



## Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD)

## Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF)

### 2015 Call for Proposals

February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015

Canada's International Development Research Centre is a key part of Canada's foreign policy efforts. IDRC supports research in developing countries to promote growth and development. The result is innovative, lasting solutions that aim to improve lives and livelihoods.

The mandate of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada is to manage Canada's diplomatic and consular relations, to encourage the country's international trade, and to lead Canada's international development and humanitarian assistance.

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Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada (DFATD) are pleased to announce the 2015 Call for Proposals of the Canadian International Food Security Research Fund (CIFSRF or the 'Fund').

The Fund was launched in 2009 as a joint initiative of IDRC and the former Canadian International Development Agency, now DFATD, to support research that addresses food security in the developing world. The goal of the Fund is to foster the development of more equitable, productive and sustainable agricultural systems that increase food security and enhance nutrition. The Fund seeks to increase food security in developing countries by investing in applied research and promoting the scaling up of innovations and research results. At the same time, the Fund seeks to harness the best of Canadian expertise and knowledge to develop solutions that result in lasting impacts for the food insecure. More information about CIFSRF can be found at: [www.idrc.ca/cifsrfr](http://www.idrc.ca/cifsrfr).

Results emerging from the previous CIFSRF funded projects have been promising, with a large volume of high-quality and innovative research being conducted, with much potential to be scaled up. These research projects, undertaken by Canadian-developing country research partnerships have produced many technologies, methodologies, and practices – innovations that have the potential to greatly improve food security in Asia, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean.

To build on the success of the Fund, on October 29, 2011, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced continued support for CIFSRF, aimed at *'providing people in developing countries with a more secure supply of food with a greater nutritional value'*, with a focus on innovation and scaling up of research results. Phase 2 of the Fund was launched in April 2013, looking to harness the best of the private, public and not-for-profit sectors to expand CIFSRF's research portfolio and to scale up research results and innovations to reach more people and have a greater impact globally to improve food security.

Scale can be achieved through enhanced reach, sustained development impact, and meaningful policy influence that bring about systemic changes or conditions needed for the ultimate success of the innovation, within a country, across a region, and possibly across continents. A key element of successful scaling up is sustainability – in particular, the degree to which innovations can self-perpetuate or replicate after the end of the project. Private sector actors often play a key role in scaling up innovations and research results. Successful scaling up initiatives commonly attract co-funding and new resources to support and expand the process – before, during and after the life of the project.

With a strong focus on achieving impacts at scale and realizing ambitious development outcomes, this call for proposals will fund projects aiming to bring effective, field-tested food security and nutrition innovations to a wider scale of use and application.

Research, development and private sector organizations from Canada and from eligible countries in the global South (see Appendix 1) are encouraged to apply to this call. Successful applicants will need to present a strong research-for-development partnership, with private sector and/or business-oriented not-for-profit organizations playing a central role.

Past and current CIFSRF grantees can apply to this call provided they meet the partnership requirements, and their proposal is substantially different from previously funded research, or builds from the results of past CIFSRF-funded initiatives.

## **1. Rationale**

Food and nutritional insecurity remains a significant challenge in many regions of the World. The need to improve food security is particularly urgent in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, as well as in some countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, which account for almost 90% of the undernourished people in the world, most of them in rural settings. The World Bank has estimated that under current conditions, global food production will need to double by 2050 to meet increasing global needs. In the face of growing food demand and constraints of available resources (such as cultivable land, water and energy), it is not possible to produce increasingly higher quantities of nutritious food without the introduction of game-changing innovations at a scale that enables the development of improved sustainable food systems.

There is wide consensus about the fundamental role that small-scale farming plays in attaining food security in the developing world. Unfortunately, productivity remains chronically low in many of the least developed countries, and productivity-boosting innovative technologies and practices have yet to reach (or be taken up by) many small-holder farmers. This is particularly true outside of breadbasket regions where water and fertile land is often scarce, the risk of droughts, floods and frost are high, and smallholders struggle to make a living. There is an urgent need to develop and scale up innovations specifically suited for small-scale farming in these regions, in order to increase the sector's productivity and reduce food insecurity.

Women make up the majority of the world's small-scale/subsistence farmers, and produce between 60% and 80% of the food in many developing countries. Yet, women and girls account for over 60% of the world's undernourished. The unequal socio-cultural, economic and legal status of women in society limits their access to sufficient quality food within the household and marketplace, and reduces their access to the means of production, such as land, technical assistance and training, credit, market information, and financial services.

Development research has often struggled to effectively secure the participation of women in research activities – as researchers, as agents of change, and as clients and beneficiaries of the research. Moreover, programmes continue to struggle to harness the potential of women as key players in the uptake of research results and the scaling up of innovations, at both the local

and national levels. New and creative ways to empower women at every level and stage of the research need to be built into current and future scale up initiatives.

Finally, a High-Level Panel advising U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon on the post-2015 development agenda concluded that future food demands will only be met by actively involving the private sector in the development and scaling up of innovations in local, national and global food systems. Enhanced private sector participation will be key in coping with future food security demands – in their capacity as philanthropists that fund agricultural research, as well as active partners in developing and bringing to scale practical solutions to pressing day-to-day problems faced by farmers, food processors, wholesalers and other actors along the food chain. For this to happen, new business models that actively involve the private sector in development research initiatives and creative public-private partnership arrangements to scale up innovations need to be developed.

Scaling up innovations (and research results) can be defined as the process of increasing the reach, breadth, scope and sustainability of the changes, benefits and solutions that innovations bring to people. CIFSRF is interested in scaling up those innovations that are particularly beneficial to poor rural populations, particularly women and small-holder farmers.

Achieving impacts at scale involves moving from pilot testing and modest innovation, dissemination and communication activities to aggressive and sustained thrusts that promote meaningful and sustainable positive changes at large scales. Scaling up may occur when an innovation is used by an increasing amount of people in different geographical areas, countries or even continents. It also occurs when innovations provoke meaningful changes in livelihoods, in organizations and businesses, in market relations, and in policy configurations at the local, regional and/or national levels.

Partnerships are essential for scaling up innovations and research results; research organizations acting alone or leading scaling up are not effective in scaling up innovations. Business firms, service providers and not-for-profit organizations are key partners that can make the process effective, as they bring fresh, and often unique insights, and well-honed business capabilities. Civil Society as well as public sector organizations may also be included in scaling up partnerships to achieve lasting, meaningful changes at scale.

## **2. Research to be supported by this call**

The call will support projects that aim to develop, test and apply ways to scale up food security and nutrition innovations, particularly ones that address the needs of women small-scale farmers as core users. It will support projects that take effective, pilot-tested innovations to a wider scale of use and application, to deliver meaningful development outcomes (i.e., reaching important numbers of end-users) through the effective deployment of scaling up models, delivery mechanisms and approaches.

Proposals submitted to this call will need to include the following three key objectives, (adapted to the context of each particular project):

1. **To scale up** effective, pilot-tested innovations, and achieve meaningful impacts at scale.
2. **To test** and assess the effectiveness of creative and bold scaling up models, delivery mechanisms and approaches.
3. **To inform** decision-making and public policies, at different levels and varied contexts, using evidence-based research results.

Please note that these objectives are mandatory and **must** be included in all proposals that seek funding through this call.

Proposals will be requested to present a sound **business case** for the innovation(s) they intend to scale up. The business case will include:

- a. The innovation. A description of the innovation; how and why it works, and the science behind it; evidence that the innovation has already been pilot tested and is ready for scale up.
- b. Potential for impacts at scale. A description of the problem/opportunity that the innovation is targeting; number of potential end-users at the end of the project and longer term (post-project); expected changes/benefits at the user level, and/or at the organizational and institutional levels, when appropriate.
- c. Delivery mechanisms/scaling up approaches. A description of the possible mechanisms, models approaches to convey the innovation to end-users; alternative scaling up pathways that might be tested.
- d. Cost – benefit analysis. A projected quantification of the costs and benefits attributable to the innovation (with/without the innovation), separated by types of end users, if appropriate.

Successful proposals **must** present a sound, achievable and convincing **scaling up plan** (objective 1) describing how impacts at scale will be attained, during and after the project. A clearly outlined set of scaling up activities, and a realistic, achievable set of milestones will be required as part of the scaling up plan. This plan must also include a comprehensive exit strategy that details post-project activities, roles, responsibilities and possible post-project outcomes and shows how the scaling up effort will self-sustain.

For innovations to scale up and become widely used, innovative business models, delivery mechanisms and approaches, tailored to the specific innovations, but robust enough to work effectively in diverse settings and conditions, need to be tested and extensively deployed.

Proposals **must** include a **research plan** (objective 2) to test different scaling up approaches. The testing of these approaches should be based on sound methodologies which must go beyond qualitative case studies and small-scale pilot testing. Rigorous quantitative and qualitative research design and data gathering, as well as sound analysis and interpretation methods are expected to be applied throughout the research.

All proposals will need to describe how uptake and communications activities will feed into **decision making and public policies** (objective 3) at the local, national and global levels, and how these results will reach development practitioners and the academia.

Proposals will need to clearly articulate how the scaling up plan, the research plan and the uptake activities fit into a **logic model**. This model must clearly show how the activities proposed contribute to achieving specific outputs and outcomes, and how these relate to the project's three key objectives.

### **3. Cross-cutting priorities**

All proposals seeking funds from this call shall clearly speak to the three CIFSRF cross-cutting priorities:

- a. Gender equality. Proposals need to demonstrate how the project will include women as important players in the scaling up of innovations, as well as key clients and end users of the project's results. Proposals will also need to show how it will contribute towards women's access and control over resources, increasing their (and their households') productivity, income and nutritional status.
- b. Environment. Proposals need to demonstrate that they have considered the potential environmental impacts of their activities in terms of both negative and positive impacts, as well as opportunities and challenges arising from the scaling up process.
- c. Governance. Successful proposals need to identify how the scaling up process provides opportunities to promote principles of good governance, such as participation and inclusion, transparency and accountability, equity and non-discrimination.

Proposals submitted under this call will need to demonstrate alignment with regional and national poverty reduction action plans, and key strategies related to food security, as well as relevant regional or local priorities. In Africa, proposals must also support one or more of the four pillars of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, and to the extent possible, demonstrate complementarity with the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition.

#### **4. Applicant Organizations and Partnerships**

This call for proposals will fund projects submitted by strong partnerships between research, development and business-oriented organizations from Canada and from eligible countries (see Appendix 1).

Each partnership must be between two or more organizations and/or companies. At least one of which must be Canadian and at least one must be an eligible country organization. For this call eligible country organizations are considered to be those that have legal corporate registration in an eligible country. It is important to note that projects may plan activities in other countries not included in this list, but only as part of a comprehensive scaling up initiative.

It is expected that a business-oriented organization (e.g., business firms and companies, service and input providers, financial service providers, and not-for-profit organizations with focus on economic and business development, among others) will play a central, and often leading role in successful applications. At least one organization in the partnership must be a business-oriented organization (either Canadian or eligible country organization), with a key role in the partnership and meaningful participation in activities and budget. The partnership may also expand to include other actors from Civil Society and public organizations and institutions as appropriate, to guarantee the sustainability of the impacts at scale.

This call extends the thematic scope of CIFSRF, moving beyond natural and social sciences research and encompassing multiple fields and sectors including, but not limited to, business economics, socio-cultural, legal-regulatory, and institutional fields. The partnership will also need to include business-related capabilities, including entrepreneurial skills and business analytics.

The applicants must also ensure that they have the necessary team in place to effectively manage a research project of this size, including, but not limited to project coordination (e.g., project managers, gender specialists, thematic leads in each organization, language capabilities, etc.), monitoring and evaluation, and communication activities.

International organizations (except United Nations organizations and members of the Consortium of International Agricultural Research [CGIAR]) are eligible to apply as developing country collaborators, provided that they have regional chapters or offices with appropriate legal status to operate and manage funds in the eligible countries where the research will take place. United Nations organizations and CGIAR centers receive significant Canadian funds via other funding windows and shall not apply to this Fund as applicant organizations. They may, however, be included in applications, as third-party organizations. Applicants should consider leveraging co-funding from United Nations organizations and CGIAR Centers.



Similarly, Canadian provincial and federal government agencies or departments shall not apply directly, but may participate as third-party organizations and applicants should consider leveraging co-funding from these agencies.

The Fund promotes joint working relationships between Canadian and developing country organizations and/or companies. Effective relationships require a clear description of roles and responsibilities (who will be involved, where, when, with what intensity, and for what specific purpose or end), as well as an equitable distribution of the budget. Effective partnerships should harness and integrate specific skills as necessary to achieve the research and development objectives without creating overly complex managerial and organizational structures.

Each proposed project will have one or more Team Leaders based in Canada and one or more Team Leaders in an eligible country or countries (depending on the number of applicant organizations), and they will be jointly responsible for the direction and administration of the project (including reporting to IDRC).

All applications must be prepared and submitted jointly by Canadian and eligible country organizations. They must clearly demonstrate the Canadian value-added to the project, and must demonstrate that it will be jointly managed.

IDRC will **only** negotiate funding agreements with the principal applicant organizations of selected proposals. These principal applicant organizations will negotiate directly with, and develop funding arrangements with third-party organizations for specific services. IDRC will not contract directly with third-party organizations. Applications that involve third-party organizations must clearly justify their involvement and explain their role(s). Note that third-party organizations are not required to be located in the eligible countries. The guideline for total third-party participation in a project remains a maximum of 20% of the budget.

This call will give preference to projects that are able to contribute co-funding and mobilize third party resources (public or private sector, other donor or stakeholder funding, in-kind contributions, etc.) to support and expand the scaling up process – before, during and after the life of the project.

**Please note** that a person is eligible to be a **team member** on a maximum of two projects in this Call. A person can apply as **team leader** on one project, and be on the team of one additional project. Or, a person can be on the team of two projects. One person cannot be a team leader on two projects. Any person who is currently a principal investigator on a CIFSRF funded project is not eligible to be a team leader on an application in the current call, but s/he may be included on the team of one application in the current call.

## **5. CIFS RF Budget Contribution and Duration**

Project budgets under this call will be between CAD \$500,000 to CAD \$1,500,000 (please see the instructions document for more detail on budgets).

Project duration shall not exceed 28 months, including the inception phase, all research activities, and final reporting. It is anticipated that projects selected in this call will begin **October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015**. Activities must be planned accordingly.

All proposals should plan for a short inception phase (2 months), including an inception workshop. This period will allow for fine-tuning of scaling up targets and milestones, further developing activity plans and other changes and adjustments to the original proposal needed to guarantee the success of the project.

## **6. Selection Process**

This call will be for short business-case-format proposals. The proposal assessment process draws on the expertise and recommendations of IDRC and DFATD technical specialists and the external Scientific Advisory Committee of the Fund. CIFS RF's Governance Committee will make final funding decisions based on the review and recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Proposals will be either accepted or rejected. Accepted proposals may receive specific comments from the reviewers and will be required to satisfactorily address them before signing grant agreements.

## **7. Selection Criteria**

Proposals will be assessed against the following criteria:

**1. Potential for impact at scale (25%).** The proposal presents a convincing business case for the innovation that will be economically viable at various levels of scale, and includes evidence of past field-testing and/or successful adoption of the innovation at a pilot level by end-users. An ambitious but achievable scaling up plan is presented with a clear sequence of activities, including an exit strategy and an achievable set of milestones.

**2. Research on scaling up (20 %).** The proposal presents a sound conceptual and practical understanding of scaling up and proposes to assess what works and what doesn't. Rigorous quantitative and qualitative methods to test/assess scaling up approaches are proposed. A clear and feasible research plan, with achievable milestones is presented. A convincing uptake plan is also included in the proposal.

**3. Partnership capabilities (25%).** The proposal incorporates a set of key partners that can deliver the scaling up goals; business-oriented organizations are placed as key partners and do receive a meaningful portion of the project’s budget, commensurate with the scope of their involvement. The proposal presents a coherent and highly functional team, with extensive experience and expertise in social, economic and policy research. Strong business analytics and entrepreneurial skills are present in the project team. Roles and responsibilities of each of the partners are clearly identified, including the value-added role that Canadian knowledge will play in the project.

**4. Attention to cross cutting themes (15%).** The proposal clearly speaks to CIFSRF’s cross-cutting themes and regional priorities. Gender equality has been considered throughout the proposal, governance and equity issues and opportunities have been analyzed and environmental concerns have been addressed.

**5. Value for money (15%).** The proposal requests funds commensurate with the promised results depicted in a clear, accurate results-based budget; and a substantial portion of the budget is allocated to achieving impacts at scale. The proposal has (or will) mobilize external resources (public or private sector, other donor or stakeholder funding, etc.) during and/or after the project’s timeline. Scale and scope of the project, potential uptake of results and contribution to food security are sufficient to justify the size of the budget.

## **8. Target Timelines**

February 2, 2015:	Launch of call
March 27, 2015:	<u>Deadline</u> for submission of proposals
End of July, 2015:	Successful applicants informed
October 1, 2015:	Projects begin

IDRC reserves the right to cancel the process and/or alter the timelines at any time without prior notice and/or at its discretion to grant all or none of the awards under this process.

## **9. Submission Deadline**

Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to [cifsr@idrc.ca](mailto:cifsr@idrc.ca) by the deadline of **12:00 noon Eastern Daylight Time, on Friday March 27, 2015**. Proposals received by the deadline and deemed by the Fund to be compliant with the requirements set out in this call will be assessed in accordance with the selection criteria outlined herein. Proposals received after the deadline **WILL NOT** be considered.

Any enquiries shall be directed to [cifsr@idrc.ca](mailto:cifsr@idrc.ca) on or before **17:00 hours, Eastern Daylight Time on Monday March 9, 2015** in order to receive a response prior to the deadline date.

Any enquiries which affect all applicants received on or before the above-mentioned deadline will be circulated via email as FAQs with the Fund's responses to those enquiries, without revealing the sources of the enquiries.

#### **10. Permission to Share Information**

By way of submitting an application under this call, the applicant consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers within IDRC, DFATD and externally who are involved in the assessment and selection processes of proposals. If selected for funding, the applicant further consents to the disclosure of the name of the applicant, the name of the team leader and the title of the proposed project in any announcement of selected projects. Unsuccessful proposals will be destroyed within 180 days after the close of the application period.

#### **11. IDRC Standard Grant Conditions**

Each applicant organization selected for funding shall be required to sign IDRC's standard grant agreement, as amended by IDRC from time to time. A sample of IDRC standard grant agreement terms and conditions is available here:

[http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Guides\\_and\\_Forms/Documents/MGC-Att-A-e.pdf](http://www.idrc.ca/EN/Funding/Guides_and_Forms/Documents/MGC-Att-A-e.pdf)

IDRC's obligations herein are subject to sufficient funds being made available to IDRC by the Parliament of Canada and under the partnership agreement with DFATD.

IDRC will conclude a separate grant agreement with each Canadian and eligible country organization. There may be intellectual property rights considerations that flow from a patentable invention created in the course of a project funded in CIFS RF. The intellectual property guidelines followed by CIFS RF recognize rights to patents and copyright.

#### **12. Country Clearance Requirements**

IDRC has conducted general agreements for scientific and technical cooperation with a number of governments. These agreements establish the framework for IDRC cooperation with that country by defining the rights and obligations of both IDRC and the government. As such, any applicant institution selected to receive funding may be required to obtain country approval in accordance with these agreements prior to receiving funding from IDRC.

In particular, all applicants from India require clearance through the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA). Please note that applicants submitting proposals for work in India will need to provide a copy of the form for their organization when submitting their proposal. An FCRA form will also need to be attached for any third-party organization based in India.

Please note that each proposal will be subject to a risk management process which assesses the ability of CIFS RF to support programming in proposed countries or territories according to Canadian law, knowledge of the research setting, and ability to monitor research activities. The risk management process at IDRC draws on the Government of Canada's Travel Advice and Advisories website and identifies countries (or areas within countries) where travel is unacceptably dangerous, or requires case-by-case approval. Even if travel is approved, certain conditions may be attached to it (see Appendix 1 for more information).

CIFS RF reserves the right to update this information as needed and reject applications proposing research in the eligible countries, if the research location is deemed by IDRC and/or DFATD to pose an unacceptable risk. Applicants are encouraged to visit CIFS RF website for more information and for any updates.

## **Appendix 1: CIFSRR Eligible countries**

Any applicant organization not based in Canada must be based in one of the following eligible countries. The work carried out must also take place in one (or more) of these countries. However, additional activities may be planned in additional Official Development Assistance eligible countries as part of a scaling up strategy. Similarly, with regards to projects in the Caribbean, CIFSRR will continue to only consider regional projects but these may include other countries in the Caribbean region not included in this list.

Algeria†	Ghana	Niger†
Angola	Guatemala	Nigeria†
Benin	Guineaℓ	Peru†
Bangladesh†	Guinea-Bissau†	Philippines†
Bolivia	Guyana	Rwanda
Botswana	Honduras	Saint Lucia
Burkina Faso†	India*	Sao Tome and Principe
Burma†	Indonesia†	Senegal
Burundi	Ivory Coast	Seychelles
Cambodia†	Kenya†	Sierra Leoneℓ
Cameroon†	Laos	Somaliaℓ
Cape Verde	Lesotho	South Africa
Central African Republicℓ	Liberiaℓ	South Sudanℓ
Chadℓ	Libyaℓ	Sri Lanka
Colombia†	Madagascar	St. Kitts and Nevis
Comoros	Malawi	Sudan
Congo Dem. Rep. †	Mali†	Swaziland
Congo Rep. †	Mauritania	Tanzania
Djibouti†	Mauritius	Togo
Egypt†	Mongolia	Trinidad and Tobago
Equatorial Guinea	Morocco	Tunisia
Eritrea†	Mozambique†	Uganda†
Ethiopia†	Namibia	Vietnam
Gabon	Nepal†	Zambia
Gambia	Nicaragua	Zimbabwe

\*Countries for which projects will have to address a problem of regional relevance to be considered eligible for funding. It will need to be clearly demonstrated in the proposal that results in these countries are applicable to other countries in the region.

ℓAt the time of this CIFSRR call (February 2015), IDRC has complete travel bans for IDRC staff in these countries, which would severely limit the ability to effectively monitor projects and may negatively influence funding decisions.

†Due to local security conditions, at the time of this CIFSRR call (February 2015), IDRC has partial travel bans for IDRC staff in these countries which would limit the ability to effectively monitor projects and may negatively influence funding decisions. Please note that it is acceptable to propose activities in these countries with elevated risks in specific regions, but it is highly recommended that high-risk regions be avoided. Please monitor the Government of Canada's Country Travel Advice and Advisories site for more information about risks in countries or specific regions of countries.