

FAQ: Additional answers to questions following the launch of the call for research concept notes on climate-smart livestock systems (CSLS)

1. Should the budget table be duplicated for each partner of the consortium and then provide a table with the total budget of the project broken down by the same budget categories?

A single budget is sufficient but a summary of total budget per partner can be added at the bottom of the table.

2. The lead applicant and co-applicants must contribute in cash or in-kind to the project: what is the minimum % of such contribution?

While co-funding is not required for this call, those applicants selected to receive a grant must adhere to IDRC's policy on local contributions which states:

- Any applicant selected to receive IDRC funding will be required to make local contributions to the project.
- Local contributions represent cash amounts expended by the applicant from its own resources, from private grants or from grants received from local, provincial or national authorities for the purpose of the project.
- In-kind contributions may include salaries of regular staff, as well as equipment and infrastructure, and overhead costs. There is no set minimum %.
- Cash and/or in-kind contributions should be reflected in the project budget.

3. We see max 3 partners are allowed to be included in the consortium but at the same time it's stated: mandatory 1 private sector partner and the advice to include farmers organizations/researchers/extension services/financial services/women and youth groups. Please clarify.

IDRC will only sign grant agreements with up to three consortium partners, but there is no limit on the number of third-party partners. See [No. 8 in FAQ](#).

4. Can the lead applicant organization be a registered agriculture company with professors and researchers working within? Or must it be universities alone?

[See No. 2 and 12 in FAQ](#).

5. Which countries in Sub-Sahara are eligible to lead/participate/partner for this call?

Eastern and Southern	Western and Central
Angola	Benin
Botswana	Burkina Faso
Burundi	Cameroon
Eritrea	Cape Verde
Comoros	Central African Republic
Djibouti	Chad
Ethiopia	Congo
Kenya	Côte d'Ivoire
Lesotho	Democratic Republic of Congo
Madagascar	Equatorial Guinea
Malawi	Gabon
Mauritius	Gambia
Mayotte	Ghana
Mozambique	Guinea
Namibia	Guinea Bissau
Rwanda	Liberia
Seychelles	Mali
Somalia	Mauritania
South Africa	Niger
South Sudan	Nigeria
Swaziland	Republic of Congo
Tanzania	São Tomé and Príncipe
Uganda	Sierra Leone
Zambia	Senegal
Zimbabwe	Togo

One can also refer to the [map on the IDRC website](#).

6. Is it possible to include key partners from the EU, Canada, the USA, or other regions outside of Africa?

Yes, so long the lead applicant is from one of the eligible countries.

7. Does the call address applying climate-smart biofertilizers to benefit the health of people and the environment?

The concept must show clear application to livestock systems.

8. What is meant by livestock in this call? Is aquaculture eligible?

Aquaculture is not included in the definition of livestock for this call, unless it is part of an integrated system with terrestrial livestock.

9. Are fodder production and range management included in climate-smart agriculture?

Yes.

10. Can the Principal Investigator be from a different institution from the one that manages the research project overall? Or even, say the Principal Investigator is from another country that is different from the one managing the project?

[Please see Questions 2 and 4 in the FAQ.](#)

11. Are projects focused on delivery models to commercialize and scale mature climate-smart innovation eligible?

No.

12. What is meant by mature climate-smart innovations?

Innovations that have been successfully piloted and are ready for scaling.

13. Would a concept note on the development of local resources for poultry feed and health be eligible?

Yes, as long as the technology addresses climate adaptation and/or mitigation in livestock systems.

14. Can a research institution be the sole applicant? Are co-applicants mandatory?

There is no minimum number of applicants per application. However, consortia are encouraged for better integration of expertise.

15. Does the CSLS team have a preference on the type of research project funded under this call? For example, would preference be given for projects involving 1) an impact evaluation of an existing innovation or 2) R&D for an emerging innovation not yet ready for a rigorous impact evaluation?

Only projects focused on **developing** climate-smart livestock innovations and technologies that would significantly contribute to climate adaptation, reduce emissions, and increase livestock production are eligible.

16. Are there particular requirements of the local PI, such as specific academic credentials or affiliation?

Preference is for research teams that are multisectoral, multicounty and demonstrate:

- strong expertise in climate change
- gender and livestock production systems and
- a proven record in bringing technologies/innovations to proof of concept.

CSLS will only accept concept notes that include at least one lead scientist for an LMIC in the consortium to ensure capacity building, international collaboration, and cultural diversity.

17. The call describes four thematic areas but says “concept notes will need to be based on addressing one or two of these four themes”. Does that mean that more holistic projects that are working across all of them will be ineligible?

More holistic projects are welcomed if they clearly address one or two of these four themes.

18. What percentage of gender balancing is expected? Is 30% female allowed?

Please refer to IDRC’s gender-equality and inclusion considerations in the [call document](#).

19. Are poultry eligible for this call?

Yes. Concept notes should clearly outline how the chosen livestock production system(s) align with the overall goal of developing climate-smart systems.

20. What is the maximum budget and project duration?

A maximum of CA\$1.5 million for 36 months.

21. Does the project cover the cost of designing devices such as pelletizers used in food production?

See these [guidelines](#).

22. Is a Canadian organization required as a partner to be eligible for this call?

The focus of the program is on Sub-Saharan Africa. Projects must be implemented in climatic hotspots within sub-regions of Sub-Saharan Africa. The lead applicant organization should be an African institution (public or private). Canadian organizations can be part of a team as co-applicants or be a third parties but this is not a requirement.

23. Is there a limit to the number of participating institutions or organizations?

The principal investigator may add as many investigators as are needed for the project, but IDRC will only have a grant agreement with a maximum of two co-applicant organizations in addition to the lead applicant organization (i.e., three grant agreements in total). However, lead and co-applicants may subcontract to third parties.

24. Are UK organizations or institutions eligible to participate?

They cannot apply as lead applicants. They can be part of a team as co-applicant or third party. The lead applicant organization that will be entered into a grant agreement with IDRC (i.e., the administering institution) must be registered as a legal entity in Sub-Saharan Africa.

25. Can institutions engage doctoral students or post-doc fellows?

Yes, they can.

26. The concept note format seems to be very restrictive.

Please refer to sections # 8 and section # 10 of the [call document](#) for information on formatting.

27. Which other line items can be included on the budget apart from personnel and consultants

See these [guidelines](#).

28. Where are the African climatic hot-spots?

The focus of the program is Sub-Saharan Africa. Projects must be implemented in climatic hotspots identified by the applicant within sub-regions of Sub-Saharan Africa.

29. Can we prepare our budget using the funding currency instead of the working currency of my organization? This is because of the instability of some national currencies. A budget prepared in such currency will be hard to implement.

Budgets should be prepared in the working currency of the applying institution. Some institutions choose to operate in foreign currency (such as USD or EUR). Please check with your institution to see what is possible.

30. Cooperation with youth, women and local farmers is encouraged to be included in the concept note. Can these groups be onboarded later?

They should be identified before submitting the concept note.

31. Are only technical innovations considered, or can we propose for example an innovative concept?

The innovation or technology must be a practical tool or practice. Innovation concepts with no demonstrable field application will not be funded.

32. How does IDRC define evaluation vs. research costs?

Evaluation: Expenses related to the systematic assessment of the project, program, policy, or strategic issue to assess either progress toward achieving objectives or the quality and effects of IDRC-funded activities. Evaluation may occur during an activity or after its completion.

Evaluation costs can include: consultant fees; travel expenses; and dissemination of the evaluation findings. In projects where evaluation is the primary objective, costs may also include: research expenses; training; and salaries and benefits for personnel directly involved in the evaluation.

Research: All services and materials required to carry out the research. Costs include remuneration of persons who gather data and information or provide casual labour, honoraria paid to project advisors, maintenance and operation of project vehicles, consumable goods and non-capital equipment, computer services, training for project staff for implementation of research activities, in-country travel, reference materials, rent paid for land or premises used in a research activity, article processing charges (APCs) for recipients and sub-recipients, and translation of project-related documents. This also includes, if applicable, funds to be released to sub-recipients; whereas each sub-recipient needs to be entered as a separate line item - indirect costs for sub-recipient MUST be excluded from this category and included within Indirect Costs section.

33. The call requires that the teams are multi-country. Does an institution in the North joining an institution in the South count as multi-country? Is multi-country only defined as more than one country from the South?

Multi-country teams can involve countries from the North so long the lead applicant is from the South and project activities will be in sub-Saharan countries.

34. For collaboration with the North or international partners, what percentage of the budget is allowable for such institutions? 10%? 20%?

There is no prescribed percentage. However, the bulk of the budget should be with the lead applicant.

35. Is collaboration with a private organization compulsory? What entails a private organization?

See [section #7 of the call](#).

36. Will IDRC engage the institutions involved in the same study separately/ individually or will the lead institution have to subcontract the collaborating institutions?

See [FAQ #6](#).

37. Can a member be enrolled by more than one group that is answering the call?

Yes, so long they are not the Principal Investigator (PI) in more than one.

38. How is a nongovernmental organization (NGO) considered in the call (such as the NGO Agronomists and Veterinarians without borders)? Is it considered a private or public partner?

NGOs are considered as "private sector" for purposes of this call.

39. Can a researcher take part in more than one concept note as a third party from the UK?

Third parties can be from any country and members of third parties can be in more than one concept note. IDRC will determine if their roles are sufficiently different.

40. The maximum allowable budget is CA\$1.5 million. Does this ceiling apply to the sum of the two or three agreements IDRC has with lead and co-applicants?

Yes, the maximum allowable budget is CA\$1.5 million per project.

41. Can we include diagrams in our concept note? Do they count towards the word count?

Yes, you can include diagrams. They will not count towards the word count.

42. I used SurveyMonkey to survey as a part of my application process. However, I was not able to proceed to the next steps of the application process.

If your organization is not eligible to apply (e.g., you are a UN agency or members of the CGIAR system as lead applicant), then this is why you could not proceed.

If you made a mistake in answering one or more of the eligibility questions, then you can start a new application and ensure you are selecting the right answers.

43. Does the project support outreach activities like the establishment of a demonstration site? This includes biogas plant construction and solar energy to reduce GHG emissions and the workloads of women; providing improved animal feeds to reduce emissions and improve productivity, etc.

This call does not support the establishment of demonstration sites or other infrastructural development. It supports research activities.

44. What does “institutional ID” mean? I have seen this in the institutional questionnaire.

The “institutional ID” is the number IDRC designates for institutions as they are assessed, it is internal to IDRC. If you are not aware of the number, please leave this space blank.