



Competitive Agricultural Research Grant Scheme

Call for Project Concept Notes (PCN)

Title of call

Farming Systems Research and Development

Purpose of call

Implementation of Actions to Achieve Food Security and Reduce Poverty in West and Central Africa - Critical Attributes of CAADP Pillar 4

Financial support for call

This call is supported with funds from the Agency of International Development (AusAID) under the Food Security and Rural Development Initiative of the Australian Government through the AusAID/CSIRO-CORAFWECARD partnership

1. Call identification number: CW/CGS/04/PCN/AusAID/01/2010

2. Publication date: 1st September, 2010

3. Total amount available for call: US\$ 6.3 million (the maximum budget of one project should not exceed US\$ 2.1 million).

4. Project period: 3 years

5. Submission of PCN: Deadline for submission of PCN is 30th September, 2010 at 17H00 GMT. PCNs received after the deadline date and time will not be considered for evaluation.

Signed and officially stamped printed hard copies of PCNs could be sent by post, hand-carried, express courier or by e-mail to the CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat at the following address:

The Director of Programmes, CORAF/WECARD,
7 Avenue Bourguiba, BP 48 Dakar RP, Senegal

E-mail: secoraf@coraf.org

Website: www.coraf.org

Telephone: +221 33 869 96 18

Project Concept Notes sent by fax will not be processed.

6. Notification date of decisions resulting from evaluation process: 30 November, 2010, addressed to the Project Coordinator of each PCN submission

7. Language: Project Concept Notes may be submitted in French or English.

8. Call description

8.1. Broad research theme

Sustainable intensification of integrated crop-livestock systems to enhance agricultural productivity and food security in West and Central Africa

8.2. Focus of the proposed research call

The predominant farming system in West and Central Africa is based on mixed crop-livestock systems, with pure livestock systems predominating only when rainfall is too low and uncertain to support some form of crop production. Pure arable systems are predominant where disease and parasites preclude most forms of livestock keeping. These systems are the ones that are going to change the most dramatically in the coming few decades and, therefore, where there are major research for development opportunities to make the transition a positive one (Herrero *et al.*, 2010)¹.

Multiple drivers recognised as shaping food security and the livelihoods of smallholder producers and the rural poor include:

- Population growth expected to double in 25 to 30 years time,
- increased urbanisation,
- market changes with increased demand for livestock products,
- input and output market integration issues,
- conflicts and HIV/AIDS,
- land degradation and water availability,
- reduced agricultural productivity,
- loss of agricultural biodiversity,
- climate variability and change.

In order to contribute to the broad objective of enhanced agricultural productivity and food security in West and Central Africa, this call seeks to mobilize the requisite strengths, expertise and resources to implement research on sustainable intensification of integrated crop–livestock in West and Central Africa.

The Call is based on the assertion that integration of crops and livestock at the farm and landscape scales can be used for higher productivity that is also environmentally sustainable. It also recognises the importance of innovation over the value chain.

While climate change is not the primary focus of this program, inclusion of questions related to the adaption to and/or mitigation of climate change are, however, encouraged.

Research proposals should tackle several of the following key issues and questions in an integrated manner:

- How to create innovative methods for allocating resources (including raising efficiency of use at the farm level) in order to improve income, reduce risk whilst enhancing sustainability of mixed crop-livestock systems, taking into consideration the specificity of the systems and farm assets;
- Opportunities to improve labour productivity and address labour shortages through wider adoption and/or innovation in animal traction systems and other innovations;
- Multi-purpose fodder production and evaluation of the trade-offs between short and long-term impacts of the use of biomass and land resources in terms of crop-livestock integration.
- How to improve targeting and adoption of genetic materials with respect to farming systems and emerging market opportunities;

¹ Herrero *et al.*, 2010. Smart investments in sustainable food production: revisiting mixed crop-livestock systems. *Science* 12 February, 2010: 822 – 825.

- What opportunities (technical, policy or institutional) exist at the landscape level and how could they be exploited to better manage communal resources with respect to farm-scale resources?
- What are the markets, policy and institutional constraints and opportunities around farm enterprises (public and private sector)/households?
- What high impact opportunities exist in order to enhance rural livelihoods and food security through post-harvest loss reduction (products, by-products) and value chain innovation?
- What policies and investment in on-farm systems, markets, trade, and institutions interventions will best enhance risk management?
- How do knowledge systems and innovation platforms function and how to improve and better understand the social and institutional dynamics and integration of local and scientific knowledge?
- Capacity strengthening issues on the value chain including how to successfully implement the principles of integrated agricultural research for development (IAR4D)²;
- How to mitigate potential marginalisation impacts of technical innovation and market development including inequitable outcomes for households, vulnerable groups and gender inequity?

8.3 Approach

Proponents might choose to organise their proposals around the following scenarios needing more effective interventions that will deliver improved and longer-term outcomes in smallholder productivity:

- a specific **value chain**;
- a specific **agro-ecosystem**;
- a specific **food security or rural development “hot spot”**;
- a specific **high impact technical innovation**;
- a specific **problem or opportunity** identified by development partners;
- **existing innovation platforms**.

Preference will be given to proposals that seek to integrate market or institutional innovation with technological innovation.

All proposals must include the principles of IAR4D in the design and conduct of the proposed research.

They should also seek, in addition to the development of the traditional logframe, to map out progress pathways to adoption of innovations and their impact in terms of rural development outcomes, recognising that these outcomes may not be achieved within the initial 3 year time-frame of the project.

The proposal should allot about 30% of the total budget to engaging the project implementation team and key stakeholders in constructing impact pathway, emphasizing stakeholder networks needed to achieve impact, providing the need to both learn and report to donors and establishing a research framework to examine the critical process of change that the project seeks to initiate and sustain (Douthwaite *et al.*, 2008)³.

Project intervention should primarily focus in countries and systems in West and Central Africa with significant agricultural and livestock production in the sub-humid and semi-arid zones.

² www.ICRA-edu.org/objects/anglolearn/IAR4D_concept_paper.pdf

³ Douthwaite *et al.*, 2008. Participatory Impact Pathway Analysis : A practical method for project planning and evaluation (<http://cigar.ilac.v1779.nc>).

9. Eligibility

The following key criteria should be met for conformity and eligibility of submissions during the competitive evaluation process.

9.1. General and administrative criteria

The research must be carried out in at least three countries in the CORAF/WECARD sub-region

The National Agricultural Research Systems (NARS) of the sub-region are expected to lead the projects and work in partnership with Base-Centres/Centres of Excellence, CGIAR centres, and other Advanced Research Institutions. Partnership with agricultural training institutions, especially Universities and/or Faculty and Colleges of Agriculture in the project consortia should be encouraged, in order to respond to project actors' capacity strengthening needs.

The PCN should comply with the format and content stipulated in the CORAF/WECARD Competitive Grant Scheme Operating Manual [**Annex A**], including (inter alia):

- A letter of intent/commitment for collaborators
- A logical framework which does not go as far as PIPA analysis
- An outline budget

The parent institute or organisation of the applicants should submit an organisational profile [**Annex B**] and should be judged to have the capacity and experience for implementing the proposed work.

9.2. Financial criteria

Expenditure should be linked to direct costs of research and overheads should not be more than 10% of the project budget.

The total budget of the projects should not exceed the funding ceiling specified in the Call for PCN.

The project budget should be clearly presented and the amount justified with respect to the scheduled activities in the technical proposal.

The project budget should indicate the amount requested from CORAF/WECARD and the amount contributed by other partners/stakeholders (matching funds).

Upon acceptance of PCNs, project teams will be requested to develop full proposals by the end of December, 2010. Some PCNs may be asked to combine in the development of full proposals where applicable. Financial and scientific support will be provided to shortlisted PCNs if necessary, to facilitate the development of full proposals.

10. Evaluation criteria

Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria and sub-criteria:

- Relevance/pertinence: general context and rationale, and the general and specific objectives.
- Scientific and technical quality: state of knowledge, description of project activities, expected results, target groups and methodology.
- Potential impact mapped out through Impact Pathways : social, economic, environmental and gender issues
- Technical implementation plan: logframe and chronogram (Gantt chart)
- Implementation team: professional and technical experience and competence of the team, publication in the project area, and partnership mechanism.
- Budget: contribution of partners, use of funds requested from CORAF/WECARD,

11. Other relevant information

Applicants are requested to visit the Website (www.coraf.org) and refer to the CORAF/WECARD competitive grant scheme operating manual for more details on how to adequately prepare their PCNs.

Annex A: Project Concept Note (PCN)

CORAF/WECARD Reference:	Unique reference number provided by CORAF/WECARD
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NOTE: Contact Details in this section are submitted on a separate sheet

Project Coordinator	This is the person with overall responsibility for the application to CORAF/WECARD and the implementation of the Project.
Address	Contact details for the Project Coordinator
Telephone	
Fax	
e-mail	
Collaborator[s]	Collaborating organisations with which agreements have been made. A letter of intent/commitment addressed to the lead institution, which demonstrates the collaborators are an active part of the proposal, must be included with the PCN.

These following sections are submitted on separate sheets to the *Contact Details*

Project Title	The applicant should provide a title, which concisely and accurately describes the scope of the work.
CORAF/WECARD Priority Area	This is the specific area that the project addresses. Note that proposals which do not address issues defined by the CORAF/WECARD <i>Call for Proposals</i> will not be processed.
CORAF/WECARD Cross-cutting and Core Functions	Which of the key cross-cutting and core functions of CORAF/WECARD, are of particular focus in the PCN.
Project Location	The countries for the proposed project – a minimum requirement is for the project to be carried out in at least 3 countries. Only Project Concept Notes that satisfy this criterion will be processed.
Total Cost of the Project	Total budget required to implement the full-term project. CORAF/WECARD will indicate in the call for proposals any maximum or minimum budget limits.
Duration of the Project	How long will the project last? The maximum period is three years and there is no minimum, unless stated in the call for proposals.
Date of PCN submission	The date that the PCN was dispatched to the CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat

Specific Objective of the Project [Guideline 400 words]

What is the justification for the proposed Project? The *Specific Objective* is the impact or change that the Project hopes to achieve by delivering its Results, and provided certain Assumptions hold. It is also stated in summary form in the logframe. It is the reason for the project and should address an identified constraint to the development of the agricultural sector in the sub-region. It should be demand-driven and fall within the regional or country priorities given in the CORAF/WECARD *Call for Proposals* and the Strategic Plan. These are based on some of the key sub-regional and regional targets for the agricultural sector and clearly identified demand from end-users. Background information should include a description of the importance of the constraint[s] that the project is seeking to address and a very brief summary of any significant work already carried out in this area.

Project Results [Guideline 300 words]

What will be the Results of the work? This is what the project will deliver. They are the terms of reference for the project. They are the necessary and sufficient conditions, provided Assumptions hold, for the achievement of the Specific Objective. They must be measurable, and deliverable within the time frame of the Project. They should reflect aspects of the CORAF/WECARD Results identified in its Strategic Plan [see Chapter 7, page **Erreur ! Signet non défini.** of the CORAF/WECARD CGS manual] which in summary cover technology/innovation generation [in the widest sense], policy research, capacity strengthening, and knowledge management. They may be seen as, inter alia, manuals, audio-visual products, agricultural products, infrastructure, marketing or information systems, policy options, institutional change, technologies. Promotion pathways to target organisations and beneficiaries should be identified where appropriate. Target organisations are those formal or informal groups, which will take up the Results of the proposed work and engage in the process of further

increasing the numbers of users of the knowledge, technology or methodology.

Research and Development *Activities* [Guideline 300 words]

How will the project be implemented? An outline of the studies, surveys, experiments and *Activities*, which are to be designed and implemented in order to deliver the *Results* of the project. There should be an *Activity* or group of *Activities* associated with each *Result* of the project, the *Activities* defining the action strategy for *Result* delivery.

Holistic methodologies that use novel approaches and combinations of stakeholders in innovative ways are encouraged.

Target Groups and Beneficiaries

Who are the main target groups and beneficiaries of the proposed work? The *target groups* are those closely involved in the implementation of the project whilst *beneficiaries* are beyond the immediate project boundary. Both groups will gain social, economic or environmental advantage from the technology/innovation, methodology or knowledge transfer *Activities* of the work to be supported. The *target group* immediately and the *beneficiaries* after further up-scaling of project *Results*. They may be identified in, for example, the household, the village community or the regional/national community.

Assumptions

Explain particularly significant Assumptions at each level in the logframe. Important assumptions are **external** conditions or are factors over which the project does not have direct, or complete control, but on which the delivery of Results and achievement of objectives depends. See Chapter 2, page **Erreur ! Signet non défini.** of the CORAF/WECARD CGS manual on logframe preparation, for further information.

Financial Summary

The financial summary should take in to account anticipated inflation, and be kept to a minimum consistent with achieving the project *Outputs*.

^{1,2} Proposed <i>Activities</i>	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Activity 1		For <i>process projects</i> an estimated expenditure based on projected <i>Activities</i> is required for years after year 1		
Activity 2				
Activity ...n				
³ Overheads				
³ Contingency				
TOTALS				

¹ **Rates for travel and subsistence should be according to the institutional norms of the organisations involved with the application. Certified, documentary evidence is required with the PCN that these are official rates.** These should be kept to a minimum consistent with achieving the *Outputs* described in the PCN.

² A full justification for the purchase of equipment will be required in the project proposal.

³ **The total of *Overheads* and *Contingency* should not exceed 15%, and should, in any case, be kept to a realistic minimum.** Where private sector organisations have additional tax liabilities the CORAF/WECARD Executive Secretariat should be consulted.

Annex B: Format for Organisational Profiles

1. ORGANISATIONAL PROFILE – NGOs and Community-based Organisations

NGO and CBO Organisations wishing to act as the coordinating/lead organisation for a proposal should complete the following form. Additional information can be put on a separate sheet and attached to the form. None of the information given here will be disclosed without your consent. **It should be submitted at the same time, but separate from the PCN.**

Name of the organisation	
Type of the organisation [local, regional, national]	
Contact details [address, telephone, fax, email]:	
Registration date and serial number with concerned organisation:	
Date started to work:	
System of book-keeping:	
Date of last renewal of the registration:	

Description of work							
Type of work	Region or area	Household covered /contact person			Working period	Fund mobilisation	Source of fund
		Total	Female	Male			
Past work							
Extra rows may be added as required or details attached on a separate sheet							
Present work							
Extra rows may be added as required or details attached on a separate sheet							
If you have an internal fund, describe briefly how it is generated.							
List the major objectives of your organisation mentioned in your organisation's act.							
How have you analysed the local agricultural and social situation of the area?							

Is there any community or other, contribution to your programme?
Explain briefly, what kind of relationship/co-ordination your organisation has with other organisation[s]?
Does your organisation give emphasis to gender issues? If yes, at what level [for example, in office staff recruitment, responsibilities of staff, beneficiary's level in participation/decision making/benefiting from the programmes]?

Human resource in the organisation			
Name of persons	Position in organisation	Education qualification	Area and number of years of experience
Extra rows may be added as required or details attached on a separate sheet			
RECENT PUBLICATIONS [titles and references] by the organisation and its staff			

The size of the boxes on this form has been reduced for presentation purposes. Hard and electronic copies of the forms can be obtained from the CORAF/WECARD Secretariat. The electronic version may also be downloaded from the CORAF/WECARD Website

<http://www.coraf.org>