



Washington, D.C., January 10, 2012

Second Call for Proposals – GAFSP Public Sector Window

This is the second GAFSP Call for Proposals from “IDA-only countries”¹ that are not in non-accrual status to submit proposals by March 31, 2012, consistent with the *Country Guidelines for the Public Sector Window* (version: January 10, 2012), available on the GAFSP “Call for Proposals” web page: <http://www.gafspfund.org/gafsp/content/call-proposals>.

The first Call for Proposals was launched in May 2010, with a first allocation round in June 2010, and a second allocation round in October 2010. Of those proposals submitted under the two rounds of the first Call, twelve low-income countries were awarded financing for a total of US\$481 million in recipient-executed funding. These resources are being used to help finance the scale-up of assistance to low-income countries in a way that strengthens their own strategic programs to raise agricultural productivity, improve rural incomes, and food security. The general scope of the program is detailed in the Framework Document for the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (available on the “About GAFSP” web page: <http://www.gafspfund.org/gafsp/content/global-agriculture-and-food-security-program>).

Available financing follows commitments made by leaders at the L’Aquila G8 Summit in July 2009, reaffirmed by the G20 Summit in Pittsburgh in September 2009, and since supplemented by new pledges. The Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) Trust Fund was established in April 2010. Donors to date, in alphabetical order, are Australia, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Canada, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Spain, and the United States.

Currently available non-committed resources in the Public Sector Window of the GAFSP Trust Fund are approximately US\$180 million, likely to be allocated to roughly the 5 to 6 highest ranked proposals. The total amount is tentative and may increase depending on further donor commitments received between now and the time of allocation. There is no guarantee that all deserving proposals will be funded given the limited availability of funds.

Proposals submitted to GAFSP are reviewed by a confidential external Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which reports to the GAFSP Steering Committee and are nominated solely by Steering Committee members representing donors, recipients, and civil society. TAC is fully independent of potential Supervising Entities of GAFSP projects, including the World Bank. TAC assesses proposals in line with the criteria laid out in the *Country Guidelines* (version: January 10, 2012), i.e. country need, country readiness, and the technical quality of the proposal. Its function is primarily to provide due diligence to the Steering Committee that proposals submitted conform to the published objectives and modalities of GAFSP.

The Steering Committee intends to make allocation decisions by the end of May 2012. Proposals must be submitted electronically by midnight March 31, 2012 (Washington, D.C. time) to the GAFSP Coordination Unit. Submissions can be made by email to info@gafspfund.org, or by sending an electronic device such as a CD or a flash drive by courier to: GAFSP Coordination Unit, MSN MC5-510, The World Bank Group, 3301 Pennsy Drive, Landover, MD 20785 USA. Experience suggests that the

¹ Countries that are eligible to receive concessional funding through the World Bank from the International Development Association (IDA) but do not have access to lending from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).

email option is the most reliable with respect to meeting time deadlines. All submitted documents should be in either Microsoft Word, Excel, or PDF format.

Submission documents must meet the conditions laid out in *Country Guidelines* (version: January 10, 2012). Please note that to ensure a level playing field, no exceptions will be made on deadlines or document formats. We strongly encourage countries to submit a few days earlier than the deadline in case of any technical problems in the submission process (and more than a few days in the case of courier submission of electronic media). Countries are responsible for ensuring that proposals are complete and in the due format specified in the *Country Guidelines* (version: January 10, 2012).

Countries that have submitted unsuccessful proposals to GAFSP in the past are strongly encouraged to apply again, although no special preference will be granted to these proposals, which will compete for available funds with new proposals. Also, please note that the selection criteria have been updated from the first Call for Proposals; countries are requested to review and revise previous proposals to follow the updated *Country Guidelines* (version: January 10, 2012).

The Steering Committee would like to invite submissions by eligible governments following the above mentioned guidelines. If you have any questions on administrative matters related to the submissions, please contact the GAFSP Coordination Unit (info@gafspfund.org). In fairness to all, the Coordination Unit cannot provide any insights on what is required for a successful proposal beyond what is posted on the website. Any clarification that becomes necessary over time to posted material will itself be posted as soon as possible on the website for the benefit of all.

We very much look forward to receiving country proposals for consideration by the GAFSP Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

Dan Peters
Chair of the GAFSP Steering Committee