**Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
Collaborative Research Support Program (SANREM CRSP)**

Request for Long-Term Research Award Applications

Date of Release: January 7, 2005 (Revised June 1, 2005)
Applications Due Date: September 30, 2005
Announcement of Selections: December 1, 2005

This request for applications is issued by the:

Management Entity (ME) of the SANREM CRSP
Office of International Research, Education, and Development (OIRED)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
840 University City Boulevard, Suite 5-7
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0378

Email: sanrem@vt.edu
Website:
http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/
Phone: (540) 231-6813/2009

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.

Request for Applications:

SANREM Long-Term Research Awards

DUE DATE: All applications must be received in both paper and electronic forms by close of business September 30, 2005 (5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Savings Time). Applications received after the deadline will not be considered for funding.

ELIGIBILITY: This RFA is open to all US universities and their partner institutions as defined by the CRSP Guidelines (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/CRSPGuidelines.pdf) of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. Each application team must be led by a US university.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The SANREM CRSP invites applications for long-term research on sustainable agriculture (SA) and natural resources management (NRM). The SANREM CRSP is currently providing support to 18 Planning Award recipients for the development of 18 Long-Term Research Award applications. More information on the Planning Awards Program is available at http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/planning.php. Any eligible US University may submit a Long-Term Research Award application regardless of whether they are Planning Award recipients.

Long-Term Research Award applications should include a partnership of US universities, host country institutions, IARCs (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_aboutus/IARCs.php), NGOs, and the private sector to conduct long-term (up to 4 years), multi-disciplinary, multi-dimensional SA & NRM research on priority areas of inquiry (described below). It is expected that research topics will address concrete issues/challenges faced by development practitioners in the field. Detailed application requirements are listed below under "Technical and Programmatic Considerations for Long-Term Research Award Applications".

Institutions shall prepare a full application for a long-term regional or global priority research activity by September 30, 2005. Approximately $6,000,000 will be devoted to the Long-Term Research Award program. It is anticipated that this funding will support up to six multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary research activities at a funding level or $250,000 to $300,000 per year for four years. The goal of the SANREM CRSP is to provide at least one Long-Term Research Award for each of the following regions: (1) Sub-Saharan Africa, (2) Asia and the Near East, (3) Latin America and the Caribbean, and (4) Europe and Eurasia. All allocations for selected applications are contingent on: (1) the annual funding level received by the SANREM CRSP from USAID; and (2) performance under subaward provisions.

All SANREM supported activities will be conducted in compliance with the SANREM Policy and Operating Procedures (POP) Manual. The POP manual describes the organizational and governance structure of the SANREM CRSP as well as SANREM policies and operating procedures. A draft copy of the SANREM POP Manual is available at:

SANREM CRSP GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND APPROACH

The Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs) were initiated to link the capabilities of U.S. Universities and other public and private partners to the needs of developing nations worldwide. The SANREM CRSP implements this goal through applied research designed in coordination with the Strategic Objectives of USAID Missions in developing countries. The approach is both participatory, engaging stakeholders at all levels in research problem formulation within priority areas of inquiry, and comparative, focusing on multiple countries and/or regions to facilitate scaling up and out of research findings. SANREM CRSP's program strategy is based on promoting stakeholder empowerment and improved livelihoods thorough the discovery, organization, and dissemination of SA & NRM knowledge. Gender sensitivity is integral to the SANREM approach and reinforced by gender-sensitive participant training programs that include degree and non-degree training plans. All activities must link sustainable natural resources management with the economic concerns of local populations and the promotion of good governance.

The objectives of the SANREM CRSP are to:

1. Increase scientific knowledge and technical innovations in SA and NRM;
2. Improve knowledge management, education and communication leading to behavioral changes in adaptation and adoption of new SA and NRM technologies and practices;
3. Reform and strengthen SA and NRM governance, policies, and local institutions; and
4. Promote the functioning of sustainable resource-based local enterprises in national, regional, and global markets.
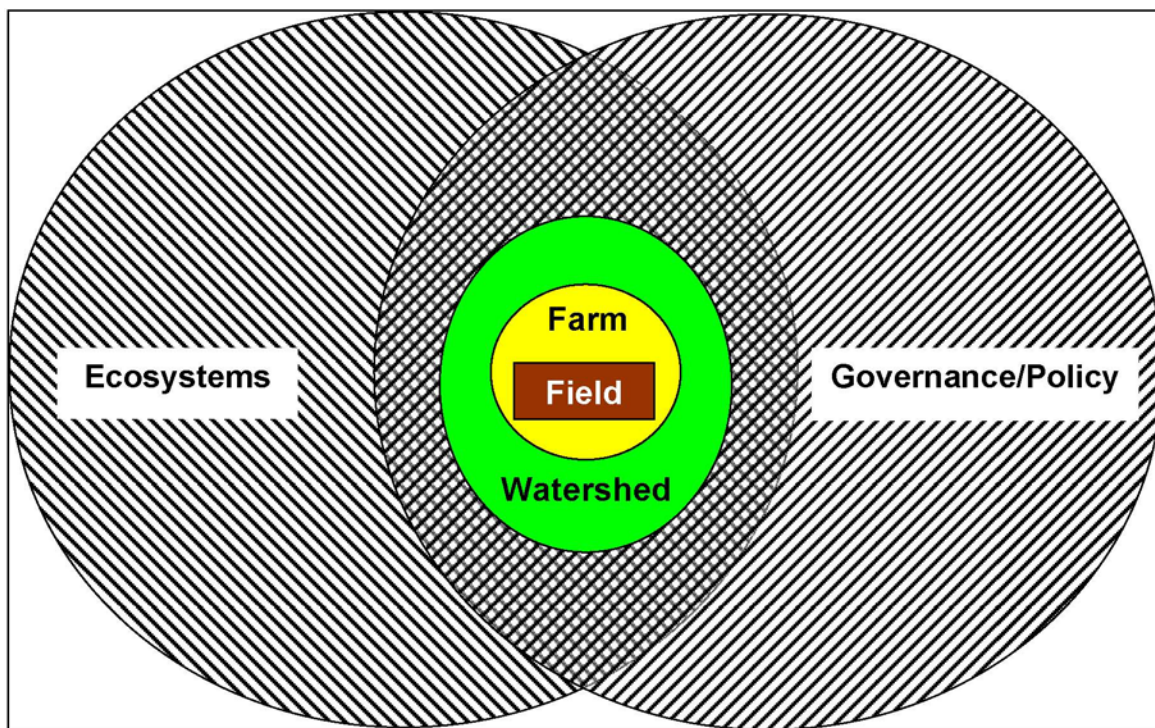
The SANREM CRSP seeks to support research activities, that mobilize science and technology to foster innovation and improvements in the social, economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture and natural resources management, and that lead to improved livelihoods and expanded trade opportunities and capacities for stakeholders. Specifically, the SANREM CRSP seeks to strengthen sustainable agriculture and natural resource management training and education, outreach, and applied research.

The goals of the Long-Term Research Awards program are to implement multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional SANREM CRSP research and knowledge dissemination activities. Because of budget limitations, it is expected that SANREM CRSP research and knowledge dissemination activities funded through the Long-Term Research Award program will build on on-going development activities in most cases. Research activities that complement USAID Mission strategic objectives involving sustainable agriculture and natural resources management are high priorities. Applicants will be encouraged to link with on-going projects and programs addressing SANREM areas of inquiry at different system scales. Long-Term Research Award recipients are expected to develop partnerships with USAID Missions, IARCs, NGOs and other private sector organizations, national agricultural research services (NARS), host country universities and research institutions, U.S. minority serving institutions, other CRSPs, and on-going projects across countries, regions, and landscapes to implement their research and knowledge dissemination activities. Information regarding USAID Missions with significant SA and NRM

activities (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/usaidneeds.php), and potential US and non-US partners (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/partneringresources.php) can be found on the SANREM website.   Development of these linkages is essential to the SANREM CRSP systems approach to sustainable development.   Successful Long-Term Research Award teams also are expected to build on existing country and region-level systems knowledge and contribute toward greater scale integration and the application of meaningful knowledge on the ground.

Systems Approach and Priority Inquiry Areas

To prepare competitive applications for Long-Term Research Awards, applicants should become familiar with the SANREM nested-landscape systems approach and its priority inquiry areas (see SANREM CRSP Proposal and other documents at the SANREM CRSP Website: http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/TechnicalProposal.pdf). To facilitate knowledge organization and the integration of activities among and within sites, SANREM is organizing SA & NRM knowledge within the context of a system with geographic, governance, and ecological components. SA & NRM actions and their subsequent outcomes interact across the system; what happens in one system component has consequences in other components. In order for applicants to effectively integrate their research and interventions within this dynamic setting and assure immediate development applications of the knowledge acquired, the research problem statement must be formulated within the context of one or more of the highest level sub-systems (e.g., eco-system, governance/policy, and watershed). In order to assure that the research is livelihood driven, linkage with the field and/or farm/enterprise sub-systems must be explicit.

SANREM Systems Approach

In addition to situating research applications within one or more higher level sub-systems, applicants must also address one or more of the *priority inquiry areas* summarized below.

Technology Integration: Technologies needed by stakeholders and decision-makers to promote SA&NRM practices (i.e., biotechnology, GIS, decision support tools, etc.).

Governance: Policies, regulations, and institutional arrangements enabling civil society to better manage natural resources.

Economic Policy and Enterprise Development: Supporting sustainable SA & NRM practices that develop niche markets, and are eco-friendly and competitive.

Social and Institutional Capacity Building: Training and policies promoting improved SA & NRM leadership, NGO technology transfer, and increased civil society and government synergy.

Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Services: Integrated management of agriculture and natural resources to promote synergistic relationships between production, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

Systems Linkages: The integrated SANREM CRSP systems approach demonstrates how linkages between gender, biophysical, technology, governance, economic, social, environmental, and globalization factors achieve sustainable development.

Globalization, Vulnerability, and Risk: SA & NRM best practices to manage globalization and address risk and vulnerability caused by HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, etc.

All SANREM funded participants are required to contribute to the SANREM Knowledge Base (SKB). The SKB 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 SKB to quickly locate information (articles, reports, books, projects, presentations, photos, videos, etc.) using specified keywords and criteria. All knowledge developed through the new SANREM project will be accessible via the SKB. To do this, all SANREM generated knowledge and products will be located on or linked to the SKB. An on-line project reporting system is under development, which will allow award recipients to make direct contributions to the SKB. Details on the SANREM Knowledge Base are available at
http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_information/SKB.php.

Technical and Programmatic Considerations for Long-Term Research Award Applications

Long-Term Research Award applications are expected to propose long-term (up to 4 years) SANREM CRSP research activities. The SANREM CRSP's goal is to award at least one Long-Term Research Award to each the following regions: (1) Sub-Saharan Africa, (2) Asia and the Near East, (3) Latin America and the Caribbean, and (4) Europe and Eurasia. This goal is contingent on the receipt of high quality applications for each region.

The following is a summary list of expected components for Long-Term Research Award applications:

1. Applications must include a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary (including both biophysical and social sciences) approach to SANREM research, education, training and outreach.

2. The institution taking the lead in submitting the application must be a U.S. university, with other host country, international and U.S. institutions integrated into the proposed effort. Applications are required to demonstrate linkages and partnerships with USAID Missions and implementing partners, international agricultural research centers (IARCs), NGOs and other private sector organizations, national agricultural research services (NARS), host country universities and research institutions, U.S. minority serving institutions (such as 1890 and 1994 Land Grants), and other CRSPs (wherever appropriate). Signed institutional commitments are required from collaborating U.S. and international institutions.

3. The approach must be participatory and facilitate interactions among all men and women stakeholders (resource users (farmers, fisherfolk, herders, foresters, etc.), scientists, extension workers, agricultural marketing agents, USAID personnel, etc.). A description of the participatory process used in developing the application (host country workshops, rapid rural appraisals, interviews with key stakeholders, etc.) and how resource decision makers at multiple levels will be involved in project implementation must be provided.

4. Applications must address environmental, social, economic, and gender issues (see SANREM Gender Assessment at:
   http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/gender.php).

5. The application must address SA & NRM problems with the potential for significant impact within the proposed region(s) or across a thematic area. A clear and concise problem statement should be made, specifying research methods and testable hypotheses (as appropriate). The proposed region(s) and countries and proposed SANREM systems and areas of inquiry must be identified and justified. The literature review and proposed methodology must show integration across system levels.

6. Approaches comparing technologies, tools, applications, and institutional innovations across sites, and methodologies for scaling up and out are encouraged. Applications should describe how multidisciplinary research results will be integrated into development applications.

7. Biodiversity conservation is both a SANREM area of inquiry and a USAID priority. Applications involving the relationships between SA and NRM and biodiversity conservation are highly encouraged. Biodiversity conservation activities may be site specific or not. Site-based work is implemented in biologically significant areas. *Ex situ* conservation of wild species, and their germplasm, may also be included when explicitly for the purpose of biodiversity conservation. Please take relevant USAID Mission

Biodiversity Threat Assessments into account.

8. The SANREM CRSP recognizes that it may not be appropriate to address every desired component listed above in order to develop a high quality research program that meets the goals and intentions of the SANREM CRSP. We are seeking applications that address as many of these requirements as are necessary to develop a holistic and balanced applied research program.

9. USAID Mission activities provide opportunities for application of research findings and the potential for complementary resources. It is expected that research will be directed at countries that have a USAID presence (many USAID Missions with potential synergies with SANREM are listed at http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/USAIDmission.php. *Direct contact with and support letters from USAID Missions are required for successful Long-Term Research Award applications.* The research application must demonstrate how the proposed research assists USAID missions and projects. During the development of Long-Term Research Award applications, applicants should coordinate USAID Mission visits and contacts with the SANREM CRSP Program Director (Theo Dillaha, dillaha@vt.edu , 540-231-6813), who will work with the USAID CTO to facilitate contacts with specific Missions and mission officials.

10. Long-term research applications must include a letter of commitment from participating host country institutions, with the names of the collaborating scientists, their disciplines, and levels of effort detailed. If the application is selected, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be developed with the host country institution.

11. Long-term research applications must contain a plan for training, both degree and short term. Collaborative efforts that involve graduate students are especially encouraged. Given the available funding, the use of post-doctoral research associates or other consultants is discouraged.

12. Outcomes assessment is integral to all SANREM CRSP supported research. Outcomes assessment and reporting will be structured using the SANREM Targeting Outcomes of Programs (SANREM TOP) framework (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/TOP.php).   Applications must demonstrate that they have applied SANREM TOP outcomes assessment methodology in the development of their proposed research and outcomes assessment methodology. SANREM TOP Framework Reporting tables (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/SANREM_TOP_Framework_Reporting _Tables.doc) must be included in an appendix to document incorporation of the SANREM TOP Framework in your research application.

13. Quality assurance planning and implementation are required components of all SANREM CRSP supported projects. All research projects will develop and implement a quality assurance project plan. Quality assurance plans (QAP) describe the strategies and methods utilized to insure that projects are developed and implemented in a manner that maximizes the level of scientific rigor possible given available resources, schedule and

budget. Additional details on the development of QAP are available at: http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/QAPM.php.

14. Applicants should include funds for at least 4 Co-PIs (including host country nationals) to participate in a 3-day Annual Program Meeting each budget year. The Annual Program Meetings will most likely be held at one of the Long-Term Research Award host country sites, with the meeting moving and focusing on a different Long-Term Research Award each year. Assume that the Annual Program meeting will involve international travel.

15. At least 50 percent of SANREM CRSP funds must be expended in or on behalf of the host countries or regions. Subawards to host country partners, training expenses of host country researchers, and international travel in support of SANREM CRSP program activities are considered host country expenses. The applicant should provide a breakdown of the US and host country expenditures in the Budget Justification.

16. U.S. institutions are required to provide a 25 percent matching commitment. Matching is not required for the following components of awards: host country subawards, training of host country researchers, and hospital and medical costs of U.S. personnel of the CRSP while serving overseas. See Financial Management section of CRSP Guidelines for more information (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/CRSPGuidelines.pdf).

17. For all applications, indirect costs are limited to the federally negotiated *off-campus research rate* (with a maximum of 30 percent) applied to modified total direct costs for U.S. universities, international centers, and non-host country organizations. Host country institutions may charge an administrative fee not to exceed 10 percent of direct costs. No indirect costs or administrative fees are allowed on equipment and student tuition. *Applications with indirect costs exceeding federally negotiated off-campus research rate and/or those exceeding 30% will not be evaluated.*

18. The SANREM CRSP subaward policy is designed to maximize the amount of funding going to host country activities. Lead institutions that waive indirect costs and are prepared to make needed cash advances on subawards to host country organizations, may administer the host country organization subawards and the subawards with indirect costs to other participating US partners and IARCs. If the lead institution is unable to waive indirect costs on subawards to host country institutions, the ME (OIRED/VT) will manage subawards for the host country institutions, US partners, and IARCs for the lead institution. The lead institution is still responsible for managing the programmatic components of the Long Term Research Award. Virginia Tech will only make payments to subawardees that are approved by the responsible lead institution PI.

19. Long-Term Research Award applications should prepare annual plans of work organized by project objectives and budgeted for up to four years of funding. Quarterly progress reports will be reviewed by the SANREM CRSP ME and used to develop quarterly and annual reports to USAID. Project continuation will be determined annually based on satisfactory completion of annual plans of work and availability of funding from USAID. Project outputs should include: quarterly and trip reports; journal articles, fact sheets, chapters, books, brochures, other publications; decision and policy making tools and

models; contributions to the SANREM Knowledge Base; etc. At the beginning of the third year of the project, an External Evaluation Panel will conduct a progress assessment of the activity. Continued funding is contingent on satisfactory progress in achieving proposed objectives and milestones.

Instructions for the Preparation of Applications

Research award applicants are encouraged to visit the SANREM CRSP Website (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp) frequently for RFA amendments, guidance, and partnering opportunities. Answers to RFA related questions received by the ME will also be posted on the web site. The intention of the partnering opportunities site is to facilitate partnering of potential US, international, and host country partners. Individuals and organizations interested in participating in SANREM CRSP activities are encouraged to visit the partnering web site and provide brief descriptions of their capacities, areas of interest, regional preferences, and contact information. Those seeking partners can then visit the website to identify potential partners. A list of contact persons for each partner IARC is also available on the SANREM CRSP Website for identifying potential IARC collaborators.

The SANREM CRSP has prepared a list of Long-Term Research Award Application Review Questions (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/LTR_Review_Questions.html) to assist applicants in assessing how well their proposal meets SANREM CRSP objectives. Please use the review questions to assess the quality of your application and to determine how well your application meets the goals of the SANREM CRSP.

Notice of Intent *(by 1 July 2005)*

Lead institutions who did not receive Planning Awards must submit a Notice of Intent to submit a Long-Term Research Award application to the SANREM CRSP Program Director at sanrem@vt.edu by 1 July 2005. The Notice of Intent should provide contact information for the Lead PI and a brief abstract of the proposed research.   This information will assist the SANREM CRSP in determining how many reviewers are needed to review the Long-Term Research Award applications.

Organization and Format of Long-Term Research Award Applications

Applications for Long-Term research awards must contain the following elements:

1. 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.)
2. Project abstract: One page with the following components:
    a. Project title and principal investigator names, titles and affiliations
    b. 150-200 word abstract

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

    d. Project period: December 1, 2005 to September 30, 2009 (latest)

    e. Targeted counties/region(s): Specify countries and regions the research will involve

3. Technical Narrative (20 page maximum)
    a. Introduction and justification
    b. Problem statement and objectives
    c. Literature review
    d. SANREM systems and inquiry areas addressed
    e. Proposed methodology by objective (applying TOP framework methodology)
      i. Methodology and tasks required to accomplish each objective
      ii. Planned participatory stakeholder implementation activities
      iii. Planned training and capacity building activities
      iv. Integration of gender issues into project activities
      v. Knowledge dissemination plan (anticipated publications, contributions to SANREM Knowledge Base, workshops, etc.)
    f. Contribution to USAID Mission objectives
    g. Training plan
    h. Schedule of critical tasks and accomplishments
    i. Roles and responsibilities of key personnel and partner organizations
4. Literature Cited.
5. SANREM TOP Framework Reporting Tables http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/SANREM_TOP_Framework_Reporting_Tables.doc
6. Statement of institutional experience in the proposed region(s)/country(s) (1 page limit)
7. Curriculum Vitae for Lead PI, Co-PIs, and key project personnel (2 page limit per CV).
8. Letters of support from USAID Missions
9. Letters of commitment from partners and collaborating institutions
10. Budget with cost-sharing indicated using the appropriate SANREM CRSP Budget Form (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/Budget.php).
11. Budget and Cost Sharing Narrative and additional sources of support (if any) (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/Budget_Narrative_Form.doc)
12. Required forms (USAID Forms at http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/USAID_Forms.doc). Not required from Planning Application Awardees unless key PIs and institutions have changed.)
    a. Part I - Certifications and Assurances
    b. Part II - Other Statements of Recipient
    c. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions
    d. Key Individual Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking
    e. Participant Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking
    f. Self Certification Letter

g. [Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing Implementing E.O. 13224 (Rev. 2)](#)
h. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement

In addition to submission of the research application in paper form:
- Items 1-9 and the Budget Narrative from Item 10 should be submitted electronically as a single MS Word or PDF document.
- Item 10, the SANREM CRSP Budget Form, should also be submitted electronically as a MS Excel file.
- Item 11, required forms should be submitted electronically as an additional single MS Word or PDF document.

Format:
Paper size: standard 8.5" x 11"   **WARNING: Page, font, and margin**
Line spacing: single spaced   **requirements will be strictly enforced.**
Margins:1 inch on all sides
Minimum font size 12 point

How and Where to Submit

Applications must be submitted in both electronically by email and in paper format (7 copies).

Electronic applications should be submitted to sanrem@vt.edu and should have "**SANREM Long-Term Research Award Application"** in the subject line.

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

Seven (7) paper copies of the application are required. The receipt of all applications will be acknowledged by e-mail.

Application Evaluation Criteria:

Each application will be evaluated using the following review criteria:

Scientific Merit: How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding in sustainable agriculture and natural resources management? To what extent

does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative and original concepts? Are the proposed research methods appropriate? Can the proposed research be technically implemented within the proposed time frame and budget and given the available resources? (25 points)

Research Impact: How well does the proposed research contribute to attainment of USAID Mission Strategic Objectives and SANREM CRSP Objectives? Specifically, how well does the proposed research promote stakeholder empowerment, improved livelihoods, biodiversity conservation, and environmental services? (25 points)

Capacity Building: How well does the degree and short-term training support the research and build capacity for future sustainable agriculture and NRM? Is there a sound plan for scaling up and out through technology transfer and research communications? How well does the proposed research enhance host country infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? (20 points)

Participatory Partnerships: How well qualified is the research team to conduct the project? Is the proposed team sufficiently diverse institutionally (universities, IARCs, NGOs, etc.) and disciplinarily (social, biological and physical) for the intended research?   Were developing country stakeholders and USAID Missions sufficiently involved in the conception and design of the research application? How well does the research proposal integrate stakeholders into the research program? (15 points)

Gender and Minorities: How well is the sex of stakeholders (end-users, trainees, and other participants) taken into account? To what extent has gender sensitivity been integrated into all activities? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? (15 points)

The External Evaluation Panel (EEP) reviewing these applications may recommend some modification of selected or high ranking proposals. The EEP will also seek a balance between regions and institutions in making their final recommendations to the ME.