



APPENDIX 1: ELIGIBILITY AND SCREENING CRITERIA FOR PRE-PROPOSALS

1. Eligibility Criteria

To be judged eligible to receive funding from the Benefit-sharing Fund in the Fifth Call for Proposals, all pre-proposals must comply with the following eligibility criteria:

- Contribute to the objectives of the International Treaty;
- Fall within the priorities established by the Governing Body;
- Benefit Contracting Parties that are developing countries;
- Be presented through the Contracting Party or Parties concerned;
- Be submitted on or before the deadline set for submissions;
- Adhere to the guidelines for submission;

2. Screening Criteria

The eligible pre-proposals will be assessed by an Independent Panel of Experts (the experts) against the criteria listed below that were developed based on the *Operations Manual of the Benefit-sharing Fund*¹ and the *Selection Criteria of the Operational Procedures for the use of resources under the direct control of the Governing Body* (Annex1, Section III of Res. 2/2013).

1. Has the project identified in clear and concrete terms a problem and a corresponding strategy to address the problem that is in line with the Impact and Outcome of the Fifth Call for Proposals?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition; 1.2. Project outputs and related target indicators; 1.4 Targeted PGRFA; 1.5 Beneficiaries

The experts will assess the extent to which the pre-proposal defines in a concrete and specific manner a pressing problem related to climate change and food insecurity, farmers livelihoods or agricultural sustainability (e.g. specific pest, disease and abiotic stress affecting specific crops, lack of PGRFA material resistant to specific abiotic and biotic stresses, lack of appropriate data and technologies for analysis and development of new adapted PGRFA material, lack of tools for integrated data analysis, gaps in policy and planning, bottle necks in the seed value chain etc) that the project aims to address, including the potential impact that the project will have in addressing the identified problem/s.

Pre-proposals will obtain higher scores in this section if they:

- Contain a concrete and specific analysis of the problem, which population is affected by the problem, how, where and why the problem matters;
- Establish a strong connection between the problem identified and the local needs of the men, women and youth target beneficiaries;
- Establish a strong connection between the problem identified and the outputs and target indicators that the pre-proposal plans to achieve;

¹ Res3/2019, Annex 2: Operations Manual: Benefit-sharing Fund available at <http://www.fao.org/3/nb780en/nb780en.pdf>

- In case of multi-country projects, the experts will also assess the extent to which the pre-proposal is specific and concrete in defining a similar problem being faced in different targeted countries/regions; and the synergy in the proposed solutions;
- Projects to be implemented in Contracting Party countries that have high rates of rural poverty or food insecurity or that target centers of origin or diversity of crops will receive higher scores in this section.

2. Are the outputs and target indicators clearly defined, quantified and relevant to the Fifth Call for Proposals and the Benefit-sharing Fund Results Framework?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition; 1.2. Project outcomes and related target indicators; 1.4. Targeted PGRFA; 1.5 Beneficiaries; 1.6. Partnerships and collaboration arrangements; Annex 2. Budget

The experts will assess the extent to which the planned pre-proposals' outputs and related target indicators are clearly defined and quantified. The experts will evaluate the quality of the target indicators and specific pre-proposal outputs against the Results Framework of the BSF. The pre-proposals that have aligned their target indicators as much as possible to the type of target indicators listed in the Annex 1 of the *Guidelines for the development of pre-proposals* will receive higher scores by the experts². Pre-proposals that will aim at achieving, for a given budget, higher numbers for each targets and focus on more targets for each output of the BSF Results Framework will receive higher scores in this section. In order to ensure consistency and coherence among the expected outputs and target indicators, the Secretariat has requested applicants to populate Table 1 in section 1.2. *Project outputs and related target indicators* of the Appendix 5: *Submission Form for Pre-proposals*. The Secretariat requests applicants to select the main 4-7 contributory outputs that the project plans to address and to describe how the indicators are measured in the context of the project (see example in Appendix 4: *Guidelines for the development of pre-proposals*).

In the development of the full proposal, applicants will be requested to further adapt and detail the set of indicators and targets into a project Logical Framework.

The experts will assess the extent to which the targeted outputs and related indicators are achievable considering the resources available (requested funding to BSF) and the duration of the project.

3. Does the pre-proposal clearly describe strategies to document, use and disseminate knowledge and project results among project beneficiaries and stakeholders, and contribute to knowledge management and visibility at project and programme level?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.2 Project outcomes and related target indicators; 1.3. Knowledge management, learning and communication; 1.4. Targeted PGRFA; 1.5. Beneficiaries

All pre-proposals should describe what and how they plan to document, apply and disseminate the knowledge generated in the project implementation. This includes planning for baseline studies, vulnerability assessments, measuring progress, capturing lessons learned and good practices and disseminating these for learning and visibility purposes. Pre-proposals should include an analysis of how knowledge will benefit the target beneficiaries, project stakeholders and other target audiences. The experts will assess the extent to which the planning for knowledge and visibility at project level would contribute to the overall BSF programme, as described in Section V: *Overview*

² Annex 1 of Appendix 4: *Guidelines for the development of pre-proposals* reflects the Annex: 1 *List of indicators for monitoring the achievement of the BSF Results* of the *Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework for the BSF*, Appendix 3 of the IT/GB-9/SFC-4/21/Proceedings available at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb7281en/cb7281en.pdf>

of the programme of the Fifth Call for Proposals. Pre-proposals that have strategies in place to manage and collect data, information and knowledge in a gender-sensitive manner will receive higher scores in this section.

Pre-proposals that have track record of experience in knowledge management, learning and communication and clear plans on how to apply it in the context of BSF-5 programme, will receive higher scores in this section.

Pre-proposals that will individuate from an early stage of project design the channels and tools for dissemination of benefits, knowledge and results arising from the proposals will receive higher scores in this section.

4. Are the PGRFA addressed by the pre-proposal relevant to local food security and climate change adaptation and what is their potential to building resilient farming systems?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition; 1.2. Project outcomes and related target indicators; 1.4. Targeted PGRFA; 1.5. Beneficiaries

The experts will assess the contribution of targeted PGRFA to food security and climate change adaptation and how the management of the targeted PGRFA would contribute to building resilient farming systems, improving livelihoods and local value chains at local and national levels. Pre-proposals that will address mixtures/packages of climate resilient crop varieties, including locally adapted varieties will be highly ranked by the experts. Pre-proposals that will aim at strengthening the skills and know-how on the use, characterization and evaluation, including phenotyping and genotyping of targeted PGRFA, including the corresponding policy and planning, will be highly appraised by the experts.

Pre-proposals that will make a strategic and innovative use of PGRFA, preferably accessed from the Multilateral System of Access and Benefit-Sharing, will receive higher scores in this section.

Strategic and innovative use of PGRFA may include, for example:

- Placing PGRFA that are unique, threatened or of relevance to global or regional food security in the Multilateral System;
- Making publicly available PGRFA-related information in national or global information systems supported by Treaty Contracting Parties;
- Using innovative and participatory approaches to PGRFA management;
- Reintroducing local varieties that were lost locally and were conserved *ex situ*;
- By making innovative use of PGRFA related information from national or global information systems supported by Treaty Contracting Parties;
- By characterizing germplasm holdings for phenotypic and genotypic data and by linking large-scale sequencing and phenotyping data to publicly available germplasm accessions.

5. Who are the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project pre-proposal?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition; 1.2. Project outcomes and related target indicators; 1.5. Beneficiaries

The categories of the direct beneficiaries will have to be coherent with section V.A: *Primary beneficiaries and partnership approach* of the Fifth Call for Proposals and in line with the BSF Results Framework.

Pre-proposals will have to clearly identify the beneficiaries that would directly benefit from the project implementation for whom the project intends to bring change. Pre-proposals will have to provide a realistic estimation of the direct beneficiaries in terms of who (farmers, scientists, extension agents etc.) and how many (a rough estimation of the number) will benefit from the

project. The pre-proposals should also specify the benefits and how different target beneficiaries or groups of beneficiaries are expected to benefit.

Relevant representative groups and organizations of farmers' communities, especially women, will have to be consulted and actively involved in the design and implementation of the proposal. A clear and quantifiable estimation of indirect beneficiaries would be an asset in this section.

6. To what extent are the (multi-stakeholder) partners involved in the pre-proposal conducive to an effective and efficient implementation of the project?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.2 Project outcomes and related target indicators; 1.6. Partnerships and collaboration arrangements; 1.7. Relevance to national plans and policies related to for PGRFA

Pre-proposals should clearly describe the partnership strategy of the project, by specifying the type of partners involved, and the roles, capacities and expertise that each partner will contribute to project implementation. While appraising this section, the experts will individuate if partners' expertise and know-how are adequate to achieve the planned outputs and target indicators, as well as the potential to use the project results after the project period.

Pre-proposals that will contribute to strengthening and reinforcing networks between various types of institutions (farmers' organizations, producers' organizations, extension agencies, governmental agencies, genebanks, private sector, etc.) by implementing a set of activities aimed at conserving and sustainably managing PGRFA, research and capacity building will receive higher scores in this section.

Pre-proposals that apply for a second phase project should describe, as part of their partnership strategy, how the pre-proposal brings expertise and diversity of partners from the first phase of the project and how it plans to expand to additional partners and expertise.

The experts will provide a higher score to pre-proposals led by national non-governmental and governmental institutions, or in the case of multi-country projects, pre-proposals that are led by a national, regional or international institution working in consortium with local and national partners. The experts will also provide a higher score to pre-proposals that will bring together a diversity of partners and expertise in the implementation of the proposal and who are capable for the uptake of the project results.

7. Is the pre-proposal relevant to national plans and policies related to PGRFA and does it strengthen the policy environment for Treaty implementation?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: 1.1. Problem definition; 1.2. Project outcomes and related target indicators; 1.4. Targeted PGRFA; 1.7. Relevance to national plans and policies related to for PGRFA

Pre-proposals funded in BSF-5 will have to be consistent with national plans and policies related to PGRFA. Experts will assess the extent to which the pre-proposal responds to specific priority/ies reflected in national plans and policies. This will ensure that the intervention is not a standalone activity and that there is the possibility of building complementarities and synergies between different proposals.

Pre-proposals that will contribute to addressing identified priorities and gaps in the implementation of the Treaty at the national level will receive higher scores in this section.

8. Is the pre-proposal feasible in terms of set targets, resources and timing?

Relevant sections in the pre-proposal form: Section A: Project Proposal Cover sheet; 1.2. Project outcomes and related target indicators; 1.4. Targeted PGRFA; 1.5. Beneficiaries; 1.6. Partnerships and collaboration arrangements; Appendix 2: Tentative Budget

The experts will assess the extent to which the planned outputs and related target indicators set by the pre-proposals are achievable considering the resources available (requested funding to BSF and co-funding), the duration of the project and the overall implementation arrangements.

Pre-proposals that will be able to leverage a good amount of co-funding will receive higher scores in this section. Especially for multi-country projects, experts will give higher scores to those pre-proposals led by national institutions and that will receive most of the allocated funds to the pre-proposal.

The experts will also assess the extent to which the costs for each budget category are reasonable and realistic and whether there are no huge discrepancies in the allocation of resources among categories.