Q1. In the case of a Standard Cost-reimbursement Grant (STG), will the awardee invest their own fund/money to undertake activities and then get the reimbursement for the designed activities by USAID, or will the former receive the grant during the start to perform the actions?

Response. Under Standard Cost-reimbursement Grants (STG), awardees are generally expected to undertake activities using their own funds and then request for reimbursement. There is also a provision for requesting for advances. The procedure and timelines for the same will be explained in detail to the selected applicants.

Q2. In the case of a Fixed Amount Award (FAA), are recipients expected to meet the fixed deliverables, and then USAID give the award followed by unlocking it for the next milestone?

Response. Fixed Amount Awards (FAA) have payment milestones. The grantee will be paid upon completion of each milestone.

Q3. Existing text at section 5 looks like that SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF) Round 3 RFA allows application only from NGOs from Nepal. We assume this is not the case.

Response. Any entity submitting an application under this RFA must comply with the eligibility requirements of their respective country to be able to receive FOREIGN GRANTS. Please check the relevant country specific regulations with local experts before submitting an application. Applicants must also submit necessary documentation to support their eligibility as per local laws to receive foreign grants (such as necessary registration documents wherever applicable).

Q4. We want to conduct the feasibility studies, detailed project reports and market assessment for multiple sites. Hence, as per the Section 3 of RFA, we want to know the fund allotment criteria will be same for multiple sites or can it be multiplied with different sites at different locations?

Response. The maximum financial ceiling for an award will not change even if multiple sites or locations are being proposed. In case multiple sites are involved, it is for the applicant to propose the fund allocation for each site in their budget, keeping in mind the overall financial limits mentioned in Section 8 of the RFA.

Q5. If SAREP is not undertaking the projects then what is the agenda for providing this grant to the Project developers?

Response. Please refer to Section 3 of the RFA which clearly outlines the purpose of the SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF) and to Section 4 for ineligible activities that cannot be supported by SAREP.

Q6. We want to understand more on the process of application

Response. Please refer to Section 9 of the RFA which clearly explains the application process.
Q7. Page 7 of the SAREP FAQ Document states that -

“Query 42: Is a local entity which does not yet have the required registrations to receive foreign funded grants (such as FCRA in India), eligible to apply?
“Answer: No...All applicants must meet their country’s eligibility requirements to receive foreign grants.”

We would like to clarify that as a for-profit entity applying for this bid, FCRA clearance is not applicable to our organisation.

Response. SAREP is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and hence, grants made through the SAREP Partnership Fund (SPF) are considered as foreign grants. In India, FCRA is applicable for entities receiving foreign grants, irrespective of for-profit or not-for-profit entities.

Q8. During the information dissemination session and per the ineligible activities, it was brought to our attention that construction-related proposals are not permissible for prospect proponents. We want to ensure that our proposal complies with all the necessary guidelines and regulations before proceeding further.

Response. Construction activities of any type cannot be funded through the SPF. However, if construction is a small component of the overall program, the applicant may wish to propose a cost share from its own resources to cover the cost of construction.

Q9. In section 9, GRANT APPLICATION FORM (PART I and II), Part II, Point 7, Executive Summary (page 18), the RFP states that, ”The application must include details of collaboration or partnership, that result in additional resources being leveraged by SPF funding.” Could you please define who the collaborator is? Is it necessary to have a collaborator/partnership? Can the grantee organisation, themselves, be responsible for the sustainability of the project?

Response. It is not mandatory to have a collaboration or partnership. The applicant may propose to undertake the project on its own.

Q10. What is the probable date of the commencement of the project?

Response. SAREP intends to issue grants awards as early as possible after following the due processes. Normally it takes three months from the data of receipt of applications. This is just an estimate and the actual timeframe may vary on either direction.

Q11. Can we proceed with the application without an FCRA certificate. And/or if there can be relaxation/one time exemption made.

Response. No, FCRA registration is a requirement of the Government of India. Hence SAREP is in no position to make an exception.