



## **OPEN CALL FOR PROPOSALS:**

**Agricultural Knowledge Networks, Innovation, and Behavioral Change  
for Climate Change Adaptation**

***The CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)*** is a strategic ten-year partnership emerging from a new collaboration between the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and the Earth System Science Partnership (ESSP). Through this collaboration, CCAFS brings together strategic research in agricultural science, development research, climate science, and earth system science, to overcome the threats that a changing climate poses to food security, rural livelihoods and the environment. This task will be carried out through adaptive research structured around three “placed-based” Themes (*Adaptation to progressive climate change, Adaptation through risk management, and Pro-poor mitigation*) and a fourth cross-cutting Theme (*Integration for decision making*) in three focus regions: the Indo-Gangetic Plains, West Africa, and East Africa. Led by the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), CCAFS taps into the collective expertise of all 15 CGIAR research centers and other thematic CGIAR Research Programs from around the world. CCAFS involves farmers, policy makers, donors and other stakeholders, integrating their knowledge and needs into the tools and approaches we develop.

This Open Call is for a project with the Indo-Gangetic Plains CCAFS team, and the research will accordingly be focused on South Asia.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE**

Climate change will require farmers to cope with and adapt to new or increased threats to their production systems, such as higher temperatures, altered rainfall patterns, and new pests and diseases. But to improve farmers’ current adaptive methods and abilities, and to encourage or accelerate adaptive change, we must better understand how and from where farmers get their information, how they make their decisions, and in what instances they choose to make adaptive changes. In other words, there is a need for research on knowledge networks, approaches to learning and innovating, and household and community behavior.

## **SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES**

This project on agricultural knowledge and innovation will be a fieldwork-based study in India, Nepal, and Bangladesh. It will utilize qualitative processes (e.g., surveys at the household and/or village level, participatory mapping or diagramming exercises, etc.), in conjunction with a review of relevant secondary literature. In particular, the project should seek to capture all or most of the following overall themes:

- Current innovative adaptive practices and capacity

- Constraints to adaptation/uptake of adaptive practices (including physical, social, economic)
- Historical/traditional knowledge regarding agriculture and climate, and intergenerational passing down of adaptive strategies
- Knowledge and learning patterns and structure
- Innovation: what kind, who innovates, how these innovations spread, what facilitates their spread
- Institutional structures and behaviors that may facilitate or hinder innovation and /or adaption to climate change
- Existing exchanges within the community (internal) and with outside farmer communities (external), including through migration
- Existing farmer organizations/network (formal/informal), especially groups of farmer innovation
- Household priorities and behavior, in terms of flexibility towards adaptive change and belief in investing in new innovations

Moreover, decision-making, access to information, food security, vulnerability, and perceptions of change may be affected by social categories. Hence, wherever possible, this research should differentiate based on caste, class, ethnicity, age, economic class, and/or gender.

The selected social science consultant/team will be designing a qualitative and quantitative methodology, along with any accompanying documents (e.g., questionnaire), in close consultation with a CCAFS member, finding and selecting local partners, and then organizing the survey implementation. The consultant(s) and/or local partners will also document some of these activities through visual media, including photographs and video. All collected data should then be analyzed, summarized, and placed in the context of other similar research. The end result should be a final report or publishable paper.

## **PROJECT ACTIVITIES**

Specific actions to be taken include:

- Prepare a methodology, trial it, and then revise accordingly.
- Select local partners to help plan logistics and translate documents.
- Directly engage in *or* oversee the implementation of the methodology.
- Arrange for communications outputs (photos, video, blog posts).
- Analyze survey results, contextualizing them in the existing literature, and draw conclusions about how adaption can best be enabled.
- Synthesize in a report or publishable paper.

## **CCAFS INPUTS**

Upon selection of the consultant(s), CCAFS will provide the following inputs for background:

- The 2010 Baseline Survey questionnaires, manuals, methodology (including location of sites) and preliminary outputs. This survey asked much broader and less anthropological questions about farm size and production, food security, and current adaptation or mitigation practices. We would like this Agricultural Knowledge and Innovation Survey to be substantially different, as to avoid unnecessary overlap.
- An earlier household survey (completed) and report (in progress) on adaptation techniques, particularly re: water mater management, in India. This agricultural knowledge and innovation survey should be substantially different.

### KEY POINTS TO CONSIDER

- CCAFS has **benchmark sites** that have been divided into blocks, in order to facilitate organization of our activities without duplicating them. Wherever possible and appropriate, the consultant(s) should consider surveying in these areas to enable incorporation of our other research work, e.g. the 2010 baseline survey, when drawing conclusions in the final report.
- All surveys should include geographic coordinates or location-specific markers to enable mapping of data (by CCAFS staff, at a later stage).
- **Gender, social, and economic differentiation** are key components of the CCAFS mission, and should be incorporated wherever possible (e.g., consider who is asking the questions, who is answering them, and on behalf of whom).
- If the selected consultant is outsourcing logistical matters to local partners, he/she should **monitor the implementation** to ensure high quality of data and timeliness in meeting project deadlines.
- While there are many types of knowledge and innovation, we are particularly interested in agricultural knowledge/innovation **in response to climatic threats or changes**—and its consequences for **rural livelihoods** and **food security**.

### GEOGRAPHIC TARGET

Initially in the Indo-Gangetic Plains region, particularly coastal areas of Bangladesh, drought-and-flood prone East India, irrigated Northwest India, and Taeri in Nepal. As noted above, site selection within CCAFS blocks/benchmark areas are preferable.

Should the research bear interesting and fruitful results, the methodology and/or accompanying documents may be adopted for similar work in the other two CCAFS regions, East Africa and West Africa.

### EXPECTED OUTPUTS

We will expect:

- A methodology, which may be used as the basis for similar research in our other focus regions.

- A final report or publishable paper, leading to improved understanding of adaptive capacities, knowledge sources, pathways to innovation, and household and community/institutional behaviors & priorities.
  - In addition to presenting raw data, the report should include data formatted into more easily digestible, visual infographics, e.g. graphs, charts, diagrams.
  - The report/paper should contain both quantitative data (i.e., statistics) and qualitative data (including stories that may be transformed into communications outputs, e.g. blog posts).
- Visual outputs (minimum 20 photos, 5 videos) that can be site-mapped for our online portal, the Adaptation and Mitigation Knowledge Network ([amkn.org](http://amkn.org)). Please indicate what language each video is in, to facilitate arrangements for post-production translation and subtitling. *See below for more details.*

### **VISUAL OUTPUTS: PHOTOS**

Photos should showcase instances of:

- Participative learning or capacity building
- Community or individual innovation
- Sharing of knowledge or innovations
- Adaptive strategies or behavior

### **VISUAL OUTPUTS: VIDEO**

The video testimonials should bring out the voice of small rural farmers and allow them to describe, in their own words, any of the following:

- Innovative practices and/or technologies they use to manage risk of or adapt to climate change.
- Migration patterns and any knowledge networks/influx/exodus that occurs as a result.
- Gender-specific elements of farming, including constraints, strategies, or knowledge/support networks.

A selection of the videos will be presented on the CCAFS website and Adaptation and Mitigation Knowledge Network ([amkn.org](http://amkn.org)) platform. The videos should therefore:

- Feature the voices and stories of rural small farmers, possibly mixed in with local NGOs discussing things at a more institutional level.
- Be short and sweet, with an absolute maximum length of three minutes. Some may be as short as 1 minute, simply identifying and showing a farming innovation. The longer videos may go into further detail about farming issues or community networks.
- Be geo-referenced, i.e. “tagged” with a specific location to permit geographical mapping of the video on our AMKN platform.
- Be conducted in the local language. The CCAFS team can later add in English subtitles and a translated transcript.

## DURATION OF STUDY

15 September 2011 – 15 March 2012 (6 months)

## KEY DEADLINES

- 20 August: Deadline for proposal submission
- 15 September: Selected researcher(s) announced; project commences
- 15 November: Final version of the methodology and accompanying documents
- 15 January: Progress report including some preliminary outputs that can be transformed into CCAFS blog posts; Skype check-in with a CCAFS project coordinator
- 1 February: Draft of final report/paper; 3 finished video testimonials with language indicated
- 15 March: Final report/paper; 20 photos and the remaining 2 video testimonials with language indicated

## BUDGET

Up to \$80,000.

## THE PROPOSAL

To apply, please submit a proposal not exceeding 6 pages, including:

- (a) **Title** summarizing the content or core subject of the proposal
- (b) **Objective and justification**: How would you best frame the goals of this project, and what added value might social science research such as this one bring?
- (c) **Suggested Survey Methodology**: We are seeking innovative, mixed-method approaches to document agricultural knowledge networks and innovation. In particular, please address:
  - Survey design: how many households in how many villages; how to select; how you would set up a three-country survey in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal.
  - How you would capture social and gender differentiation.
  - How you would determine how or what causes a farmer to innovate or change behavior.
  - How you would gather information on the unspoken, unofficial knowledge and power structures within a village.

Please be specific. Additionally, in the participative spirit of this research project, we welcome innovative ideas regarding types of village-level exercises, ways of framing questions or organizing the research—so long as such ideas are backed up by sound rationale.

- (d) **Timetable and budget:** Describe the activities scheduled, their timing, the personnel involved for each task, and the envisaged budget distribution. Please note that this counts toward the page limit.
- (e) **Profile of researcher(s):** Please describe any relevant experience, qualifications and competencies. Where there is a team, specify roles and responsibilities. CVs may be attached as an annex and will not be included as part of the page limit.
- (f) **Any local contacts** that the consultant(s) may already have in South Asia.

To apply, please complete the online registration form at <http://goo.gl/RQycg> and email your full proposal to Charlotte Lau at [c.lau@cgiar.org](mailto:c.lau@cgiar.org).

Proposals will be evaluated jointly by CCAFS researchers, primarily on the basis of relevance to the objective, competencies of the consultant(s), and innovativeness of the approach.

Any questions or concerns may also be addressed to Charlotte. However, kindly note that, as a policy, we do not provide comments on draft versions. Thank you!