



Adapting Livestock Systems to Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program (Livestock-Climate Change CRSP)

Schedule of Relevant Dates

Date of Release: January 27, 2011

Proposal Due Date: March 31, 2011, 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time

Funding Decisions: June 1, 2011

Funding Period Begins: August, 2011



This request for applications is issued by the Management Entity (ME) of the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP at Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, 80523-1644 USA.

Website: <http://www.lcccrsp.org>

Email: Sarah.Lupis@colostate.edu

All proposals must be submitted via email to Kierra.Jewell@colostate.edu before 5pm Mountain Time of the due date.

This RFP is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (Cooperative Agreement #EEM-A-00-10-00001) and participating U.S. and host country institutions around the world.

International Fellowship in Graduate Research *for the* Adapting Livestock Systems to Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program

Application Period

Deadline for submissions is March 31, 2011.

Description

This Fellowship is intended to provide opportunities for graduate education that prepare students for interdisciplinary careers within the vision and objectives of the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP (see LCC CRSP Research Strategy, Appendix A). The Fellows will be expected to become specialists who can contribute to research regarding the adaptation of livestock systems to climate change in the LCC CRSP countries of focus (Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Nepal, and Tajikistan). Selected fellows must propose to conduct research in one or more of the focus countries. In this way, the LCC CRSP aims to build research capacity.

The Fellowship program provides a maximum of two years of support for M.S. study and three years of support for a Ph.D. program, with annual renewal based on a positive review of progress, continued applicability to the Livestock-Climate Change CRSP research goals, continued funding availability, and a high level of academic performance.

Eligibility

Awards will be given to both M.S. and Ph.D. students through their host institutions, pending available funds, with the majority for M.S. students studying in their home country or region. Ph.D. awards may also be given for study in the home country, region, or in the U.S. Selected fellows must be students from Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Nepal, or Tajikistan in order to build capacity in these countries.

Anticipated Funding

M.S. students registered **at a host-country institution:** Tuition/fees, stipend, and research support (supplies, equipment, travel, etc.) up to \$12,000/year.

Ph.D. students registered **at a host-country institution:** Tuition/fees and research support (supplies, equipment, travel, etc.) up to \$12,000/year.

Ph.D. students registered **in a U.S. university** graduate program: Up to \$5,000 for round-trip travel to the U.S. from home country (if needed as a one-time expense) and up to \$20,000/year for tuition/fees and research support (supplies, equipment, travel, etc.).

In addition, up to \$2,000 per year will be allowed to cover health insurance if it is required by the host institution. The host institution is expected to provide matching funds of at least 25% of the

total requested amount to cover additional costs associated with the completion of the academic degree.

To Apply

Submit your proposal via email to Kierra.Jewell@colostate.edu by March 31, 2011 at 5:00 pm Mountain time. The maximum page length is 7 pages with 12 point, Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins, single-spaced (not including the cover page, transcripts, cited references, letters of recommendation, or graduate advisor CV). All charts, figures, and images must be included within the 7-page application. In addition to the 7-page proposal, applicants must include their academic transcripts, a letter of financial commitment for the support of the graduate program from their intended graduate advisor, the graduate advisor's vita (2 pages maximum), and three letters of recommendation (2 pages each, maximum) as appendices.

The application should include the following sections for evaluation by the review committee:

Cover Page. The cover page should include the following:

- a) Name of applicant
- b) Desired degree (M.S. or Ph.D.)
- c) Intended university
- d) Name of graduate advisor
- e) Requested funding (total and per year)

Personal Statement. Up to 10 evaluation points will be awarded based on the personal statement and academic transcripts. In no more than 1 page, explain how your personal interests and goals relate to the LCC CRSP vision and geographical focus.

Previous Research Experience. Up to 20 evaluation points will be awarded based on the statement of research experience and the letters of recommendation. In no more than 1 page; describe your experience relevant to the proposed research.

Proposed Graduate Research. Up to 30 evaluation points will be awarded based on the written research plan and the graduate advisor's vita. The research plan is expected to fit within the LCC CRSP objectives as outlined in the attached LCC CRSP Research Strategy (Appendix A), be appropriate to host-country and regional needs, and be feasible to implement within the specified time period. The university where the student proposes to study, the graduate advisor, and academic program must be described. In addition, this section should include a description of the problem being addressed and research needs, a testable hypothesis (or hypotheses) that addresses the problem, an outline of the scientific approach, justification of the approach, and expected outcomes within the timeframe of the fellowship.

Relevance to Climate Change. Up to 10 evaluation points will be awarded. The proposal should contain a clear statement about how the research addresses adaptation of livestock systems to climate change.

Interdisciplinary Approach. Up to 10 evaluation points will be awarded. Proposals will be judged on how well the proposed approach integrates information, data, techniques, perspectives, concepts, and/or theories from two or more disciplines to advance understanding and solve complex problems. A systems approach is encouraged.

Innovative Approach. Up to 10 evaluation points will be awarded. Proposals will be judged on their potential to lead to new techniques, tools, and/or methods. Research proposals that have the potential to transform existing scientific, social, economic, or educational constructs are encouraged.

Budget and Budget Justification. Up to 10 evaluation points will be awarded. Budgets will be evaluated based on their adequacy and efficiency, while staying within the required limits (up to 1 page). In addition, the financial commitment from the host institution will be considered. Budget guidelines are provided in Appendix B.

APPENDIX A

LIVESTOCK-CLIMATE CHANGE CRSP RESEARCH STRATEGY



Livestock - Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program (CRSP) Research Strategy



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Vision

In five years, the Livestock-Climate Change Collaborative Research Support Program (LCC CRSP) will be recognized as a leading facilitator of innovative and collaborative research that enhances the resilience of livestock keepers to climate change impacts in dryland regions in developing countries. Research efforts support USAID's development goals of "ensuring food security, human health, agricultural growth, trade expansion, and the wise and sustainable use of natural resources."

Mission Statement

The LCC CRSP catalyzes and coordinates innovative systems-based research to reduce vulnerability and increase adaptive capacity of livestock keepers to climate change in dryland regions.

Values

The LCC CRSP is committed to a pro-poor focus, innovation, sound science, gender equality, and working with diverse partners.

Strategic Objectives

The LCC CRSP supports research focused on large and small ruminant systems in dryland regions of East Africa (Kenya and Ethiopia), West Africa (Mali and Senegal) and Asia (Nepal and Tajikistan). These research initiatives will complement and augment successful country and regional level processes and partnerships in these regions by:

➤ ***Building sustainable research capacity***

Well trained, innovative scientists and leaders are essential to building a sustainable, prosperous future. The LCC CRSP enhances research capacity in each target region by training graduate students, supporting professional research networks, strengthening research and educational institutions, and providing opportunities for research collaboration through fellowships, grants, conferences, and inter-agency projects. Through these activities, we will ensure that research capacity continues to grow and becomes self-sustaining in these regions.

➤ ***Expanding income opportunities and stability for livestock keepers***

To increase resilience to climate change impacts, the LCC CRSP expands access of livestock keepers to markets and inputs that decrease dependence on resources limited by climate change. Opportunities to diversify income are being explored, including alternative livestock enterprises and new and innovative markets for climate change mitigation, such as payment for greenhouse gas emission reduction and carbon sequestration. The LCC CRSP is fostering new activities, such as biogas production, that provide co-benefits in mitigation and adaptation. One special area of focus is on income diversification to enhance food security and dietary quality while encouraging the inclusion of women. These are areas that have received very little attention and where the LCC CRSP aims to make a significant impact.

➤ ***Advancing management practices to adapt to climate change***

Climate change in dryland areas can impact disease dynamics, reduce forage productivity, and decrease water access, making it critical to improve resource efficiency and ensure good animal health status. To address this need, the LCC CRSP will identify practices that optimize the use of limited resources, improve animal health programs and livestock productivity, and ultimately improve human health and nutrition. Improved management practices include changes in livestock species and combinations; adjustments to herd size, migratory patterns, disease management, forage quality and utilization; and improved access to water. In addition, access to weather forecasting and climate impact information can help livestock keepers manage risk and resilience and make better decisions. Tailoring climate information for both policy makers and livestock keepers is an important part of this process.

APPENDIX B

BUDGET GUIDELINES

BUDGET GUIDELINES

Budgets should be detailed in the attached form. In addition, a budget justification must be included to address the following items, as necessary.

PERSONNEL (Student only)

For M.S. and Ph.D. students studying in their home country or region, provide the amount for stipend, tuition, and fees at the host university. For Ph.D. students studying at a U.S. university, provide the amount for tuition and fees at the host university.

TRAVEL includes transportation costs directly incurred from the home country to the training country and back, as well as costs related to travel within the training country. A sample list of travel costs includes the following:

- International travel costs (air, train, bus), and
- Any travel to the training site

Provide a full explanation for **each** anticipated trip (i.e., destination and purpose of trip).

MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES

List specific supplies and/or supply categories with the associated costs. Samples may include books, supplies, course handouts, research materials and/or supplies. No miscellaneous or contingency categories are allowed. All goods and services must meet the source, origin, and nationality requirements set forth in 22 CFR Part 228 for the authorized geographic code 000, the United States. The following goods are restricted and may not be purchased without prior approval:

- Agricultural commodities
- Pharmaceuticals
- U.S. Government-owned excess property
- Fertilizer

OTHER DIRECT COSTS

Please provide details for each expense. Some examples include medical insurance, dissertation/thesis expenses, workshop/seminar/conference registration fees and other research related costs. Up to \$2,000 per year will be allowed to cover health insurance if it is required by the host institution. All goods and services must meet the source, origin, and nationality requirements set forth in 22 CFR Part 228 for the authorized geographic code 000, the United States.

FACILITIES & ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS

F&A costs are not allowed.

COST SHARING

Cost sharing is required as a cash match at 25% of the total funds requested. In-kind match is not acceptable. The cost share must consist of non-U.S. government funded contributions that meet the criteria detailed in 22 CFR 226.23.

Cost-sharing documentation from the contributing entity must be provided at the time of proposal submission (in most cases, this will be in the form of a letter signed by the authorized organizational representative). Some items that are ineligible for cost sharing are existing equipment,

administrative services, office and lab space, and administrative fees in lieu of F&A costs. **Provide a detailed cost-sharing narrative listing category and dollar amounts.**