

# Welcome

## Structural Transformation of African and Asian Agriculture and Rural Spaces (STAAARS+)

### RFP Information Session



# Background

## USAID Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Food Security Policy Research, Capacity, and Influence (PRCI)

- Objective is to enhance institutional capacity to:
  - Do applied research on issues related to food security and nutrition
  - Bring the results of this research to bear on policy debate and policy decisions
- Three broad components
  - Facilitating leadership training and institutional strategic planning around goals of doing better research with more policy impact
    - Then funding activities in pursuit of this goal
  - Building research capacity through mentoring and technical training
  - Building capacity to integrate policy impact strategies into research
- Two approaches to building research capacity
  - Long-term relationships with particular research centers and the researches in them
  - Competitive awards to ***institutionally affiliated*** researchers from any center in a low- or lower-middle income country



# STAAARS+ Program Overview

- Advances rigorous, policy-oriented food security research on:
  - Inclusive agricultural- and rural transformation,
  - Healthy food systems, and
  - Enhanced resilience
- Teams selected through competitive process
  - Paired with mentors at Cornell, IFPRI or MSU,
  - Jointly author a paper that fits within the PRCI research priorities
  - 18-month fellowship period
- Motivating idea
  - Investing in individuals' and small teams' research capacity within a research center will increase the center's effectiveness and contribute to PRCI objectives



# Application Requirements

1. All proposals must be submitted in English.
2. A **team of 2 or 3 researchers** from one or more eligible policy research institution(s).
3. Completed STAAARS+ Cohort 4 Fellowship Applicant Biodata Information (in online application)
4. Title page (not included in the 2500-word limit):
5. Concept Proposal (2500-word limit): motivates the selected research issue(s) and objectives, outlines data sources and proposed analytical methodology
6. Bibliographic references (not included in the 2500-word limit)
7. CVs of each individual team member (not included in the 2500-word limit)
8. Letter of support from the leadership of each team member's home policy research institution(s), explicitly committing to provide team members with adequate paid time to undertake the research



# Program Details

The STAAARS+ program is comprised of **five main components**:

- Research Project
- Virtual Launch Activities
- Professional Development Trainings
- Feedback Workshops
- Research to Policy (R2P)



# Application Process

- The application review process is managed by Cornell University.
- Applicants should submit their completed proposals via the [online application form](#)
- An application worksheet is available on the first page the application as a tool to help you collect responses before submitting
- Any applicants using data that are not publicly available are required to submit documentation from data stewards indicating they have access to the data proposed for analysis and are free to produce publishable research using those data.
- Deadline to submit a proposal: **October 16, 2022 at 11:59pm Eastern**



# Review and Selection Process

- Proposals peer reviewed by multiple experts from Cornell, MSU, and/or IFPRI.
- Finalists based on peer review are presented to a pool of senior mentors for matching.
- Finalists are tested to ensure adequate competence in statistical analysis software (Stata or R) prior to final selection (at least one member of the team).
- Teams are matched with mentors and co/peer-mentors.
- Plan to notify accepted applicants by early December 2022.

# Timeline

- **October 16, 2022:** Application deadline
- **Early December 2022:** Cohort selected
- **December 2022 – February 2023:** Cohort launch of meetings, workshops, seminars and trainings
- **April 2023:** 3 week visit to Cornell, IFPRI, and/or MSU – travel restrictions permitting
- **March 2024:** Deliver/present final research output





# Thank you for your interest!

Please write your questions in the Q&A tool; we will answer live or write responses.

STAAARS+ questions: [STAAARS\\_plus@cornell.edu](mailto:STAAARS_plus@cornell.edu)

