



## Feed the Future Legume Innovation Lab

### Request for Proposals to Strengthen Host Country Institutional Capacity FY 2014

The Management Office (MO) of the Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Collaborative Research in Grain Legumes (“Legume Innovation Lab”) invites the submission of “Proposals” from Principal Investigators (PIs) for activities that will contribute to enhancing the capacity of Host Country institutions. The Legume Innovation Lab program will be distributing approximately \$300,000 during FY2014 to support institutional capacity strengthening initiatives. Given delays in the program, FY2013 planned funding of \$150,000 has been combined with FY2014 budgeted funding for a total of \$300,000 available. The projects selected for funding will be announced at the 2014 Global Legume Researchers Meetings in Athens, Greece in May 2014.

#### **Rationale:**

The Legume Innovation Lab recognizes that National Agriculture Research Systems (NARS) and agricultural universities need to build and maintain capacities in strategic areas of research, training and outreach in order to effectively and sustainably address the challenges facing the pulse (bean, cowpea and related edible legume crops) sectors and to contribute to economic growth and food and nutritional security within their respective countries. This requires investments in human resource development, scientific equipment, laboratory and field facilities, computer technology, and infrastructure.

The intent of these Institutional Capacity Strengthening awards is to address critical needs of Host Country (HC) collaborators which exceed the budgetary limits of the current Legume Innovation Lab projects, and to respond to the grain legume program needs of agricultural research institutions in USAID priority countries.

#### **Priorities for Funding:**

Activities that will be given high priority for this funding opportunity include:

1. Innovative training activities targeted to individuals from host countries (i.e., scientists, students, managers). This includes short-term training (i.e., technical training at a center of excellence, research internships, sabbaticals, visiting scientist program, etc.), post-graduate degree training, visits by HC principal investigators (PIs) to legume research programs in other Legume Innovation Lab presence countries/continents, participation in professional conferences, visits to private industries, etc.
2. Innovative training activities targeted to a group of participants from one or multiple host countries. This includes offering or teaching short courses in host countries, organizing regional workshops on topics of broad interest, training-of-trainers workshops, etc.
3. Purchase of research and/or teaching equipment (>\$5,000). This includes scientific equipment, computer technology, and facilities that are essential for the conduct of Legume Innovation Lab research and outreach activities.

The proposed activities should focus on building HC capacity to utilize and benefit from cutting-edge technologies, tools and program management skills.

**Procedure:**

This RFP is limited to Legume Innovation Lab host country participant institutions. To request institutional capacity strengthening funding, a U.S. lead PI in collaboration with the appropriate HC PIs should complete a “Proposal to Strengthen Host Country Institutional Capacity” form for each HC institution interested in requesting support. See the attached form. If a HC institution is participating in more than one Legume Innovation Lab project with distinct Lead U.S. universities, the HC institution may submit for consideration one proposal per project. The signatures of both the U.S. Lead PI and the appropriate HC collaborating PI are required on all proposals to ensure that the institutional need has been adequately discussed and confirmed by the collaborating PIs.

The MO of the Legume Innovation Lab will be presenting all proposals received to the Technical Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) for review and will solicit their advice on which initiatives to fund.

Criteria to be used in evaluating the institutional needs and making decisions on allocation of these funds will include: a) institutional justification of need; b) cost effectiveness; c) innovation; d) linkage and importance to achievement of objectives of Legume Innovation Lab projects; e) gender equity; and f) benefit to HC institution’s capacity to serve the dry grain legume sectors within that HC and region.

The Budget must include an itemized list of all direct and indirect costs to be charged by the U.S. and/or HC institution to conduct the proposed institutional capacity strengthening activity. As a general guideline, we recommend that funding requests not exceed \$40,000 such that we may maximize the number of host country institutions benefiting from this funding. The time period for expenditure of the requested funds is June 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015 (subject to obligation of funds from USAID).

The MO requests that PIs submit completed Proposals to the Management Office of the Legume Innovation Lab as an attachment to an email ([legumelab@msu.edu](mailto:legumelab@msu.edu)) **with the Subject Line: RFP Capacity**. Individual Proposals should be type written and NOT exceed three pages in length. The deadline for receipt of Proposals is Friday, April 4, 2014.

If you have any questions or seek counsel regarding this request for Proposals to Strengthen Host Country Institutional Capacity, contact either Drs. Irvin Widders (Director) or Cynthia Donovan (Deputy Director) at [widders@msu.edu](mailto:widders@msu.edu) or [donovanc@anr.msu.edu](mailto:donovanc@anr.msu.edu) , respectively. Emails should use the subject line RFP Capacity.