

SANREM CRSP Phase IV RFA Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

July 21, 2009

Will SANREM consider an application for a project from my country?

In terms of countries eligible for the research the minimum requirement is that there is (1) a food insecurity problem, (2) a USAID Mission in the country, and (3) sufficient social/political stability for quality research. Eligible countries should be from one of the following regions: East Africa, Southern Africa, West Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. We do not have a program in Eastern Europe or Central Asia.

Can we combine countries from multiple continents?

We are looking competitive proposals within a region. Managing research across regions, without leveraging significant other funding, would make it quite difficult to achieve the kinds of potential for on-the-ground impact that we are seeking.

I'm wondering if research on degraded lands in the Brazilian Amazon would fall under the heading of "conservation agriculture production systems to increase agricultural productivity in food insecure countries"?

No, despite the relevance of conservation agriculture in Brazil, it is a food exporting country and not considered as food insecure. One of the early successes of conservation agriculture adoption was in the Cerrado.

What about Peru?

Peru is good. Peru is one of our suggested countries. It meets our criteria of: (1) high food insecurity; (2) USAID Mission presence; and (3) sufficient stability in the country to conduct quality research.

I would like to request your determination/approval for submitting a SANREM CRSP LTRA proposal focused on the Mexico (plus a secondary Central American country).

We do not dispute that there is poverty in Mexico, but according to the FAO, World Bank and others, Mexico is a low hunger, middle income country and we are targeting low income food insecure countries. The Global Hunger Index for Mexico in 2008 was < 5, and more than 88 other countries faced greater hunger problems. In fact, from 1990 to 2008, Mexico had a 50.8% decrease in its hunger index, the 5th best improvement in the world. Consequently, we do not feel that a proposal from Mexico would be competitive with proposals from food insecure countries. In contrast to Mexico, see the GHI for neighboring countries: El Salvador 6.5, Panama 8.9, Honduras 11.4, Dominican Republic 12, Nicaragua 12.8, Guatemala 14.6, and Haiti 24.3. More details on the global hunger index, which we used to identify priority countries for SANREM CRSP is available at: <http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/cp/ghi08.pdf>.

Can researchers from developing countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America apply?

We welcome participation from Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean. However, you will need a U.S. university partner as the lead. The SANREM CRSP offers a webpage for you to list your interests in order to help match with partners. There are no guarantees, so contacting US based researchers that you have worked with in the past is advised as well.

Here is the website: http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/partneringresources.php

I would appreciate it if you could confirm whether our international agricultural research center (IARCs) is eligible to submit an application for a project on behalf of our constituent countries.

All IARCs (including the CGIAR centers) are certainly welcome as partners but the rules that govern the CRSPs require that the lead institution submitting the proposal must be a US Title XII university, which essentially means that they must have agricultural or forestry programs. We have IARCs as major partners in several of our current projects:

http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_aboutus/IARCs.php. So, to get involved, you need to identify a US university to work with.

Can we apply to this request for application through you as your partner institution?

As the Management Entity we are running this competitive program and not allowed to partner with those submitting competitive applications. You will need to find US university research scientists with interests similar to your own. We have prepared a partnering webpage for that purpose.

http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/partneringresources.php

You may also have contacts with researchers at US universities that would be interested in leading such a project with you.

I have received information on request for Application to participate in the SANREM CRSP. I am interested in having Faculty of Agriculture being part of this CRSP. What do I have to do?

Your colleagues will need to have a US university lead, as in all CRSPs. We have a partnering webpage on our website on which your team can list themselves and their interests:

http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/partneringresources.php

It would be more efficient if you could identify and contact a US university partner directly.

I reviewed the SANREM grant request and I did not see any involvement of livestock, so I wonder about applying?

The Conservation Agriculture approach of Phase IV does include livestock as they often play a significant role in Conservation Agriculture systems throughout the world.

My question is whether exploring the linkages between common land management, farm investment/productivity and watershed effects are of interest.

Your work sounds very interesting. However, the focus on food security or conservation agriculture, both involving field crops is not apparent in your question. Commons land management is probably not within the framework of SANREM CRSP Phase IV. We are moving away from forestry type issues toward a more production agriculture focus for smallholders. An application that focused more narrowly on on-

farm decision making, sustainable land management (by that I presume conservation agriculture), and increasing the intensity of production agriculture would be more likely to be successful. Take another look over the RFA and see if you can find yourself in it from this perspective. If so, we're here to answer your questions as you move forward.

We are wondering whether we fulfill your criteria. Our organizations have jointly been developing a research cum action project developing bio-diversity potential in response to changing grazing requirements. Before we put the attached concept paper into your prescribed format, we would like to know whether we are eligible to submit a project proposal to you.

Your project looks quite interesting, but is not likely to be funded in this round of the SANREM CRSP. It should be noted that all SANREM CRSP activities are to be led by a US Land Grant University. I'm sure you could find a US university partner. However, you may feel that it is worthwhile to register on our partnering webpage in order to find a suitable partner.
http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/partneringresources.php You may also have contacts with researchers at US universities that would be interested in leading such a project.

I am preparing a SANREM application and need to contact the USAID missions in two targeted countries. Can you give me their contact email and phone numbers?

Yes, please request the specific countries and we will find the proper contact information if you have not already made contact.

My question is whether this is a one-time RFA or if additional awards will be made in 2010. While I think we have established an excellent network for a competitive proposal, it would be difficult for us to prepare a proposal in the timeframe outlined in the RFA.

This is a once in 5-years competition. I would urge you to see if you can prepare an application for this 5-year phase. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have specific questions.