REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

RFA-KCDMS-FY19-017

Kenya Feed the Future – Crops and Dairy Market Systems Activity

Issuance date: July 5, 2019
Closing date: May 31, 2020

Program Background
The Kenya Crops and Dairy Market Systems Activity (KCDMS, or the Activity) is a five-year (Oct 2017–Sept 2022) activity of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It is funded as part of Feed the Future, the U.S. Government’s global hunger and food security initiative that helps to increase agricultural production and reduce poverty and malnutrition. KCDMS is being implemented by RTI International in 12 counties: Kitui, Makueni, Taita Taveta, Homa Bay, Migori, Kisii, Kisumu, Siaya, Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, and Vihiga.

KCDMS works in Market Access, Productivity, Policy, and Social Inclusion for nine (9) value chains: dairy, feed/fodder, mango, banana, avocado, pineapple, passion fruit, sweet potato, and African Leafy Vegetable. The Activity’s Social Inclusion component focuses on advancing women and youth’s substantive participation in agriculture to increase incomes and expand agricultural investment activities. Given this focus, KCDMS is interested in supporting agribusiness initiatives that provide entrepreneurship and employment opportunities for women and youth.

The Activity is offering in-kind grants to support youth- and women-led groups engaged in agricultural production and/or agribusinesses so that these groups may:

- sustainably grow their enterprises;
- increase their incomes; and
- create employment in the agriculture value chains supported by KCDMS. (*Proposals for poultry, vegetable gardens, sorghum, and green grams will also be considered)

The proposed interventions should aim at increasing productivity and market participation for youth and women in agriculture. Grants will support productive assets—such as the provision of equipment for enhancing productivity and value addition, or marketing initiatives—which may be integrated with technical capacity strengthening through Business Development Services (BDS).

Interested organizations should propose activities for in-kind grant support that will promote youth and women-led agribusinesses within the KCDMS targeted counties and value
chains listed above. Proposals should highlight how the in-kind support and proposed interventions will improve the group’s commercialization and competitiveness in its sector.

Prospective grantees will be expected to make a cost share contribution of 10% towards the equipment investment. The prospective grantee’s capacity to contribute the 10% cost share will be evaluated and agreed upon on a case by case basis. Applications will be evaluated on the sustainability of the proposed interventions, number of beneficiaries reached, impact on productivity and market participation, and value for money. Successful applications will be invited to negotiate an in-kind grant from KCDMS to implement activities, with agreed deliverables, budget, and cost share.

**In Kind Equipment**

Areas of potential focus include procurement of physical assets that promote, but are not limited to, the following objectives:

- Adoption of productivity enhancing technologies such as drip irrigation kits, solar water pumps, threshers, pulverizes, sprayers, post-harvest losses technologies, etc.
- Agro-processing, preservation, and storage
- Improved market access initiatives, such as crates for fresh produce, milk chillers, packaging materials, etc.
- Equipment supporting off-farm income-generating activity opportunities
- Information, Communication, and Technology support (software and/or hardware)
- Agricultural service opportunities such as spray service provision, fodder management/baling, pruning, nursery management, threshing, extension, input supply etc.

**Technical Assistance/Capacity Building**

In addition to physical assets, the applicant may propose specific in-kind capacity building support, training, or technical assistance. Examples of such support include:

- Governance training
- Financial literacy
- Accounting or management systems
- Strategic planning
- Development of a marketing plan
- Technical training on processing or value addition

Applicants interested in capacity building should include a Scope of Work describing the specific training or technical assistance needed. The grant would hire the consultant/trainer who will be paid directly by KCDMS. No cash support will be provided to the applicant. Cost
of transport, meals, etc. for group members during any training proposed must be covered by
the applicant as part or all of its cost share contribution.

Disallowable items and activities
Please note: The grant CANNOT provide any of the following items:
- Agricultural inputs (seeds, seedlings, fertilizer, chemicals, feeds, medications)
- Land lease
- Hired labor
- Construction
- Vehicles or motorcycles
- Animals
- Procurement of raw materials for processing
- Per diems, transport allowances, sitting allowances
- Salaries

The grant WILL NOT support the following activities:
- Construction
- Infrastructure development

Eligibility
Organizations submitting applications will only be considered if they are:
- Promoting economic empowerment of women and/or youth serving a number of members (not an individual business or partnership);
- Legally registered entities having been in operation for at least one year;
- Experienced in agricultural production and marketing activities/agribusiness;
- Able to demonstrate capacity in the focus activities proposed;
- Implementing activities within one or more of the 12 counties in which KCDMS operates; and
- Implementing activities within one or more of the KCDMS value chains (dairy, feed/fodder, mango, banana, avocado, pineapple, passion fruit, sweet potato, and African Leafy Vegetable) or poultry, vegetable gardens, sorghum, or green grams.

Criteria for evaluation
- Number of women and youth benefitting
- Innovativeness of proposed intervention
- Proven experience in agricultural production /marketing
- Sustainability of the business idea
- Volume of production and sales expected
• Management capacity of the applicant (Reasonableness of the proposed investment/expansion. Does the group have the necessary skills and resources to implement?)
• Cost efficiency; an application will have an advantage if it is able to demonstrate the potential of being an effective intervention at a reasonable cost
• Cost share contribution: organizations proposing significant contributions (more than 10% of the total proposed intervention budget) will be considered more favorable
• Ability to demonstrate impact on nutrition for women and children is an added advantage.

Duration of grant
The duration of any grant award resulting from this RFA is expected to be no more than 12 months. The grant recipient will be expected to provide regular progress reports for one year beyond the grant year.

Submission Guidelines
The concept note must be submitted using the official SI-RFA format, in English, and must not exceed five (5) pages.

Detailed application instructions may be found in the RFA on the RTI website at https://www.rti.org/current-opportunities. Annex A - SI Concept Form should be completed and submitted to APS2019@kcdmsd.rti.org with KCDMS Social Inclusion IN – KIND RFA in the email subject line reference. Please send an email to APS2019@kcdmsd.rti.org to request for the MS Word version of Annex A-SI Concept Form.

Applications will be reviewed monthly. Applications will be accepted and considered through May 31, 2020. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Disclaimer: Issuance of this RFA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of KCDMS nor commit the project to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any application. Further, KCDMS reserves the right to reject any or all applications received. Similarly, an invitation for further negotiation or to submit a full application is not a commitment to fund that application.