

APPENDIX 2: ELIGIBILITY AND SCREENING CRITERIA FOR PROJECT PROPOSALS

1. Eligibility Criteria

To be judged eligible to receive funding from the Benefit-sharing Fund in this Fourth Call for Proposals, all pre-proposals must comply with the following eligibility criteria established by the Governing Body:

- Contribute to the objectives of the International Treaty;
- Fall within the priorities established by the Governing Body;
- Benefit Contracting Parties that are developing countries;
- Be presented through the Contracting Party or Parties concerned;

In addition, for this specific Call for Proposals, the following criteria will also need to be met:

- Be submitted on or before the deadline set for submissions;
- Adhere to the guidelines for submission;
- Address either Outcome 1 or Outcome 2 or a combination of the targets of these main outcome areas and contribute to all the cross cutting Outcomes (3-5) of the Outcome Matrix;
- Not reproduce the same or very similar actions with similar activities, objectives and beneficiaries as has already been used in another submitted pre-proposal;

2. Screening Criteria

Providing a pre-proposal meets all the above eligibility criteria, it will be assessed by an independent Panel of Experts against the criteria listed below that were developed drawing on the *Selection Criteria of the Operational Procedures for the use of resources under the direct control of the Governing Body* (Annex1, Section III of Res. 2/2013). The applicants of those pre-proposals judged to be the best will be invited to submit a full proposal.

The independent panel of experts will conduct the screening of pre-proposals and the appraisal of full project proposals. The Bureau is responsible of providing the responses to applicants that have submitted pre-proposals, on the basis of preparatory work done by the independent panel of experts. The Bureau is also responsible for the final approval of projects to be funded in each project cycle of the Benefit-sharing Fund.

1. Has the project identified in clear and concrete terms a problem to be addressed that contributes to the achievement of the Goal of the Fourth Call for Proposals?

Relevant sections in the pre- proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition / 1.2. Project outcomes and related targets 1.4 Direct and indirect beneficiaries /1.6. Potential development impact and impact pathways/

The expert will assess the extent to which pre-proposal defines in a concrete and specific manner a pressing problem related to climate change and food insecurity (e.g. specific pest, disease and abiotic stress affecting specific crops, lack of material resistant to specific abiotic and biotic stresses, lack of appropriate data and technologies for analysis and development of new adapted material, lack of tools for integrated data analysis etc) that the project will try to address. It should also assess the potential impact that the project will have in addressing the identified problem/s.

Pre-proposals will obtain higher scores in this section if they:

- Contain a concrete and specific analysis of what is the problem, which population is affected by the problem, how, where and why the problem matters;
- Establish a strong connection between the problem identified and the local needs of the target beneficiaries;
- Establish a strong connection between the problem identified and the targets to be achieved;
- In case of multicountry projects, the experts will also assess the extent to which the proposal is specific and concrete in defining a similar problem being faced in different targeted countries/regions.
- Projects focusing in Contracting Parties that have high rates of rural poverty or food insecurity or that centers of origin or diversity of crops will receive higher scores.

2. Is the project relevant to national plans and policies related to PGRFA and does it strengthen policy environment for the Treaty implementation?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition/1.2. Project outcomes and related targets/1.6. Potential development impact and impact pathways/1.7. Relevance to national plans and policies related to for PGRFA

Projects funded in the CFP 4 will have to be consistent with national plans and policies related to PGRFA. Experts will assess the extent to which the pre-proposal responds to clear priority/ies reflected in national plans and policies. This will ensure that the intervention is not a standalone activity and that there is the possibility of building complementarities and synergies between different proposals. Pre-proposals that will strongly contribute to strengthening the policy environment for the Treaty implementation at national level will receive higher scores in this section.

3. Are the PGRFA addressed by the pre-proposal relevant to global food security and climate change adaptation and what is their potential to building resilient farming systems?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition / 1.3. Targeted PGRFA/ 1.6. Potential development impact and impact pathways

The expert will assess what is the contribution of targeted PGRFA to global food security and climate change adaptation and how the management of the targeted PGRFA would contribute at local and national levels to building resilient farming systems. Proposals that will address mixtures/packages of climate smart varieties, including locally adapted varieties will be highly ranked by the experts. Proposals that will aim at strengthening the skills and know how on the use, characterization and evaluation, including phenotyping and genotyping of targeted PGRFA, will be highly appraised by the experts. Projects to be funded under the Benefit-sharing Fund are expected to focus on PGRFA listed in *Annex I* of the International Treaty. Other plant genetic resources that are significant for local food security and adaptation to climate change can only be included if they are important for the development of diversification strategies. Therefore, the project pre-proposals that will have a major focus on non-Annex 1 crops will receive lower scores by the experts.

4. Are the targets and specific outputs clearly defined and aligned to the Fourth Call for Proposals and its Outcome Matrix?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition/1.2. Project outcomes and related targets

The expert will assess the extent to which the planned targets and specific pre-proposal outputs have been clearly defined and quantified in terms of what is expected to be achieved from the implementation of the proposal and will evaluate the quality of the targets and specific pre-proposal outputs against the general Goal

of the Fourth Call for Proposals and its main outcomes. The projects that have aligned their targets as much as possible to the type of expected targets listed in the *Outcome Matrix* and *Explanatory Guide to Outcome Matrix* will receive higher scores by the experts. Pre-proposals that will aim at achieving, for a given budget, higher numbers for each targets and focus on more targets for each outcome of the Outcome Matrix will receive higher scores in this section. In order to guarantee consistency and coherence among the results that will be obtained through the projects to be funded in this Fourth Call for Proposals, the Secretariat has requested applicants to populate the Outcome Matrix in Annex 1 to the *Submission Form for Pre-proposal*.

4. Who are the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project pre-proposal?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition/ 1.2. Project outcomes and related targets/1.4. Beneficiaries /1.6. Potential development impact and impact pathways

The categories of the direct and indirect beneficiaries will have to be coherent with the overall design of the pre-proposal and in line with the overall goal and rational of the Fourth Call for Proposals, as specified in the text of the Call.

Proposals will have to clearly identify the target beneficiaries (groups or individuals) that would have a direct interest in the project and to which the project intends to bring change. Projects will have to provide a realistic estimation of the direct beneficiaries (groups or individuals) in terms of who (farmers, scientists, extension agents etc.) and how many (a rough estimation of the number) will benefit from the project.

Relevant representative groups and organizations of farmers' communities, especially women, will have to be consulted and actively involved in the design and implementation of the proposal. Furthermore, target beneficiaries should be involved in developing the collaboration arrangements, impact pathways and in activities for training and outreach. A clear and quantifiable estimation of indirect beneficiaries should also be tempted.

5. Does the pre-proposal have the potential of producing significant impact on food security, climate change adaptation and resilience of agricultural systems?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition / 1.2 Project outcomes and related targets/ 1.3. Targeted PGRFA/1.4. Beneficiaries/ 1.6. Potential development impact and impact pathways/1.7. Relevance to national plans and policies related to for PGRFA

All projects supported through the CFP 4 will have to contribute to the achievement of the Goal of the CFP 4 and produce meaningful impact on food and nutrition security and contribute to building resilient farming systems for vulnerable and marginalized communities in developing world. This will be achieved by addressing a combination of relevant targets of the Outcome Matrix as further specified in the *Explanatory Guide to the Outcome Matrix* (Appendix 1 of the CFP 4). Pre-proposals that will contribute to increase the availability and accessibility of climate ready PGRFA, including the diversification of agricultural productive systems and will fill in the gaps along the seed-value-chains will receive higher scores by the experts. Pre-proposals that will make an innovative use of PGRFA by using participatory approaches to PGRFA management, reintroducing local varieties that were lost locally, by making a strategic use of PGRFA related information from national or global information systems supported by Treaty Contracting Parties will receive high scores by the experts.

All the pre-proposals are expected to contribute to enhance the capacities and know-how of local and national institutions, including of the vulnerable target communities, to conserve, manage, improve and disseminate plant genetic resources.

6. Does the pre-proposal contain concrete impact pathways and clearly describe project strategies to catalyse the widespread dissemination of results and bring about change to the target communities and enabling environment?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.2 Project outcomes and related targets/ 1.5. Partnerships and collaboration arrangements/1.6. Potential development impact and impact pathways/1.7. Relevance to national plans and policies related to for PGRFA

All projects should contain clear strategies to catalyse the widespread dissemination of results and to bring about change to the target communities and outside the target communities. It will require that project staff and stakeholders work to map how knowledge and project results will scale out (e.g. collaborative/participatory research, assessments, training and capacity building, partnerships, workshops, networks, publications , websites, conferences, public lectures, freeware (data) tools, media, on-line databases, scale out by the private sector) and who will be the primary beneficiaries (farmers, policy-makers, scientists, NGOs, government agencies, research institutes, genebanks, public sector, universities etc).

Proposals that will individuate from an early stage of project design the channels for dissemination of benefits to the target population will receive higher scores in this section.

7. To what extent are the partnerships arrangements promoted by the pre-proposal conducive to an effective and efficient project implementation?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.2 Project outcomes and related targets/1.6. Potential development impact and impact pathways/1.7. Relevance to national plans and policies related to for PGRFA

Project proposals should clearly describe the partnership strategy for the project implementation, by specifying the type of partners involved, the roles, capacities and expertise that each partner will contribute to project implementation. While appraising this section, experts will individuate if partners' expertise and know how are adequate to achieve each target and related outputs.

Proposals that will contribute to strengthening and reinforcing networks between various types of institutions (farmers' organizations, producers' organizations, extension agencies, governmental agencies, genebanks, private sector etc) by implementing a balanced set of activities aimed at conserving and sustainably managing PGRFA, research and capacity building will receive higher scores in this section.

Experts will provide a higher score to pre-proposals led by national non-governmental and governmental institutions, or in the case of multi-country projects, pre-proposals that are led by a national, regional or international institution working in consortium with local and national partners. Experts will also provide a higher score to pre-proposals that will bring together a diversity of partners in the implementation of the proposal.

8. Is the pre-proposal feasible in terms of set targets, resources and timing?

Relevant sections in the pre- proposal form: Section A: Project Proposal Cover sheet/1.2. Project outcomes and related targets/ 1.5. Partnerships and collaboration arrangements/Appendix 2: Tentative Budget

The experts will assess the extent to which the targets set by the pre-proposals are achievable considering the resources available (requested funding to BSF and co-funding), the duration of the project and the overall methodology of implementation of each activity.

Pre-proposals that will be able to leverage a good amount of co-funding will receive higher scores in this section. Especially for multi-country projects, experts will give higher scores to those pre-proposals led by national institutions and that will receive the most of the allocated funds to the pre-proposal.

11. Does the proposal support the implementation of the International Treaty and its policies?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.2 Project outcomes and related targets/ 1.3. Targeted PGRFA/1.4. Beneficiaries/ 1.6. Potential development impact and impact pathways/1.7. Relevance to national plans and programmes related to PGRFA

In order to build complementarities and synergies within the Treaty community, a special emphasis will be put by the experts in assessing how the targets of the projects to be funded in the CFP 4 will contribute to the enhancement of relevant mechanisms and policies of the International Treaty.

Projects that will show a coherent and multi-sectoral perspective in the design and implementation of project activities by adopting multidisciplinary, participatory and gender sensitive approaches, and by integrating a broad range of measures for the conservation, use and exchange of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture will receive higher scores in this section.