1)? As because agronomy deals with field crops.

Response: “Agronomic” in the RFA was used in the general sense of crop production, in this case fish. We agree the term is often used to specifically refer to plant crops.

58. How we will ensure the Aquaculture biosecurity (page-7)? Can we follow the local biosafety regulation and biosafety framework respectively? Can you provide any international biosecurity framework/issue?

Response: The submitter is responsible for determining and justifying what biosecurity practices warrant research that should be funded under the Fish Innovation Lab. Research proposed under the biosecurity priority should result in improved fish health and decreased risk of diseases that impact aquaculture.

59. Can we include both import and export with the fish value chains (page-7)?

Response: As factors that impact profitability and sustainability of fish production, both imports and exports can be considered in research on economics and market access for aquaculture and fisheries.

60. For qualitative matter, how many protocols need to address (page-7)?

Response: The submitter is responsible for determining and justifying which and how many qualitative parameters should be measured.

61. For improving human nutrition fact how we can assess the stunting, wasting, etc. within the short period (page-8). It needs long time based on baseline record.

Response: Nutritional research will need to focus on outcomes that can be measured within the time frame and budgetary scope of the proposed project. Nutritional outcomes exist that are measurable within the timeframe of Fish Innovation Lab projects and have been shown to impact long-term outcomes, such as stunting and wasting.

62. Can you provide any special assistance for digital technologies application (page-9)?

Response: No special assistance for digital technology applications will be provided; projects proposed that include digital technology applications will need to fit within the specified time and budget limits for Fish Innovation Lab projects.

63. Do we have target beneficiaries?

Response: The Fish Innovation Lab will work at all stages and levels of the fish value chain with the ultimate goal of increasing nutrition and strengthening livelihoods of vulnerable households and vulnerable individuals, especially women, youth, and children in the first 1,000 days of life. While projects must demonstrate their potential to contribute to this ultimate goal, the target beneficiaries of a particular project will depend on the purpose and scope of the proposed activity. That said, we expect the majority of projects to target smallholder aquaculture producers and fishers, and/or households impacted by the fish value chain, whether as consumers or producers.

64. In this study, I intend to investigate temporal changes in the first sale fish prices of some 100 fish species (e.g. after accounting for the inflation rate) sampled over the last 20 years or so from the largest fishery operating in the river. The results of the study will be very useful to inform short and long-term food security planning for the future. I wonder if this proposed research idea meets the requirement of “Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Fish”, i.e. contribute to the goal of the project. In addition, if it fits, is there any guidance on the proposal including budget estimate for the proposal preparation.

Response: Research projects on market effects impacting access of poor people and vulnerable populations to fish, especially when the local population depends on fish as an important food animal protein source, is within the funding scope of the Fish Innovation Lab.

65. Can one of the project's targets that addresses biosecurity training be mitigating the risk of one or more specific priority diseases?

Response: If the submitter provides justification that one or more “priority diseases” have significant impact on local aquaculture production, then the project is within the scope of the Fish Innovation Lab to fund research and training in biosecurity to control the diseases.

66. Would it be appropriate if the research components focused on determining the capabilities that existed in the areas where training will be conducted and built, in order to identify the gaps in the service applications?

Response: The Fish Innovation Lab funds research for development, which generates knowledge, innovations, and technologies and transfers information and innovations to stakeholders for achievement of impacts. We recommend that submitters use available resources to determine gaps and bottlenecks in the sector and work with local partners to design projects that will address them.

67. Is a proposal that would bring women and youth over from a country of interest and train them on how to use a probiotic to improve fish aquaculture meet the criteria set in this RFA and be a viable proposal?

Response: Projects funded by the Fish Innovation Lab need to include both research for development and local capacity building. For local capacity building, we recommend that training be conducted in the host country in collaboration with local extension or other appropriate

organizations. This approach has potential to enhance extension capabilities and networks in the host country.

68. Would it be feasible to have a centralized training in a separate country (such as South Africa) with linkages to the specific countries with current FIL activities (Bangladesh, Nigeria, Kenya, and Zambia)? e.g. Can our project be focused in South Africa due to the available resources and infrastructure in that country to support initial training?

Response: Institutions meeting eligibility requirements can apply, but the project **must be implemented in an Feed the Future country**. Projects funded by the Fish Innovation Lab need to include both research for development and local capacity building. For local capacity building, we recommend that training be conducted in the host country in collaboration with local extension or other appropriate organizations. This approach has potential to enhance extension capabilities and networks in the host country.

69. I am reading the RFA, areas of inquiry, and associated materials (e.g. Theory of Change), and I am interested in knowing if governance capacity building programs that create the necessary enabling conditions sustainable development (from a commercial, environmental and social standpoint) of aquaculture are considered eligible under the RFA as I did not see it as explicitly stated in the documents.

Response: Governance capacity building is not within the scope of the Fish Innovation Lab although our Theory of Change recognizes the importance of government policy, regulations, and capacity as critical to the success of Fish Innovation Lab interventions. However, proposals may include strategies for engaging government stakeholders in planning, implementation, adoption, and scaling where critical to success. Research on food policy or informing food policy is funded by the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy (https://www.canr.msu.edu/cgc/projects/feed_the_future_innovation_lab_for_food_security_policy).

Budget

70. Can we buy microscopes, digital cameras, computers, routers, etc. with funds? This will go to building capacity for telepathology.
71. Can we use funds to assist aquaculture farms in getting microscopes, cameras, instruments for diagnostic lab capacity building?

Response to questions 70 and 71: Purchasing of equipment is not the primary purpose of Fish Innovation Lab grants; however, if equipment is necessary for accomplishment of the research, then the items may be allowable with strong justification. Equipment, which is defined as “nonexpendable” items that have a useful life of one year or more and acquisition costs of \$5,000 or more, require prior approval. Allowable costs are subject to the cost principles found here: <https://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?SID=57a8112cf58267469f8e26ed12770425&mc=true&node=sp2.1.200.e&rgn=div6>. The purchases should not include your standard desktop office computer or the standard tech support provided by your institutions. Those types of purchases should be supported by the facilities and administrative (F&A) costs.

72. Is the Cost Sharing Mandatory?

Response: Cost share is not mandatory but is encouraged (page 12).

73. There is no item as Budget like Problem statement, Project goal, Expected outputs, Outcomes, Relevance to the FIL in preparation of two paged Concept Paper. Can I put Gross Total Budget in concept paper?

Response: The concept note needs to include the total budget requested for each implementing partner as described on page 15.

Partnerships and Collaborations

74. Do we have any scope for collaborating with government organizations (page-9)?

Response: As described in the RFA on page 9, collaboration with projects funded by other governmental development agencies, such as UKAID and Australian Aid is encouraged. Collaborations with host country governmental organizations are also possible with appropriate justification.

75. How about interest in integrating other FTF innovation labs partners institution those will add value, such as Soybean innovation Lab (University of Illinois and Missouri University)?

Response: Partnerships with other Feed the Future Innovation Labs are encouraged. An important premise of all the Feed the Future Innovation Labs is collaborative research through partnerships.

76. Will the counter part of my research work either as PI or CoPI?

Response: Determining roles on projects is at the discretion of the submitting partners. Projects are encouraged to identify both a U.S. and host country PI.

77. Can you please confirm the number and types of organizations necessary to fulfill the consortium requirements, as referenced in the Primary Institutions and Collaborating Partners Section on page 12 of the RFA?

Response: A primary institution (research agency or university) in the host country is required; the Fish Innovation Lab encourages identification of a U.S. primary institution also. Each project would then involve collaboration between the primary institution in the host country and the primary U.S. institution. Other collaborating partner organizations in the host country or in the U.S. can be added as needed to meet the needs of the project.

78. How about integrating Local Agricultural TVETCs ,local universities and lead scholars with research institutions.

79. Is it possible to collaborate with a Canadian Company? What are the funding and contribution requirements and expectations for such a collaboration, if possible?

Response to questions 78 and 79: The Fish Innovation Lab encourages global collaboration and has no restrictions on country of origin for applicants. A primary institution (research agency or university) in the host country is required; the Fish Innovation Lab encourages identification of a U.S. primary institution also. Other collaborating partner organizations in the host country or in the U.S. can be added as needed to meet the needs of the project. All participating organizations must have a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) and be registered in the System for

Award Management (SAM, <https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/>). DUNS and SAM registration are not required for concept note submission.

80. May you recommend US Academic institutions for partnership?
81. The RFA states, "The FIL ME may suggest potential US university partner(s) for submitting organizations to collaborate with in the full proposal stage." Could MSU please share a list of relevant US research partner institutions interested in partnership?

Response to questions 81 and 82: The Fish Innovation Lab can provide assistance in matching with U.S. university partners once concept notes have been reviewed and full proposals invited. In the meantime, we recommend using the Agrilinks database to identify potential collaborators. See <https://www.agrilinks.org/search/members/recently-active>.

82. Can MSU be involved as a university for research?
83. Please give the related names and addresses of Professor/Scientist from Mississippi State University or other University who will work as counter part of our project.

Response to questions 82 and 83: Scientists from Mississippi State University (Fish Innovation Lab management entity) and partnering entities (University of Rhode Island, Washington University St. Louis, Texas State University, and RTI International) can participate in proposals submitted to the Fish Innovation Lab. Participants from these universities and organizations will receive no advantage or disadvantage during proposal review. The Fish Innovation Lab takes seriously its commitment to preventing conflicts of interest and will take precautions when selecting review panels for concept notes and full proposals.