



1890 Universities Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense

GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND DEFENSE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Submission Deadline: June 30, 2021, 5:00 pm EST
Ad Hoc Review: July 23, 2021
Start and End Dates: July 28, 2021 to April 30, 2022

1. Background

The Center of Excellence for Global Food Security and Defense (CEGFSD), is one of six proposed centers of excellence at 1890 universities identified in the U.S. Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, commonly known as 2018 Farm Bill. The Center is supported with funds from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Through a competitive process, USDA/NIFA awarded a grant to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to host and implement the CEGFSD in collaboration with all nineteen 1890 universities. The CEGFSD will build on the work initiated through the Center of Excellence for International Engagement and Development (CEIED) which was one of three Anniversary Centers of Excellence established by the USDA/1890 Taskforce to commemorate the 125th Anniversary of the signing of the Second Morrill Act of 1890.

The Center focuses on implementing projects designed to supply the country with a globally educated workforce and to address critical needs in the area of global food security and defense. The Center will foster international partnerships that strengthen agricultural development in developing countries; engage international researchers in addressing new and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases; engage in agricultural disaster recovery; and continue activities carried out by the CEIED.

UMES works collaboratively with the 1890 Universities Foundation to assist with the implementation of the Center's goals and objectives. The Foundation provides a neutral entity to ensure the broadest and equitable participation of all the 1890 universities. To this end, this RFA is being issued by The Foundation which will manage the peer review process and make recommendations on which proposals will be funded.

2. Funding Purpose

The CEGFSD is designed to catalyze and forge concerted efforts to address food security and defense challenges encountered in four target sub-regional clusters including: West/Central Africa, East/Southern Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America. All nineteen 1890 universities are encouraged to develop collaborative projects addressing the Center's broad goals and priorities listed below, and targeting the four sub-regional clusters.



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a. Goals and priorities

The Center will support projects that address three broad goals listed below through the implementation of specific activities in eight priority areas. The three broad goals are to:

- (1) Strengthen agricultural development in developing countries;
- (2) Address new and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases; and
- (3) Engage in agricultural disaster recovery.

The eight interlinked priorities are focused on: (1) Agricultural productivity; (2) Reduction of global poverty; (3) Enhancement of global food supply chains; (4) Improving food safety; (5) Impacts of trade on food availability, access, use and stability; (6) Advancement of long-term prosperity of the U.S. through global food security and defense initiatives; (7) Global climate change; and (8) Emerging technologies.

Each project proposal must only target one sub-regional cluster. Collaborative and integrated proposals comprising four to five 1890 universities are required. Each sub-regional cluster proposal will focus its activities on selected goals and priorities while considering cross-cutting themes such as global climate change and emerging technologies. These activities must be aligned with the three overarching goals and eight priorities, respectively.

3. Funding and Award Restrictions

- (1) This RFA is open to all nineteen **1890 land-grant universities**.
- (2) Only one collaborative and integrated proposal per sub-regional cluster will be funded.
- (3) Projects must demonstrate multidisciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration.
- (4) The 1890 universities **listed in their clusters** are encouraged to **apply collaboratively**.
- (5) Project performance period must not exceed **April 30, 2022**.
- (6) Proposals must include a statement that describes: 1) how the collaboration addresses the Center's three broad goals and eight priorities including cross-cutting themes; 2) how the collaboration might be **sustained past the term of the proposal**; and 3) how resources will be leveraged at cooperating institutions.
- (7) Proposals must demonstrate how the grant will add value to current or future collaborative, integrative, multidisciplinary, and multi-institutional teaching, research and extension initiatives.
- (8) The maximum allowable funding for each cluster will not exceed **\$200,000**. Indirect Costs are allowed at a rate of no more than 15% of Total Federal Funds Awarded (TTFA).
- (9) Applications submitted under this program must adhere to all USDA/NIFA terms and conditions as prescribed under the 1890 COE program. See original RFA for COEs (pg. 5) on priorities and purpose and page 6 global engagements provisions and other award administration provisions (pg. 19-21).



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<https://nifa.usda.gov/sites/default/files/rfa/FY-2021-1890-Centers-of-Excellence-COE-508.pdf>

4. Project Type

Applicants may submit applications for projects addressing the **teaching, research, and extension activities involving 1890 Universities and international partners that undertake transboundary challenges in the areas of global food security and defense.**

a. Priorities and Deliverables

i. Priorities

Foster and strengthen collaborative, integrative, multidisciplinary, and multi-institutional teaching, research, and extension activities involving 1890 Institutions and international partners that address the Center’s three broad goals including (1) strengthening agricultural development in developing countries; (2) addressing new and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases; and (3) engaging in agricultural disaster recovery.

ii. Deliverables

The expected proposal deliverables are delineated by cluster and related countries and universities as indicated in the Table below.

Clusters, Countries, and Universities	Broad Goals	Expected Results
West/Central Africa: DRC, Ghana, Gambia, and Cote d’Ivoire [NCA&TU, ASU, TU, SCSU, FVSU]	<u>Goal 1.</u> -Strengthen agricultural development in developing countries	1a. Improved integrated farming systems 1b. Strengthened food nutrition and safety 1c. Improved food trade
	<u>Goal 2.</u> -Address new and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases	2a. Increased knowledge of IPM 2b. Better handling of meat products
East/Southern Africa: DRC, Kenya, Uganda, Burundi, and South Africa [UMES, FAMU, AA&MU, UAPB, SU]	<u>Goal 1.</u> -Strengthen agricultural development in developing countries	1a. Enhanced global food value chains 1b. Increased supply of globally educated workforce
	<u>Goal 2.</u> -Address new and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases	2a. Increased knowledge of new and emerging animal and plant pests and disease
Caribbean: Bahamas, Barbados, and Jamaica [PVA&MU, KSU, CSU, and Langston]	<u>Goal 1.</u> -Strengthen agricultural development in developing countries	1a. Enhanced food security curricula for Caribbean public school systems 1b. Increased supply of globally educated workforce
	<u>Goal 3.</u> -Engage in agricultural disaster recovery	3a. Agricultural disasters documented and recovery programs implemented
Latin America: Mexico, Guyana, Costa Rica, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Columbia [DSU, WVSU, VSU, TSU, and LU]	<u>Goal 1.</u> -Strengthen agricultural development in developing countries	1a. Essential grain legume deployed for food security 1b. Increased supply of globally educated workforce 1c. Strengthened Extension systems for effective technology transfer.
	<u>Goal 2.</u> -Address new and emerging animal and plant pests and diseases	2a. Improved regional collaboration for pests and diseases monitoring, especially with cases involving food trade



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b. Funding Levels

Applications must address transboundary challenges in the field of global food security and defense. In consideration of the deliverables under each cluster, projects must demonstrate the evidence of collaborative, multidisciplinary, and multi-institutional efforts along the Center's three broad goals and eight priorities as well as the two cross-cutting themes. There will be four awards (one award per cluster). Collaborative activities must be clearly defined including separate budgets.

5. Proposal Structure

a. Format and Length

- a) Proposal (15 pages total as specified below) must include *single-spaced* pages of written text (no smaller than 11 points, Times New Roman) with 1" margins.
- b) Cover sheet (1 page, format provided—see **Appendix A**).
- c) Project summary/abstract (1 page max).
- d) Project Narrative (No more than 11 pages, to include project rationale, innovation, objectives, methods, anticipated results and outcomes, evaluation plans, statement of collaboration, institutional capability, continuation plans, and key personnel role and qualification).
- e) Budget (1 page - format provided—see **Appendix B**).
- f) Budget justification (1 page max).
- g) Biographic sketch of investigators (2 pages max).
- h) Letters of commitment from collaborating partners (does not count towards 15-page proposal limit)

b. Review/Evaluation Guidelines

Proposals will be evaluated by the Ad Hoc Panel based on the rubric described in **Appendix C**.

c. Timeline

- Proposals due: June 30, 2021 (5:00 pm EST)
- Ad Hoc review: July 23, 2021
- Start and end dates: July 28, 2021 to April 30, 2022

d. Submission

Deadline for submission is 5:00 PM EST on June 30, 2021. Proposals must be submitted as an e-mail attachment (PDF) to the 1890 Universities Foundation at submissions@1890foundation.org.



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Appendix A. Project Cover Sheet.

COVER SHEET

Project Title:

Cluster Name:

Proposed Start Date:

Principal Investigator(s):

Name	Institution	Role in Project

Project Contact (list one person as the primary contact):

Name:	
Title:	
Institution:	
Address:	
Phone:	
E-mail:	

Project type:

Total Amount Requested: \$200,000 (Maximum)



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Appendix B. Budget

BUDGET

Items	Amounts
Personnel Stipends	
Sub-Total	
Travel (Airfares etc.)	
Other travel costs	
Sub-Total	
Other Direct Costs	
Sub-Total	
Indirect Costs	
Grant Total	

Detailed Budget Justification

Please provide a detailed budget justification (1 page max).



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Appendix C. Proposal Evaluation Rubric

Evaluation Rubric		Score
Potential for advancing the quality of integrated (teaching, research, and extension) programs that support food security and defense both domestically and abroad (50 points)	Impact on addressing challenges in the areas of global food security and defense. Does the project effectively address the project goals and priorities articulated above and is it focused on one of the identified sub-regional clusters with clear and strong partnerships among 1890 institutions?	25
	Sound continuation plans	5
	Innovation	10
	Products and results	5
	Institutional commitment	5
Overall methodology and quality of the proposal (30 points)	Proposed methods	10
	Project evaluation	5
	Results dissemination	5
	Partnerships and collaborative efforts	10
Project personnel and qualification (10 points)	Qualification of key personnel	4
	Role and responsibilities of key personnel	3
	Management plan	3
Project budget allocation and effectiveness (10 points)	Budget allocation and justification	5
	Cost effectiveness of the budget	5
TOTAL		100