



# CIFSRF Questions & Answers 2015 Call for Proposals

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## Eligibility

### Can IDRC provide help in identifying potential Canadian institution partners?

- Unfortunately not. For ethical reasons in a competitive call, IDRC cannot assist applicant organizations and/or companies in identifying partners. We can, however, suggest some umbrella organizations that may provide helpful information.
- The Directory of Canadian Agriculture Associations (<http://www.agriguide.ca/home>) provides contact information for national, regional and provincial not-for-profit and publicly funded farm organizations and commodity groups. Each listing in Agriguide.ca includes full contact information for associations that serve agricultural producers as well as a short description of the organization.
- CropLife Canada (<http://www.croplife.ca/>): trade association representing the manufacturers, developers and distributors of plant science technologies, including pest control products and plant biotechnology, for use in agriculture, urban and public health settings. The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (<http://www.aucc.ca/>) offers information on Canadian academic institutions, including a listing of its Canadian member universities.
- The Association of Canadian Community Colleges (<http://www.accc.ca/>) represents Canadian colleges and institutes and offers a listing of its members.
- The Canadian Council for International Co-operation (CCIC) web site (<http://www.ccic.ca/>) provides a listing of its members, which are all voluntary sector organizations working globally to achieve sustainable human development.
- In Quebec, L'Association québécoise des organismes de coopération internationale (<http://www.aqoci.qc.ca/>) also offers a member list of Quebec-based organizations working in international development.

### Which kinds of organizations are eligible for funding?

- The Fund is open to project teams from Canadian and eligible country research, development and business-oriented organizations.
- At least one organization in the partnership with a leading role in the project must be a business-oriented organization.
- For this call, business oriented organizations include: (a) business firms and companies, public and private service providers (technical assistance, financing, etc.), input public and private input providers (seeds, machines), among others; (b) not-for profit organizations with focus on economic and business development, business incubators, cooperatives, farmers associations, foundations, among others.; and (c) public sector service and input providers (seeds).
- UN organizations, the CGIAR, and Canadian federal government agencies may not apply as primary recipients, but may be included in applications by others, as third-party participants.
- Proposals must demonstrate that the work will be user driven, that potential -users are identified, and that they will be engaged in project development and implementation. Potential users include a wide variety of private sector and non-academic entities (e.g., large and small businesses, producer groups, business associations, developing country governments,

international organizations, private foundations and institutes, non-government organizations, and scientific professional bodies, etc.), all of whom can adopt, adapt, and bring to scale the innovations.

### **Are international organizations eligible for funding?**

International organizations (excepting United Nations organizations and members of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research [CGIAR centres]) are eligible to apply as Southern collaborators in this call, provided that they have regional chapters or offices with appropriate legal status to operate and manage funds in the eligible countries where the work will take place.

### **Are recipients of existing IDRC or DFATD funding projects eligible for funding?**

Yes, as long as they meet all the eligibility criteria (including partnership requirements) and the team members have time available to commit to additional work.

### **Is there a limit to the number of proposals that can be submitted by a given institution?**

Although this is not explicitly encouraged, the same organization can submit multiple proposals, as long as they are with different partners. For example, a university may have several different research groups, each of which may work in partnership with an outside organization. Any of these partnerships would be eligible to apply. Each partnership can apply with only one proposal.

### **Can the same person be on more than one application?**

Please note that a person is eligible to be a team member on a maximum of two projects in the 2015 Call. A person can apply as Team Leader (TL) on one project and be on the team of one additional project. Or a person can be on the team of two projects. One person cannot be a TL on two projects. Any person who is currently a principal investigator on a CIFSRF funded project is not eligible to be a TL on an application in the current call, but s/he may be included on the team of one application in the current call.

### **Why has the list of eligible countries changed from past CIFSRF calls?**

Decisions on the eligible countries were taken by senior managers from both DFATD and IDRC. Many factors are taken into account such as meeting Canadian priorities and international commitments, ensuring the efficient and effective use of available funds, and meeting key food security challenges.

For the 2015 call for proposals we have added a number of countries where we have not had previous CIFSRF programming, but where there may be opportunities to develop innovations to scale. These countries are part of DFATD's expanded focus country list, issued in 2014 (e.g. Burma, Philippines) or provide opportunities to build on past IDRC and DFATD projects there, related to the call thematic.

### **Can you tell me more about the eligible country list?**

Please review the footnotes in the Eligible Country List and section 12 of the Call document. Some countries pose high risks to researchers and staff if they travel to them. These risks may change over

time. As such, the decision to submit an application in a country (or a region of a country) currently listed as high-risk is up to each applicant. However, applicants should understand that proposals in high-risk areas may not be accepted if travel bans are in force at the time decisions are taken.

### **For certain eligible countries, proposals are expected to address a problem of regional relevance. How is "regional relevance" defined in this context?**

Regional relevance means that the research should demonstrate potential impact and replicability beyond the specific country where it takes place. Some middle income countries have strong research capacity that may not be found elsewhere in the region, and it is important that the benefits of the research reach the poorest and most food insecure. It will need to be clearly demonstrated in the proposal that results in these countries are applicable to other countries in the region.

### **Can we submit a proposal that includes many countries?**

Yes. A multi-country approach is one of the options that could be covered by the call. Activities supported by the Fund must take place in an eligible country or in eligible countries. If the project includes activities taking place in non-eligible countries, it will be important to show that the project is covering those expenses through external, non-CIFSRF funding.

### **The call states that developing country applicants must be based in an eligible country. What does it mean to be "based in an eligible country"?**

- An applicant organization and/or company from one of the eligible countries must have legal corporate registration in that country.
- The organization's legal corporate registration must show that the jurisdiction of registration is the eligible country (or is within it, such as in the case of provincial registration).
- In order for IDRC to enter into an agreement with your organization, IDRC must be satisfied that your organization has independent legal status (or 'legal personality') and is capable of contracting in its own right and name.
- Such legal documentation obviously varies depending on the location and the type of organization. By way of illustration to assist you in providing the necessary documentation to us, however, such legal documentation may include:
  - For private institutions: letters patent, articles of incorporation, articles of association, certificates of incorporation, certificates of registration, or récipissé issued by government authorities for private sector/non-governmental organizations; or
  - For public institutions: legislation (acts of a legislature) creating public sector or governmental/quasi-governmental bodies.

### **What constitutes an eligible Canadian organization?**

An eligible Canadian organization must be a legal entity, registered in Canada or a province or territory of Canada. Examples include registered Canadian non-profit and non-governmental organizations, Canadian universities, and Canadian businesses.

## **Does my organization/company have to make a cash contribution? Do we need to have other funding for the project already secured?**

- No, there is no requirement that the applicant organizations and/or companies make a cash contribution or have funding from other donors or contributors in order to be considered for funding under this call.
- While not mandatory, the leveraging of non-Government of Canada resources –particularly those from the private sector– to either implement the scale-up initiative or as a possible post project investment will be viewed favourably.
- If an organization does have such funding, this should be made clear where requested in the appropriate budget documents in the application.

## **Preparing a proposal**

### **What should be the distribution of budget between partners?**

As stated in the call, effective partnerships are reflected by “equitable distribution of the budget.” The division of the budget should reflect the collaboration and partnership between applicant partners.

### **What should be the distribution of budget to third-party organizations?**

A recommended maximum of 20% of the total project budget may be sub-granted to third-party organizations. The exact amount should depend on the nature and cost of the work done by any third-party organization. The overall balance of budget should clearly show that the applicant organizations are the primary actors in the research. Applications with more than 20% of the total project budget sub-granted to a third party or third parties will be considered equally with other applications, but if recommended for funding would require special authorization from the Governance Committee of the Fund, which would assess such applications on a case-by-case basis. The Governance Committee could then award special permission to sub-grant more than 20%, or it could request a new budget in which 20% is not exceeded.

### **In this call the application form requires a results-based budget. Why? What is a results-based budget?**

Proposals will be assessed for value for money. A results-based budget shows how the budget is allocated for each of the key project outcomes. This will enable reviewers to assess if the budget is realistic and if the requested funds are appropriate to the expected results.

### **How many objectives and outcomes should a project proposal include (section E of the proposal)?**

Every proposal **must** include the following 3 key objectives, adapted to the specific conditions of the project.

1. To scale up effective, pilot-tested innovations, and achieve meaningful impacts at scale.

2. To test and assess the effectiveness of creative and bold scaling up models, delivery mechanisms and approaches.
3. To inform decision-making and public policies, at different levels and varied contexts, using evidence-based research results.

Proposals that do not include these three objectives may be disqualified.

A fourth additional objective **may** be added if needed. This objective should contribute to the achievement of the project's main objective and be complementary to the abovementioned key objectives. Examples include capacity building and empowerment objectives, among others.

For each project key objective, identify the expected outcome from achievement of the objective. For **each** key objective **only one** key outcome must be included immediately below each key objective in their corresponding subsections. These outcomes will also be entered at the top of the logic model, in Section F.

Please remember that an outcome is a result, change, effect, impact that the project aims to achieve. (E.g. X numbers of end users benefiting from the innovation by the end of the project, new markets for farmers, improved institutional setting, and enhanced capabilities, among others). Outcomes **must** be measurable, verifiable and attainable within the project's lifespan.