

Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resources Management - Collaborative Research Support Program

(SANREM CRSP)

**Virginia Tech Office of International Research, Education, and Development
Management Entity**

Competitive Bridging Proposals Program

FY 2005 Request for Proposals:

BRIDGING PREVIOUS SANREM ACTIVITIES TO FUTURE SANREM PRIORITIES

Sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (USAID/EGAT) and participating U.S. and host country institutions around the world.

DATES: All applications must be received by close of business (COB) (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time) on Nov. 23, 2004. Applications received after applicable deadlines will not be considered for funding.

ELIGIBILITY: This call for proposals is directed toward scientists from U.S. institutions that have participated in previous SANREM CRSP activities. Former SANREM PIs and Co-PIs are specifically targeted since they are well-placed to provide short-term, high-impact activities that add value to previous SANREM activities. Interested non-SANREM scientists are encouraged to partner with former SANREM PIs and Co-PIs in the development of a proposal.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: SANREM CRSP requests applications for the SANREM Competitive Grants Bridging Program for fiscal years (FY) 2005 and 2006 to support high-impact, short-term, research activities that will capitalize on earlier SANREM program efforts and contribute to current SANREM inquiry areas (see Current Areas of SANREM Interest and Inquiry section). In FY 2005, SANREM CRSP anticipates awarding a limited number of grants to support high impact activities that add value to previous SANREM CRSP accomplishments through expanded technology transfer interventions, policy or impact studies, additional publications, and/or contributions to the establishment of the Phase III SANREM Knowledge Base.

These bridging activities must be completed within 12 to 18 months. Grant size will be limited to a maximum of \$100,000 with four to six grants funded. Successful applicants will be notified by December 15. Project funding will begin on approximately January 1, 2005. Quarterly progress reports documenting project accomplishments are required on April 1, July 1, Oct. 1, and January 1 each year along with a final report at the conclusion of project. Quarterly progress reports will be submitted via a user-friendly web-based project reporting system.

Current Areas of SANREM Interest and Inquiry

The goal of the new SANREM CRSP is to promote improved SA and NRM by focusing on the following inquiry areas.

- **Technology Integration:** Technologies needed by stakeholders and decision-makers to promote SA and NRM practices (i.e., biotechnology, GIS, decision support tools, etc.)
- **Governance:** Policies, regulations and practices required for appropriate control and access to natural resources and for mutually beneficial relationships between all public and private stakeholders.
- **Economic Policy and Enterprise Development:** Economic policies required to support a shift from non-sustainable SA/NRM practices and enterprises to sustainable systems that are competitive in local and international markets.
- **Social and Institutional Capacity Building:** Training and policies needed to promote improved SA and NRM leadership, NGO technology transfer roles, and increased cooperation between civil society and government organizations.
- **Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Services:** Integrated management of agriculture and natural resources to promote biodiversity, environmental services, and stakeholder livelihood.
- **Globalization, Vulnerability, and Risk:** Impacts of globalization on SA/NRM and identification of best practices for negotiating globalization and risk.
- **Systems Approach to SA/NRM:** An integrated systems approach to SA/NRM that demonstrates how linkages between gender, biophysical, technology, governance, economic, social, environmental, and globalization factors must be addressed to achieve SA/NRM systems.

The SANREM Knowledge Base is a key component of the new SANREM project. It will organize SA and NRM knowledge into a searchable database that will enable users of the knowledge base to quickly locate information (articles, reports, books, projects, presentations, photos, videos, etc.) using user specified keywords and criteria. All knowledge developed through the new SANREM project will be accessible via the SANREM Knowledge Base. In addition, to insure the long-term integrity and use of the SANREM Knowledge-Base, the SANREM CRSP will partner with publicly accessible digital resource libraries such as the Agriculture Network Information Center (AgNIC <http://laurel.nal.usda.gov:8080/agnic>) Alliance, OAIster (<http://www.oaister.org>), INFOMINE (<http://infomine.ucr.edu>) to provide access to the SANREM Knowledge Base for future generations. To do this, all SANREM generated knowledge must contain metadata that is compatible with our search system and those of our partner libraries.

Bridging Proposal Examples:

- A technology transfer program to disseminate a successful technology or institutional practice from previous SANREM activities to a wider audience either in the initial host country or a neighboring country that would contribute both to achievement of USAID/EGAT/NRM's Intermediate Results and set the stage for further work in one of the inquiry areas.

- Development of the metadata required to incorporate the knowledge resources generated from the previous SANREM project (<http://www.sanrem.uga.edu/>) into the new SANREM Knowledge Base and those of our partner resource libraries. The previous SANREM website contains over two gigabytes of articles, reports, photos, presentations, and other digital resources. Each of these resources needs to be reviewed and characterized with metadata so that potential knowledge users can more easily identify and retrieve useful information. This project could be multi-institutional and participation by professional librarians should be considered.

Submission Dates and Times

Applications must be received by COB at the email and postal addresses indicated below by 5:00 p.m. (Eastern Time), Nov. 23, 2004. Applications received after applicable deadlines will not be considered for funding.

How and Where to Submit

Applications must be submitted in both electronic and paper form.

Electronic applications should be submitted to sanrem@vt.edu and should have "SANREM Bridging Proposal" in the subject line. Electronic applications should be submitted as either PDF or MS Word files.

Applicants are encouraged to submit completed paper applications via overnight mail or delivery service to ensure timely receipt by the SANREM CRSP. The address for hand-delivered applications or applications submitted using an express mail or overnight courier service is:

SANREM CRSP Competitive Grants Program
c/o Dr. Theo Dillaha, Program Director
SANREM CRSP
Office of International Research, Education, and Development
840 University City Blvd., Suite 5-7
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0378
Phone: 540-231-1230

One copy of the paper application is required. The receipt of all applications will be acknowledged by e-mail.

Proposal Preparation Guidelines:

Cover Page

A single page with the name of the lead institution applying for the award and the name, title, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone and FAX numbers of principal investigators.

Project abstract

150-200 words

Keywords

3-5 keywords describing general area and focus (e.g., watershed management, ecotourism, ecoagriculture, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, pastoralism)

Project period

January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006 (at the latest)

Project type

Identify the project as critical policy-impact research publication, information dissemination, technology transfer, or knowledge base development.

Proposal contents

Proposal length *excluding* budget, budget narrative and justification, references, and resumes shall not exceed 5 single spaced pages (12 point font size). The proposal should include the following sections:

Statement of justification

Provide a justification statement for undertaking the project, discuss its originality, how it builds on previous SANREM activities, relevance to SA and NRM in the project area, region, and how and where activity deliverables could be used.

Objectives

Describe the major goal(s) and specific objectives of the project.

Procedures

Describe procedures that will be used to achieve the specific objectives outlined above. SANREM CRSP accomplishment to be capitalized on, the methods for adding value to the accomplishment, and the means by which the impact of this activity will be measured.

Timeline

Sequence of tasks and milestones.

Expected results and deliverables

Significance of the impact of this activity, anticipated publications, capacity building, training accomplishments, SANREM Knowledge Base contributions, technologies transferred.

Student support and training activities

Give number of graduate and undergraduate students to be involved, their majors, country of origin, and universities. Estimated number of non-students to be involved in training activities, country of origin and organizations involved. Plans to achieve participation of approximately 50% women.

Cooperating agencies and host country partners

Describe potential cooperating agencies, host country partners, any private-public partnerships and the nature of cooperation.

Budget

Provide a budget using the attached budget form and categories and a detailed budget narrative with clear justification for each expenditure category. Budgets are expected to be within the range of \$50,000 to \$100,000 and should be divided into two time periods: January-September 2005; and October 2005 through no later than June 2006.

- Indirect Costs: The maximum allowed indirect cost rate is the lesser of the institution's federally approved off-campus research rate or 30%.
- Cost-share: Cost share is required for this RFA. Participation may include but is not limited to: 1) faculty participation; 2) in-kind contribution; and 3) other cost-sharing arrangements. The cost share must consist of non-federally funded contributions that meet all the criteria detailed in 22 CFR 226.23 and discussed in detail within the budget narrative. The cost-sharing requirement for CRSPs is 25% of non-exempted USAID funds as described in the CRSP Guidelines.
- Budget categories: Allowable budget categories include:
 - Personnel
 - Fringe Benefits
 - Travel
 - Equipment
 - Materials and Supplies
 - Contractual Services
 - Other Direct Costs
 - Indirect Costs

Qualification of investigator(s)

Attach a 1-2 page resume for each investigator. Include only relevant publications and a list of on-going or completed projects relevant to the proposed research.

Required Forms

Proposals selected for funding will be required to submit the following federal forms prior to the awarding of sub-awards. These forms ***should not*** be submitted with the original proposal.

- Part I - Certifications and Assurances
- Part II - Other Statements of Recipient
- Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions
- Key Individual Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking
- Participant Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking
- Self Certification Letter
- Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

Evaluation Criteria

Research supported under this program shall be designed, among other things, to produce high-impact, short-term research, education, and extension impacts from previous SANREM CRSP activities. The proposals will be evaluated by the SANREM CRSP Technical Committee. In carrying out its review, the proposal review panel (SANREM CRSP Technical Committee) shall take into account the following factors:

- 1. Relevance of proposal to current SANREM goals and effectiveness of the project in building on previous SANREM CRSP activities. (20 points)**

- a. Relevancy of research, extension, and/or education activities towards current SANREM issues and priority areas;
- b. Value of the original SANREM CRSP accomplishment being advanced;
- c. New results and products (measured in terms of number of adopters or increased dissemination of the technology, model or information through extension or academic publication) that will result from the bridging activity; and
- d. Likelihood of project success.

2. Scientific merit of the application for research, extension and/or education, including: (30 points)

- a. Novelty, innovation, uniqueness, and originality;
- b. Conceptual adequacy and clarity of proposed objectives and research, extension, education, and/or knowledge management methodology, as applicable;
- c. Soundness of proposed project assessment plan; and
- d. Understanding and consideration of gender issues.

3. Planning and administration of the proposed project, including: (20 points)

- a. Time allocated for systematic attainment of objectives;
- b. Feasibility of proposed project administration, partnerships, collaborative relations, evaluation and monitoring efforts, and information dissemination;
- c. Evidence of involvement of developing country stakeholders and/or communities of interest in the development and implementation of research and extension activities; and
- d. Planned involvement of women. USAID's training goal is fifty percent women in new trainee third-country and U.S. enrollments (graduate students, trainees, project scientists).
- e. Method to assess the knowledge, attitudes, skills and aspirations of targeted populations against which change can be assessed.

4. Demonstrated contribution to USAID/EGAT/NRM Intermediate Results: (15 points)

- a. Advanced science and technologies for sound land resources management;
- b. Improved knowledge management and communication for the adaptation and adoption of technologies and practices;
- c. Reformed and strengthened governance, policies, and local institutions; and
- d. Development and integration of sustainable resource-based local enterprises in national, regional, and global markets.

5. Qualifications of proposed project personnel and adequacy of facilities, including: (15 points)

- a. Qualifications of applicant (individual or team) to conduct the proposed project, including performance record and potential for future accomplishments;
- b. Demonstrated awareness of previous and alternative approaches to the problem identified in the proposal;
- c. Institutional experience and competence in subject area; and
- d. Adequacy of available or obtainable support personnel, facilities, and instrumentation.