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GUIDELINES & INFORMATION

RESEARCH GRANTS ROUND-III

USPCAS-AFS is inviting researchers to address critical challenges of agriculture in Pakistan in a two-stage research effort. In Stage 1: Pakistani researchers are invited to submit Concept Notes and in Stage 2: Successful applicants will be invited to collaborate with UC Davis or Washington State University (WSU) scientists in the submission of Joint Proposals. Joint proposals will be eligible for combined funding of up to \$80,000.

The application process has two stages: one for **Concept Notes** and another for **Joint Proposals**.

STAGE 1: CONCEPT NOTE

1. Submission of a Concept Note:

- a. Concept notes are to be submitted via email: casafsgrants@uaf.edu.pk
 - b. Application form can be downloaded from <http://uspcasafs.uaf.edu.pk/Grants.aspx>
 - c. The Application form is designed to be easy to complete. Please, however, read the following with care:
 - i. Application Form is an editable PDF.
 1. Form requires that text be entered in Times New Roman, 12-font, double-spaced.
 2. Form limits the concept note to 4 pages maximum.
 - ii. Complete the Cover Page by filling in all of the requested information.
 - iii. Complete the following sections on the provided page:
 1. Statement of the Problem
 2. Long and Short Term Objectives of the Project
 3. Methods to be used
 4. Expected Outcomes
 - ❖ One page is provided for each of the above sections. **Use only the amount of space needed on any given page.** It is not necessary to complete the full page in each section.
 - iv. Attach a 2-page CV for PI and Co-PI.
 - v. Attach support letter from the authorized party in your institution.
- d. Each concept note should address one of the thirteen (13) research topics listed in the RFA and propose solution-driven research with strong potential for transfer of technology/knowledge or policy change.
 - e. Research projects may be from six months to three years, as appropriate to the proposed research.
 - f. Principal Investigators (PIs) who have received a grant in one of the previous two rounds of USPCAS-AFS research are not eligible for funding in this round



- g. Deadline for submission of concept notes is midnight on 30 April, 2017. Concept notes received after that deadline will not be accepted.

2. Review Process for Concept Notes:

- a. An independent expert committee will be convened to review concept notes giving special attention to:
- How well the concept note addresses the stated research priorities.
 - How the research contributes to the development or delivery of solutions.
 - Technical and methodological merit
 - Potential of the project to succeed within the time limit of the proposed work.
- b. Researchers will make a presentation of **selected concept notes** to the USPCAS-AFS Steering Committee on Food Security (SCFS) and Council on Research and Policy (CRP). SCFS and CRP will have an opportunity to examine more closely the prospects for success and contribution to the delivery of solutions.
- c. A subset of these concept notes will then be selected for collaborative matching with UC Davis or WSU researchers.
- d. UC Davis will undertake the effort to match Pakistani scientists with scientists at UC Davis and WSU. In the process of identifying collaborators, concept notes will face another level of scrutiny by UC Davis and WSU scientists. Some selected concept notes might not be matched.

Matched scientists from Pakistan and UC Davis/WSU will be invited to develop full length joint proposals.

STAGE 2: JOINT PROPOSAL

1. Submission of a Joint Proposal:

(NOTE: Do not submit a full proposal unless and until you have been selected to proceed.)

PIs identified and notified by USPCAS-ASF will work together to prepare a joint proposal according to the guidelines and formats provided on the website.

- Guidelines and instructions for submission of Joint Proposals will be provided only to those PIs who have been notified that their Concept Note has been selected to proceed.
- Joint proposals must be accompanied by a fully justified budget that clearly supports proposed and necessary activities and a Work Plan that clearly specifies milestones and deliverables.
- Research projects may be from six months to two years, as appropriate to the proposed research.
- Deadline for Joint Proposals is midnight on 10 August 2017.

2. Review Process for Joint Proposal:



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A technical and financial review team will be appointed by USPCAS-AFS to review joint proposals. As with concept notes, attention will be given again to: (i) technical and methodological merit; (ii) potential of the project to succeed within the time limit of the proposed work and (iii) how well the research contributes to the development or delivery of solutions:

At this final decision stage, attention will also be given to the:

- v. Work Plan which must specify tangible deliverables and identify clear milestones.
- vi. Budget which must be well justified and clearly support proposed and necessary activities.

Only eight (8) to ten (10) proposals will be selected for funding.