

**Sustainable Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
Collaborative Research Support Program (SANREM CRSP)**

Request for Planning Award Applications

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Planning Awards Applications Due: February 23, 2005

Announcement of Selections: March 31, 2005



This request for applications is issued by the:

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REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

SANREM CRSP Planning Awards

DATES: All applications must be received by close of business (5:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time) on February 23, 2005.

Applications received after applicable deadlines will not be considered for funding.

ELIGIBILITY: This RFA is open to all U.S. universities and their partner institutions. Acceptable institutions are defined by the CRSP Guidelines of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (<http://crsps.org/guidelines.htm>). Each application team must be led by a US university.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The SANREM CRSP invites applications for planning awards to develop sustainable agriculture (SA) and natural resources management (NRM) research proposal applications. Successful applicants will compete in a second stage for a limited number of long-term regional or global SA & NRM research activities.

The SANREM CRSP plans to provide up to \$720,000 to fund as many as 20 Planning Awards in the range of \$25,000 to \$50,000 each. Each award will support the development of an application to develop a partnership of US universities, host country institutions, NGOs, IARCs, and the private sector to conduct long-term (up to 4 years), multi-disciplinary, multi-dimensional SA & NRM research on priority areas of inquiry (described below). Applications are solicited for the following regions or combination of regions: (1) Sub-Saharan Africa, (2) Asia and the Near East, (3) Latin America and the Caribbean, and (4) Europe and Eurasia. The SANREM CRSP goal is to award two to six planning awards to each region. Research topics must address concrete issues/challenges faced by development practitioners in the field. Detailed application requirements are listed below under “Technical and Programmatic Considerations for Planning Award Applications”.

Institutions receiving planning awards will use the funds to prepare a full application for a long-term regional or global priority research activity by September 30, 2005. Approximately \$6,000,000 will be devoted to the long-term research activity program. It is anticipated that this funding will support up to six multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary research activities at a funding level of \$250,000 to \$300,000 per year for four years. All allocations for selected applications are contingent on: (1) the annual funding level received by the SANREM CRSP from United States Agency for International Development (USAID); and (2) performance under sub-award provisions. Institutions need not apply for or have received a planning award to apply for a long-term research activity award.

All SANREM supported activities will be conducted in compliance with the SANREM Policy and Operating Procedures (POP) Manual. The POP manual describes the organizational and governance structure of the SANREM CRSP as well as SANREM policies and operating procedures. A draft copy of the SANREM POP Manual is available at: http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/SANREM_CRSP_POP_Manual_Feb2008.pdf.

SANREM CRSP GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND APPROACH

The Collaborative Research Support Programs (CRSPs) were initiated to link the capabilities of the U.S. Land Grant Universities and other public and private partners to the needs of developing nations worldwide. The SANREM CRSP implements this goal through research designed in coordination with the Strategic Objectives of USAID Missions in developing countries. The approach is highly participatory, engaging stakeholders at all levels in research problem formulation within priority areas of inquiry, and comparative, focusing on multiple countries and/or regions to facilitate scaling up and out. SANREM CRSP's program strategy is based on promoting stakeholder empowerment and improved livelihoods thorough the discovery, organization, and dissemination of SA & NRM knowledge. Gender sensitivity is integral to the SANREM approach, reinforced by gender-sensitive participant training programs that include degree and non-degree training plans. All activities will link sustainable natural resources management with the economic concerns of local populations and the promotion of good governance.

The objectives of the SANREM CRSP are to:

1. Increase scientific knowledge and technical innovations in SA and NRM;
2. Improve knowledge management, education and communication leading to behavioral changes in adaptation and adoption of new SA and NRM technologies and practices;
3. Reform and strengthen SA and NRM governance, policies, and local institutions; and
4. Promote the functioning of sustainable resource-based local enterprises in national, regional, and global markets.

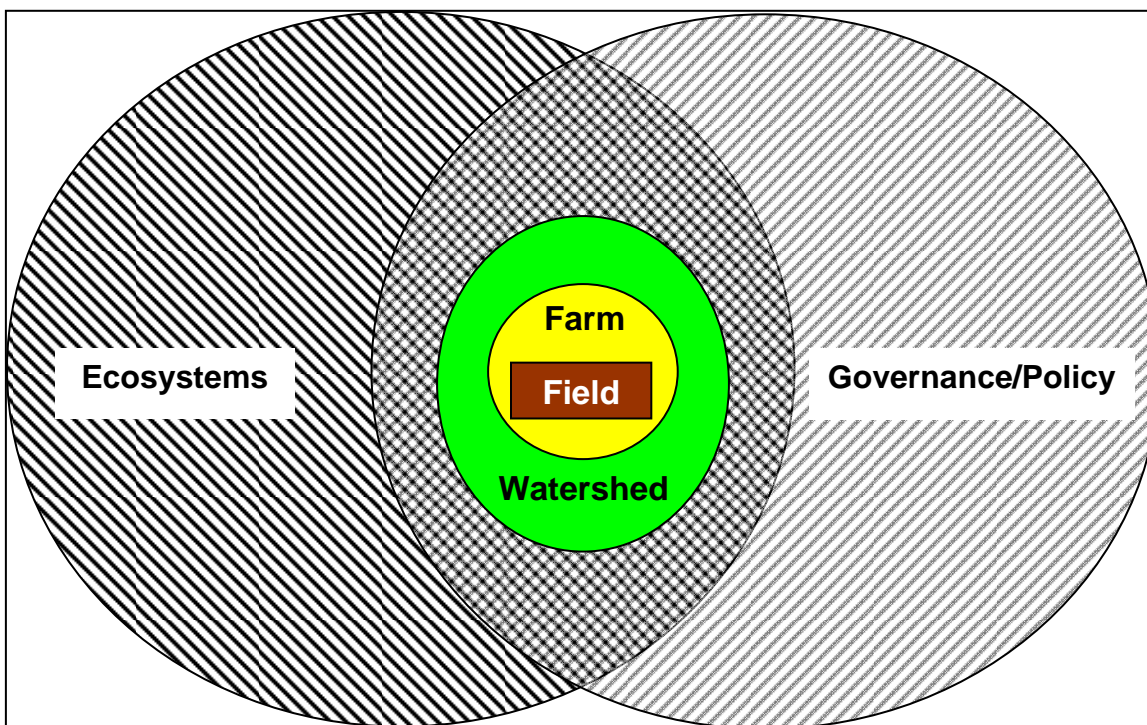
The SANREM CRSP seeks to support research activities, that mobilize science and technology to foster innovation and improvements in the social, economic and environmental sustainability of agriculture and natural resources management, and that lead to improved livelihoods and expanded trade opportunities and capacities for stakeholders. Specifically, the SANREM CRSP seeks to strengthen sustainable agriculture and natural resource management training and education, outreach, and applied research.

The two-stage, competitive planning/long-term awards approach will be the primary means of developing and implementing multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional SANREM CRSP research and knowledge dissemination activities. The two-stage process allows for the early identification of synergies within and between core SANREM objectives, USAID Missions with significant sustainable agriculture and natural resources management activities, and SANREM Long-Term Research applicants. The planning award applications will identify *priority inquiry areas* and *priority systems* in which applicants will orient their proposed activities. Applicants are encouraged to link with on-going projects and programs addressing SANREM areas of inquiry at different system scales. Planning award recipients are expected to identify synergistic linkages with USAID Missions, IARCs, NGOs and other private sector organizations, national agricultural research services (NARS), host country universities and research institutions, U.S. minority serving institutions, other CRSPs, and on-going projects across countries, regions, and landscapes during the planning award implementation phase. Information regarding USAID

Missions with significant SA and NRM activities (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/USAIDmission.php) and potential US and non-US partners (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/partneringresources.php) can be found on the SANREM Website. These linkages are essential to the SANREM CRSP systems approach to sustainable development and they will be an important component of the long-term core research applications. The SANREM CRSP encourages long-term research projects that will need to build on existing country and regional development efforts.

Systems Approach and Priority Inquiry Areas

To prepare competitive applications for planning awards and subsequent long-term research activities, applicants should become familiar with the SANREM nested-landscape systems approach and its priority inquiry areas (see the SANREM CRSP Technical Proposal and other documents at the SANREM CRSP Website: <http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/TechnicalProposal.pdf>). To facilitate knowledge organization and the integration of activities among and within sites, SANREM is organizing SA & NRM knowledge within the context of a system of overlapping geographic, governance, and ecological components. SA & NRM actions and their subsequent outcomes interact across the system; what happens in one system component has consequences in other components. In order for applicants to effectively integrate their research and interventions within this dynamic setting and assure immediate development applications of the knowledge acquired, the research problem statement must be formulated within the context of one or more of the highest level sub-systems (e.g., eco-system, governance/policy, and watershed). In order to assure that the research is livelihood driven, linkage with the field and/or farm/enterprise sub-systems must be explicit.



SANREM Systems Approach

In addition to situating award applications within one or more higher level sub-systems, applicants must also address one or more of the *priority inquiry areas* summarized below.

Technology Integration: Technologies needed by stakeholders and decision-makers to promote SA & NRM practices (i.e., biotechnology, GIS, decision support tools, etc.).

Governance: Policies, regulations, and institutional arrangements enabling civil society to better manage natural resources.

Economic Policy and Enterprise Development: Supporting sustainable SA & NRM practices that develop niche markets, and are eco-friendly and competitive.

Social and Institutional Capacity Building: Training and policies promoting improved SA & NRM leadership, NGO technology transfer, and increased civil society and government synergy.

Biodiversity Conservation and Environmental Services: Integrated management of agriculture and natural resources to promote synergistic relationships between production, biodiversity, and livelihoods.

Systems Linkages: The integrated SANREM CRSP systems approach demonstrates how linkages between gender, biophysical, technology, governance, economic, social, environmental, and globalization factors achieve sustainable development.

Globalization, Vulnerability, and Risk: SA & NRM best practices to manage globalization and address risk and vulnerability caused by HIV/AIDS, food insecurity, etc.

Technical and Programmatic Considerations for Planning Award Applications

The ultimate output of each planning award will be a full proposal for a long-term (up to 4 years) SANREM CRSP research activity. The goal is to award two to six planning awards for each of the following regions: (1) Sub-Saharan Africa, (2) Asia and the Near East, (3) Latin America and the Caribbean, and (4) Europe and Eurasia.

The following is a summary list of expected components for the Planning Award Applications:

1. Applications must describe a multi-institutional and multi-disciplinary (including both biophysical and social sciences) approach to develop a Long-Term Research Application that addresses SANREM research, education/training and outreach needs.
2. The institution taking the lead in submitting the application must be a U.S. university, with other host country, international and U.S. institutions integrated into the proposed effort. Successful planning award recipients will develop linkages with USAID Missions and implementing partners, international agricultural research centers (IARCs), NGOs and other private sector organizations, national agricultural research services (NARS),

host country universities and research institutions, U.S. minority serving institutions (such as 1890 and 1994 Land Grants), other CRSPs (wherever appropriate), and on-going projects. The planning grant application must describe the approach that will be used to develop proposed linkages.

3. The proposed approach must be participatory with a plan to facilitate participation among men and women stakeholders (resource users, scientists, extension workers, agricultural marketing agents, USAID personnel, etc.). A description of the proposed participatory process (host country workshops, rapid rural appraisals, interviews with key stakeholders, etc.) that will be used to develop the Long-Term Research Application must be provided.
4. Applications must address environmental, social, economic, and gender issues.
5. The application must address SA & NRM problems with the potential for significant impact within the proposed region(s) or across a thematic area. A clear and concise problem statement should be made, specifying research methods and testable hypotheses (as appropriate) with supporting citations. The proposed region(s) and countries and proposed SANREM systems and areas of inquiry must be identified and justified.
6. Biodiversity conservation is both a SANREM area of inquiry and a USAID priority. Applications involving the relationships between SA and NRM and biodiversity conservation are highly encouraged. Biodiversity activities may be site specific or not. Site-based work is implemented in biologically significant areas. *Ex situ* conservation of wild species, and their germplasm, may also be included when explicitly for the purpose of biodiversity conservation.
7. Approaches comparing technologies, tools, applications, and institutional innovations across sites, and methodologies for scaling up and out are encouraged. Applications should describe how multidisciplinary research results will be integrated into development applications.
8. USAID Mission activities provide opportunities for application of research findings, and the potential for complementary resources. It is expected that research will be directed at countries that have a USAID presence (see the SANREM website for information on USAID Missions with potentially high synergies with SANREM: http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_resources/usaidneeds.php). Planning award applications should identify the importance and complementarities of the research to USAID Mission Strategic Objectives. Direct contact with missions is not required for submission of planning award applications. Applicants will describe existing Mission linkages and the approach that will be followed to identify and develop new linkages.
9. For planning applications, known and potential partner host country institution(s) should be identified.
10. The SANREM CRSP recognizes that it may not be appropriate to address every expected component listed above in order to develop a high quality research program that meets

the goals and intentions of the SANREM CRSP. We are seeking applications that address as many of these requirements as are necessary to develop a holistic and balanced research program.

11. At least 50 percent of SANREM CRSP funds must be expended in or on behalf of proposed host countries or regions. Travel to host countries in the development of partnerships and long-term research applications is considered a host country-related expense.
12. U.S. institutions are required to provide a 25 percent matching commitment. Matching is not required for the following components of awards: host country sub-awards, training of host country researchers, and hospital and medical costs of U.S. personnel of the CRSP while serving overseas. See budget section of CRSP Guidelines for detailed instructions: <http://crsps.org/guidelines.htm>.
13. For all applications, indirect costs are limited to the lesser of federally negotiated off-campus research rates or 30 percent of modified total direct costs for U.S. universities, international centers, and non-host country organizations. Host country organization indirect cost rates are limited to a maximum of 10 percent. No indirect costs are allowed on equipment and student tuition. ***Applications with indirect costs exceeding 30% will not be evaluated.***
14. The SANREM CRSP sub-award policy is designed to maximize the amount of funding going to host country organizations. Lead institutions that waive indirect costs and are prepared to make needed cash advances on sub-awards to host country organizations, may administer the host country organization sub-awards and the sub-awards with indirect costs to other participating US partners and IARCs. If the lead institution is unable to waive indirect costs on host country organization sub-awards, the ME (OIRE/VT) will manage sub-awards for the host country organizations, US partners, and IARCs for the lead institution. The lead institution is still responsible for managing the programmatic components of the planning award. Virginia Tech will make payments to sub-awardees on receipt of invoices and copy the responsible lead institution PI so that the PI will know what has been expended against the approved budget.
15. Planning award applications should be prepared for a five-month funding period from April 1 to Sept 30, 2005. The principal deliverable expected from a planning award is a Long-Term Research Award application, which is due September 30, 2005. The Long-Term Research Award RFA is available at: http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/longterm.php.

Instructions for the Preparation of Applications

Parties who decide to submit an application are encouraged to visit the SANREM CRSP Website in order to be apprised of recent announcements, information and partnering opportunities. A web page will be established to serve as a means of identifying potential partners for long-term research applications. Individuals or institutions posting to this

webpage will provide a brief description of their specialty, areas of interest, regional preferences, and contact information (please be brief, only the first 100 words will be posted). A list of contact persons for each IARC will also be available to facilitate identifying potential IARC collaborators.

Lead institutions intending to submit a Planning Award Application are requested to send a message of intent by January 21, 2005 to the SANREM CRSP Program Director (at sanrem@vt.edu) indicating the region/countries where they are preparing to conduct research. The regional distribution of potential applications will be made available on the SANREM CRSP website without reference to PIs or institutions. This information will assist the SANREM CRSP in estimating the number of applications to be reviewed.

Organization and Format of Planning Award Applications

Applications for planning awards must contain the following elements:

1. Cover Page (A single page with the name of the lead institution applying for the award and the name, title, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone and FAX numbers of principal investigators.)
2. Project abstract: One page with the following components:
 - a. Project title and principal investigator names, titles and affiliations
 - b. 150-200 word abstract
 - c. 3-5 keywords describing the general area and focus of the planning award (e.g., watershed management, ecotourism, ecoagriculture, biodiversity, carbon sequestration, pastoralism)
 - d. Project period: April 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005
 - e. Targeted counties/region(s): Specify countries and regions the research will involve
3. Technical Narrative (6 page maximum)
 - a. Problem statement, objectives, and justification: Describe the major problem(s) to be addressed, the specific objective(s) of the proposed planning award, and discuss the originality of the proposed approach, how the proposed activity will compliment SANREM objectives, and potential impacts of the proposed activity to SA and NRM in the proposed project country/region(s)
 - b. SANREM systems and inquiry areas to be addressed: Describe SANREM systems and inquiry areas that the proposed planning award targets
 - c. Proposed methodology
 - i. Partnering plan (US Institutions, host country organizations, IARCs, NGOs, etc.)
 - ii. Plan for elaborating the problem statement and developing a Long-Term Research Application with existing and new partners
 - iii. Consideration of gender issues
 - iv. Consideration of biodiversity conservation
 - v. Identification of USAID Mission needs
 - d. Expected outcomes and deliverables
 - e. Responsibilities of key individuals
 - f. Schedule of critical tasks and accomplishments

4. Literature Cited
5. Cost sharing and additional sources of support (if any)
6. Curriculum Vitae for Lead PI and key Co-PIs (2 page limit per CV)
7. Budget using appropriate SANREM CRSP Budget and Budget Narrative forms (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/menu_research/Budget.php).
8. Required forms (http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/USAID_Forms.doc)
 - a. Part I - Certifications and Assurances
 - b. Part II - Other Statements of Recipient
 - c. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, Ineligibility and Voluntary Exclusion Lower Tier Covered Transactions
 - d. Key Individual Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking
 - e. Participant Certification Narcotics Offenses and Drug Trafficking
 - f. Self Certification Letter
 - g. Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement
 - h. Certification Regarding Terrorist Financing Implementing E. O. 13224 (Revision 2) (<http://www.oired.vt.edu/sanremcrsp/documents/AAPD04-14.pdf>).

Note:

- Items 1-6 and the Budget Justification (from Item 7) should be submitted electronically as a single MS Word or PDF document
- Item 7, SANREM Budget Forms, should be submitted electronically as a single Excel document
- Item 8, Required forms should be submitted electronically as an additional single MS Word or PDF document

Format:	Paper size	standard 8.5" x 11"
	Line spacing	single spaced
	Margins	1 inch on all sides
	Minimum font size	12 point

How and Where to Submit

Applications must be submitted in both electronically by email and in paper format (7 copies).

Electronic applications should be submitted to sanrem@vt.edu and should have SANREM Planning Award Application in the subject line.

Applicants are encouraged to submit completed paper applications via overnight mail or delivery service to ensure timely receipt by the SANREM CRSP. The address for hand-delivered applications or applications submitted using an express mail or overnight courier service is:

SANREM CRSP Competitive Grants Program
 c/o Dr. Theo Dillaha, Program Director SANREM CRSP
 Office of International Research, Education, and Development
 840 University City Blvd., Suite 5-7

Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0378
Phone: 540-231-1230

Seven copies of the paper application are required. The receipt of all applications will be acknowledged by e-mail.

Evaluation Criteria for Planning Applications:

Scientific Merit: Value of the applied scientific contribution addressed by the research. The problem statement should be discussed within the context of current issues and relevant findings cited in scientific literature and supported by a comparative research design involving sites in more than one country or region. (35 points)

Partnering Plan: Partnerships or plan for developing such partnerships including: the quality of the multi-institutional (universities, IARCs, NGOs, etc.), multi-disciplinary (social, biological, and physical) team; a participatory methodology for stakeholder involvement; and a gender assessment plan. (25 points)

Relevance: Problem addresses stakeholder empowerment and improved livelihoods through knowledge in SANREM areas of inquiry and targeted regions taking into account USAID Missions Strategic Objectives and the potential impact of the research for US and developing country stakeholders. (25 points)

Feasibility: Potential of the proposed plan to be technically implemented within the proposed time frame and budget, adherence to budget instructions, and proper cost shares. (15 points)

The External Application Review Panel reviewing these applications may recommend modification of selected or high ranking proposals. The review panel will also seek a balance between regions and institutions in making their final recommendations to the ME.