



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Date Issued: December 18, 2012
BAA Clarification Questions Due Date and Time: January 04, 2013 5:00 PM EST
Closing Date: February 6, 2013
Closing Time: 5:00PM EST

Subject: Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development Competition

Ref: Funding Opportunity Number: **RFA-OAA-12-000027**
Solicitation Number: **SOL-OAA-13-000017**

Dear Prospective Applicants:

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Government of Sweden, and Duke Energy Corporation invite proposals to respond to **Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development Competition**.

This Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) is for a funding competition component of this Grand Challenge for Development, designed to address barriers to increasing access to clean energy services within the agriculture sectors of developing countries. The BAA describes the purpose of the program and the types of activities that it will fund; indicates the process for preparing and submitting proposals; and outlines criteria that will be used to evaluate the proposals. Through this competition, Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development anticipates disbursing \$10-\$20 million USD in award funding. Individual awards are expected to be between \$300,000 USD and \$1,500,000 USD. The period of performance for individual awards is up to three years; the actual period of performance for each award will be determined at the time of award. Awards made through this BAA may be in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and collaboration agreements, depending on the nature of the submitting organization and the proposal.

This BAA and any future amendments can be downloaded from <http://www.grants.gov> and <http://www.fbo.gov>. Prospective Applicants that are unable to retrieve the BAA from the Internet can request an electronic copy by e-mail at PoweringAg@usaid.gov.

DUE DATE: Proposals shall be received no sooner than **January 15, 2013** and no later than **February 06, 2013 at 5:00 PM EST** via the **Online Application Platform** accessed at: <http://PoweringAg.org/apply>. Applicants should retain a copy of their proposals and accompanying uploaded documents for their records.

QUESTIONS: Prospective Applicants who have questions concerning the contents of this BAA shall submit them in writing no later than **January 4, 2013 at 5:00 PM EST** to the e-mail address: PoweringAg@usaid.gov

Issuance of this BAA does not constitute an award commitment on the part of USAID, nor does it commit USAID or any of its funding Partners to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals. Further, USAID reserves the right to reject any or all proposals received.

Sincerely,

Claudia Koziol,
Contract and Agreement Officer

Table of Contents

SECTION I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION.....9
 A. Broad Agency Announcement.....9
 B. Program Description.....9
SECTION II – AWARD INFORMATION.....13
 A. Authorizing Legislation.....13
 B. Authorized Geographic Code13
 C. Award and Administration Information13
 D. Funding Information.....14
 E. Period of Performance.....14
 F. Award Budgets14
SECTION III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION15
 A. Eligibility Requirements.....15
 B. Cost Share.....15
SECTION IV – PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION16
 A. Points of Contact16
 B. Online Application Platform16
 C. Indication of Non-Disclosure16
 D. Content and Form of Proposal Submission17
SECTION V. – PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION24
 A. Technical Review Process and Evaluation Criteria.....24
 B. Technical Evaluation Criteria.....25
SECTION VI. – AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION27
 A. Additional Requirements.....27
 B. Reporting Requirements.....30
SECTION VII – REFERENCE DOCUMENTS31
SECTION IX – ATTACHMENTS32
 Attachment A: Past Performance Information Form32

Abbreviations and Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADS	Automated Directives System
AIDAR	Agency for International Development Acquisition Regulations
AO	Agreement Officer
AOR	Agreement Officer Representative
APS	Annual Program Statement
BAA	Broad Agency Announcement
CCR	Central Contractor Registration
CFP	Call for Proposal
CFR	Code of Federal Regulation
CO	Contracting Officer
COR	Contracting Officer's Representative
DUNS	Data Universal Numbering System
DQA	Data Quality Assessment
EMMP	Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Plan
EST	Eastern Standard Time
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FAR	Federal Acquisition Regulation
FSN	Foreign Service National
GFG	Greenhouse Gas
IEE	Initial Environmental Examination
IFR	Invitation for Bids
IR	Intermediate Result
LOC	Letter of Credit
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MB	Megabyte
M/OAA	USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance
NICRA	Negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement
OFAC	Office of Foreign Assets Control
OMB	Office of Management and Budget
NGO	Nongovernmental Organization
PAEGC	Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development
PCA	Partner Contracted Audit
PD	Program Description
PDF	Portable Document Format
PMP	Performance Management Plan
R&D	Research and Development
RF	Results Framework
RFA	Request for Application
RFQ	Request for Quotes
SF	Standard Form
USAID	U.S. Agency for International Development
USC	United States Code
USD	United States Dollar
USG	United States Government

Commonly Used Terms and Definitions

Within the context of this BAA, potential Applicants should be aware that these definitions apply to the following commonly-used terms.

Acquisition Award	<p>The acquiring by contract with appropriated funds of supplies or services (including construction) by and for the use of the US Federal Government through purchase or lease, whether the supplies or services are already in existence or must be created, developed, demonstrated, and evaluated. Acquisition begins at the point when the USG agency needs are established and includes the description of requirements to satisfy the agency needs, solicitation and selection of sources, award of contracts, contract financing, contract performance, contract administration, and those technical and management functions directly related to the process of fulfilling the agency needs by contract. Source: FAR¹ 2.101</p>
Agribusiness	<p>The various businesses involved in the production of goods within the agricultural sector - including farming, input production and supply, farm machinery, processing, distribution, marketing, and retail sales.</p>
Agricultural Supply Chain	<p>The full range of participants and activities that move agricultural goods from a farmer's field to the end consumer. Activities within the agricultural supply chain include: input production or supply (i.e. seed, fertilizer, feed, etc.), irrigation, production (i.e. planting crops, raising livestock), storage, transport, processing (i.e. sorting, drying, grinding, packaging), wholesaling, marketing, retailing, and waste management.</p>
Agreement Officer (AO)	<p>The USAID representative with the authority to enter into, administer, terminate and closeout Assistance Awards, and make related determinations and findings on behalf of USAID. An Agreement Officer can only act within the scope of a duly authorized warrant or other valid delegation of authority. The term "Agreement Officer" includes persons warranted as "Grant Officers." It also includes certain authorized representatives of the Agreement Officer acting within the limits of their authority as delegated by the Agreement Officer.</p> <p>Source: ADS²</p>
Agreement Officer's Representative (AOR)	<p>The USAID representative who performs functions that are designated by the Agreement Officer, or is specifically designated by policy or regulation as part of the administration of an Assistance Award (grant or cooperative agreement).</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>

¹ All terms sourced as Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) can be found online at USAID Policy website: <http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/far.html>

² All terms sourced as Automated Directives System (ADS) can be found online in the 'Glossary of ADS Terms' located at: <http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/glossary.pdf>

Apparently Successful Applicant(s)	<p>The Applicant(s) for USAID funding recommended for an award after technical evaluation, but who has not yet been awarded a grant, cooperative agreement, contract or other Assistance/Acquisition Award by the Agreement/Contract Officer. Apparently successful applicant status confers no right and constitutes no USAID commitment to an award, which still must be obligated by the Agreement Officer.</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>
Assistance Award	<p>Financial support to accomplish a public purpose, including grants, cooperative/collaboration agreements, and other agreements in the form of money, or property in lieu of money, by USAID to an eligible recipient. The term does not include technical assistance, the provision of services instead of money; other assistance in the form of loans, loan guarantees, interest subsidies, or insurance; direct payments of any kind to individuals; or contracts which are required to be entered into and administered under procurement laws and regulations.</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>
Award	<p>A form of implementing mechanism through which USAID transfers funds to an implementing partner, generally selected through a competitive process resulting in a contract, grant, or collaboration/cooperative agreement.</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>
Broad Agency Announcement (BAA)	<p>A general announcement of an USG Agency's research interest including criteria for selecting proposals and soliciting the participation of all offerors capable of satisfying the Government's needs.</p> <p>Source: FAR 2.101</p>
Business Model	<p>The manner by which an enterprise creates delivers and captures value profitably.</p>
Clean Energy	<p>Usable energy (i.e. electricity, illumination, heating/refrigeration, mechanization) that is derived from renewable sources and supports a reduction in fossil fuel use, increase in efficiency, and/or limitation of greenhouse gas emissions. Clean energy sources include – solar, hydro, wind, geothermal, sustainably harvested biomass, and biogas.</p>
Clean Energy Demand Generating Activities	<p>Activities that are designed to increase the awareness and purchasing of clean energy technology and/or services.</p>
Clean Energy Services	<p>The range of products and services that are derived from/associated with the clean energy sector, including manufacturing, importing, distribution, servicing and financing.</p>
Clean Energy Service Provider / Clean Energy Enterprise	<p>A company or organization that sells clean energy technology, services, and/or solutions to consumers on a sustainable basis in the near to mid-term.</p>
Clean Energy Solution	<p>A combination of appropriate technology and business model that addresses the clean energy demands of a select market.</p>

Collaboration Agreement	<p>An agreement between two or more parties involving joint definition of a development problem and shared contributions to its solution and is characterized by a shared understanding of the development problem or issue; a shared belief that collaboration will be more effective than any approach taken by a single actor; a shared commitment of resources; significant use of limited resources; and perhaps, most important, a willingness to share risks.</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>
Commercial Scale	<p>A technology and associated business model which is sufficiently profitable to finance growth in new and larger markets.</p>
Contract	<p>A mutually binding legal relationship obligating the seller to furnish the supplies or services (including construction) and the buyer to pay for them. It includes all types of commitments that obligate the USG to an expenditure of appropriated funds and that, except as otherwise authorized, are in writing. In addition to bilateral instruments, contracts include (but are not limited to) awards and notices of awards; job orders or task letters issued under basic ordering agreements; letter contracts; orders, such as purchase orders, under which the contract becomes effective by written acceptance or performance; and bilateral contract modifications. Contracts do not include grants and cooperative agreements covered by 31 U.S.C. 6301, et seq.</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>
Contractor	<p>A non-government organization or individual acting as an agent of USAID and carrying out a scope of work specified by USAID, or a for-profit or non-profit organization that has a contract with USAID. The seller of the goods and/or services. It includes both organizations and individuals.</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>
Contracting Officer (CO)	<p>A person with the authority to enter into, administer, and/or terminate contracts and make related determinations and findings. The term includes certain authorized representatives of the Contracting Officer acting within the limits of their authority as delegated by the Contracting Officer. A single Contracting Officer may be responsible for duties in any or all of these areas.</p> <p>Source FAR 2.101</p>
Contracting Officer's Representative (COR)	<p>The USAID representative who performs functions which are designated by the Contracting Officer, or are specifically designated by policy or regulation as part of contract administration.</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>
Cooperative Agreement	<p>A legal instrument used where the principal purpose is the transfer of money, property, services or anything of value to the recipient in order to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by Federal statute and where substantial involvement by USAID is anticipated.</p> <p>Source: ADS</p>

FedBizOpps	The USG Federal website that posts all Federal procurement opportunities with a value over \$25,000. (www.fbo.gov)
Feed the Future	The USG global hunger and food security initiative (www.feedthefuture.gov)
Food Security	When all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life.
Grant	A legal instrument used where the principal purpose is the transfer of money, property, services or anything of value to the recipient in order to accomplish a public purpose of support or stimulation authorized by USG Federal statute and where substantial involvement by USAID is not anticipated. Source: ADS
Grants.gov	USG-wide website for grants interactions. The Grants.gov portal provides grantees the ability to electronically find and apply for grants. (www.grants.gov)
Innovative	A new or unusual clean energy technology solution or business model that is currently not in use in a proposed area of project implementation.
Intervention	Awardees' planned activities intended to increase agricultural productivity and/or value through the use of clean energy in developing countries.
Market Driven	Market driven means investment, production and distribution are determined by supply and demand and reflected in freely set prices.
Offer	"Offer" means a response to a solicitation that, if accepted, would bind the offeror to perform the resultant contract. Responses to invitations for bids (sealed bidding) are offers called "bids" or "sealed bids"; responses to requests for proposals (negotiation) are offers called "proposals"; however, responses to requests for quotations (simplified acquisition) are "quotations," not offers. Source: FAR 2.101
Online Application Platform	The online application platform defines the website that all Applicants will use to submit an application to the Powering Agriculture solicitation (www.PoweringAg.org/apply)
Peer or Scientific Review	Peer review is a process of evaluation involving qualified individuals from the relevant field.
Solicitation	Term used by the USG to refer to the assorted means by which offers or proposals are sought for government requirements and programs. Requests for Proposals (RFPs), Invitations for Bids (IFBs), Tenders, Requests for Applications (RFAs), Annual Program Statements (APSs), and Requests for Quotes (RFQs) are all examples of types of government solicitations. Source: ADS

Statement of Work	<p>Also referred to as a work statement. A document that defines service contract requirements in clear, concise language identifying specific work to be accomplished. It must be individually tailored to consider the period of performance, deliverable items, if any, and the desired degree of performance. In the case of task order contracts, the statement of work for the basic contract need only define the scope of the overall contract. Individual task orders must define specific task requirements.</p> <p>Source: FAR 37.602-1</p>
Target Area of Operation	<p>The target area of operation defines the primary geographic location and/or market for project implementation and impact.</p>

SECTION I – FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Broad Agency Announcement

A Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) is a solicitation method for Research and Development (R&D) efforts based on a synopsis published on FedBizOpps.gov and/or Grants.gov that provide for full and open competition in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR 6.102(d)(2)). The BAA is a solicitation method used when (i) the United States Government (USG) desires new and creative solutions to problem statements; (ii) when using a conventional statement of work could result in unintentionally stifling ideas and concepts given many possible approaches (iii) when fulfilling requirements for scientific study and experimentation directed toward advancing the state-of-the-art or increasing knowledge or understanding rather than focusing on a specific system or hardware solution; (iv) when the USG must be able to state its objectives in terms of areas of need or interest rather than specific solutions or outcomes; (v) when meaningful proposals with varying technical/scientific approaches are reasonably anticipated; and (vi) when evaluation will be based on a peer or scientific review. Awards made through this BAA may be in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and collaboration agreements - depending on the nature of the submitting organization and the proposal.

B. Program Description

1. The Grand Challenge for Development Model

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the Government of Sweden, and Duke Energy Corporation (collectively, the “Founding Partners”) have joined together to launch and fund this Call for Proposals (CFP) for **Powering Agriculture: An Energy Grand Challenge for Development (PAEGC)**. The objective of PAEGC is to support new and sustainable approaches to accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy solutions for increasing agriculture productivity and/or value in developing countries.

The Grand Challenge for Development model is designed to focus global attention on specific, narrowly defined international development problems, and to facilitate solving them.³ Grand Challenges encourage solutions that build on physical and social science research and technological advancements, and engage new actors that might otherwise not receive support through traditional international development programs. Importantly, the model supports solutions with the potential to achieve scale in low resource settings by, among other things, leveraging commercial investment and financing.

2. Background and Problem Statement

PAEGC catalyzes resources and focuses attention on the problem that many farmers and agribusinesses in developing countries lack access to reliable and clean energy services. As such, they are less able to adopt modern agricultural techniques, increase food production, engage in opportunities for value-added processing, and benefit from broad-based, environmentally-sound economic growth.

Historically, efforts to bolster the agriculture and energy sectors have been largely stove-piped, reflecting little regard for the interdependency between the two sectors. However, as the global population steadily

³ PAEGC is the third in a series of Grand Challenges for Development that USAID initiated with international partners. The previous two Grand Challenges respectively focus on maternal and newborn health and early-age literacy: (i) “Saving Lives at Birth,” and (ii) “All Children Reading.” Further information about these initiatives can be found online at: www.savinglivesatbirth.net and www.allchildrenreading.org.

increases, substantial intensification of agricultural production will need to occur. Within each stage of agriculture supply chains – input production or supply (i.e. seed, fertilizer, feed, etc.), irrigation, production (i.e. planting crops, raising livestock), storage, transport, processing (i.e. sorting, drying, grinding, packaging), wholesaling, marketing, retailing, and waste management – there are opportunities for increased integration of clean energy services to support this endeavor.

Globally, most pathways to agricultural intensification have required significant use of fossil fuels. Such approaches result in a destabilizing linkage between food and oil prices - as the price of oil fluctuates in global markets, so do costs associated with producing food. Without reliable access to clean energy services, the global growth in energy demand within developing countries' agricultural sector will result in increased greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, further contributing to the problem of climate change.

Despite global support and associated economic and environmental imperatives, there remain significant barriers that hinder the use of clean energy within developing countries' agriculture sector, including:

- **Limited Demand:** In many locations, farmers and agribusinesses are not aware of clean energy technologies that might increase the productivity/profitability of their operations. Awareness is a necessary but insufficient condition for demand. Additional elements are understandably required to switch from long-standing agriculture practices.
- **Inappropriate Technology Design:** Often, available technology does not match the performance characteristics and/or price points required in emerging markets.
- **Limited Access to Financing:** The problems of risk and design are compounded by lack of credit to distributors of clean energy products and services who then in turn cannot provide or direct customers to end user financing. Banks and other financial institutions, already skeptical about lending to farmers and agribusinesses, are unfamiliar with clean energy products and services that frequently have relatively high initial capital costs.
- **Few Replicable Business Models:** Few examples exist of proven business models that can be replicated and/or adapted to link clean energy enterprises with farm communities and agribusinesses in relevant supply chains. There are even fewer examples of profitable clean energy service companies in rural areas with resource constrained customers.

As a result of these barriers, there is a noticeable disconnect between clean energy enterprises and the farmer and the agribusiness consumers. Strengthening the demand for and supply of clean energy is critical to improved productivity and/or value of agriculture.

3. Areas of Technical Interest for PAEGC Proposals

The Grand Challenge for Development model reflects an understanding that there is seldom just one way to solve complex development problems. In this regard, this CFP is designed to attract a diverse range of market-driven approaches to accelerate the design and deployment of clean energy solutions for farmers and agribusinesses.

The specific clean energy needs of farmers and related agribusinesses vary widely among different geographic regions. Countries differ significantly with respect to their natural resources, existing infrastructure, trade relations, energy policies, income levels, and maturity of clean energy markets. For these reasons, PAEGC is designed to support a wide range of activities that build on Applicants' individual strengths and the particular market environments in which they operate/plan to operate.

It is expected that proposals received through this solicitation will respond to one, two, or all three of the following areas of need – “Clean Energy Demand Generation,” “Clean Energy Technology Innovation,” and “Clean Energy Business Model Development.”

- **Clean Energy Demand Generation.** PAEGC supports efforts to design affordable, scalable approaches to increasing farmers’ and agribusinesses’ demand for clean energy technologies that increase their productivity and profitability. PAEGC financial support may be used for designing and piloting innovative demand generating activities, social marketing, and behavior change strategies to overcome the risk aversion associated with applying new technologies to long-standing agricultural practices.
- **Clean Energy Technology Innovation.** PAEGC support is available for development and/or adaptation of affordable technologies focused on clean energy generation, storage, and more efficient end-use within the agriculture sectors of developing countries that have potential for achieving commercial scale. This support may be for new technologies that are still in the incubation/demonstration stage, and/or existing technologies that are modified to respond to the demands of a specific target market. Successful Applicants will be able to clearly articulate the nature of the technology, its strengths and weaknesses over current/alternative practices, as well as opportunities and barriers to its commercial deployment within the identified target markets.
- **Clean Energy Business Model Development.** It is not only weak demand and technology constraints that hinder the adoption of clean energy solutions. PAEGC is also looking for innovative business solutions that make clean energy technology affordable and accessible to farmers and agribusinesses. PAEGC support may be used to develop and test, for example, new service delivery options; payment arrangements; financing; marketing techniques for energy service businesses that would improve their financial sustainability.

4. Characteristics of Strong PAEGC Proposals

The PAEGC Founding Partners expect to receive a diverse range of proposals that present an array of technical solutions and geographic scopes. Regardless of whether an Applicant’s ideas focus on clean energy demand generation, technology development, innovative business models, or a combination of these – it should be noted that the Founding Partners encourage proposals that demonstrate:

- Approaches that are cost-effective, “off the beaten track,” daring in premise, and clearly differentiated from standard practice;
- Strong potential for significant positive impact on agricultural productivity and/or value and reducing GHG emissions;
- Aligned with host country or Grand Challenge Founding Partners’ development initiatives and relevant energy/agriculture policy issues that may affect implementation.^{4,5}
- Ability to scale the innovation with non-PAEGC resources, i.e. maintain profitable/sustained growth; and
- Approaches that promote equitable distribution of benefits among women and men within the target area of operation and involve notable engagement of women-owned businesses

⁴ Applicants proposing activities in Feed the Future countries are encouraged to review, and if appropriate, align with country strategies. (see <http://www.feedthefuture.gov/>)

⁵ Applicants are encouraged to review USAID’s Global Climate Change Strategy. (see <http://www.usaid.gov/content/global-climate-change/usaid-global-climate-change-and-development-strategy>)

5. Project Activities Which Will Not Be Funded

It is important for Applicants to note that there are certain types of activities that are not eligible for funding through this PAEGC solicitation. These include:

- Activities focused on improving energy access without an identified benefit to the agriculture sector, or agricultural projects without a clean energy component;
- Project ideas that are managed from or include activities to be implemented in ineligible countries;⁶
- Approaches that reinforce harmful gender norms;
- Activities focused on research and development for a product without a clearly defined market demand or credible commercialization prospects;
- One-off renewable energy installations or pilot projects to support proven technologies for proven applications - unless they include an innovative component(s) that clearly outline realistic potential for replication and/or ability to achieve commercial scale;
- Projects that are based solely on fossil fuel-based generation technologies. **Please note:** Hybrid technologies that couple fossil fuel-based power generation with clean energy generation are acceptable;
- Projects focused on increasing utilization of mechanized agriculture utilizing fossil fuel based technologies, e.g., tractors;
- Projects that jeopardize the resiliency of agricultural practices or supply chains; and
- While it is understood that policy and trade reforms are often critical for technology development/deployment and for increasing energy access, such issues are better addressed through more conventional international development programs and/or bi-/multi-lateral negotiations. Thus, proposed remedial interventions of this nature will not be eligible for funding.

6. Development Exchange

To take advantage of the presence of a variety of development actors together in one place, the Founding Partners will host the Development Exchange in Washington DC. The Development Exchange will be composed of selected PAEGC awardees, and provide an opportunity for awardees to display their innovations/innovative ideas in an open marketplace. As part of this Exchange, awardees will have the opportunity to network with each other, with other development experts and innovators, and other potential funders. Awardees will also participate in a series of workshops tailored to the participants' needs such as business planning, fundraising, measurement and evaluation.

[END SECTION I]

⁶ Countries which are ineligible for managing and/or hosting implementation of PAEGC-funded activities are included in the section titled 'Authorized Geographic Code'.

SECTION II – AWARD INFORMATION

A. Authorizing Legislation

The authorizing legislation for this Award is the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, and the award is subject to 22 CFR 226 – Administration of Assistance Awards to U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations. The Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) may apply.

B. Authorized Geographic Code

The authorized geographic code for source and nationality of Applicants is 935 defined as any area or country including the recipient country, but excluding any country that is a prohibited source. The authorized geographic code for country of implementation is 937 defined as the United States, the recipient country, and developing countries other than advanced developing countries, but excluding any country that is a prohibited source.

As of the date of this BAA based on the Appropriations Act, USAID is prohibited from directly financing any assistance or reparations for the governments of Cuba, North Korea, Iran and Syria. Please refer to Automated Directive System (ADS) 310 entitled “Source and Nationality Requirements for Procurement of Commodities and Services Financed by USAID.

C. Award and Administration Information

- 1. Award:** Although there are multiple international government and private sector partners contributing financial and technical resources to PAEGC, all awards made through this competition will be made and administered by USAID. USAID may (i) reject any or all proposals, (ii) accept more than one proposal, and (iii) waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.

Awards made through this BAA may be in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and collaboration agreements - depending on the nature of the submitting organization and the proposal. A USAID Contract and Agreements Officer (CO/AO) will determine the appropriate award instrument for the selections resulting from this solicitation. Grants and cooperative agreements will be subject to the provisions of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as Amended, and the award is subject to 22 CFR 226 – Administration of Assistance Awards to U.S. Non-Governmental Organizations. Contract awards will be subject to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and the USAID FAR Supplement (see <http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/aidar.pdf>). Collaboration agreements will be subject to the policies in AAPD 04-16.

The USG may make an award on the basis of initial proposals received, without discussions. Therefore, each initial proposal should contain the Applicant’s best terms from a technical and cost standpoint.

- 2. Authority to Obligate the Government:** The CO/AO is the only individual authorized to commit the USG to the expenditure of public funds. No costs chargeable to the proposed Award may be incurred before receipt of either a fully executed Award or a specific, written authorization from the CO/AO.

3. **USAID Management of Activities:** The CO/AO shall serve as the primary agreement contact between USAID and the recipient of the Award. The Contract and Agreement Officer's Representative (C/AOR) will serve as the primary technical contact between USAID and the recipient of the Award.
4. **Award Administration:** Award administration will be determined at time of award based on the mechanism chosen by the CO/AO.
5. **Program Profit and Income:** Applicants seeking information about program profit and program income or other issues regarding USAID's administration of assistance awards should consult 22 CFR 226 and for acquisition awards should consult the FAR and AIDAR for applicable regulations.

D. Funding Information

Funds may be provided in increments subject to availability of funds, successful implementation and continued relevance to USAID. USAID's obligation to make awards is contingent upon the availability of sufficient appropriated and partner funds from which payment can be made and the receipt of proposals that USAID determines are acceptable for Award under this BAA.

E. Period of Performance

The period of performance for new Awards for proposals submitted in response to this BAA is up to three years from date of Award. Any period of performance must be justified in the proposal.

F. Award Budgets

The estimated ceiling for this BAA is \$10-20 Million USD. Subject to the availability of funds, the individual Award(s) will range from \$300,000 to \$1,500,000. It is anticipated that 10-20 proposals will be funded.

[END SECTION II]

SECTION III – ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligibility Requirements

Applicants from any category of organization or institution, U.S. or non-U.S., are welcome to respond to this solicitation. Specific categories of organizations and institutions that are welcome to respond include, but are not limited to, educational, industrial, and not-for-profit and for-profit organizations, foundations, academic institutions, civic groups, and regional organizations.

Government entities and individuals are not eligible to apply for funding.

USAID welcomes proposals from organizations which have not previously done business with USAID. The successful Applicant(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination issued by a warranted CO/AO in USAID. Responsibility determinations review an Applicant's financial management, monitoring and evaluation, internal control systems, and policies and procedures to ensure compliance with established USG standards, laws, and regulations.

The Award recipient must be a responsible entity. The CO/AO may determine a pre-award survey is required and if so, would establish a formal survey team to conduct an examination that will determine whether the prospective recipient has the necessary organization, experience, accounting and operational controls, and technical skills – or ability to obtain them – in order to achieve the objectives of the program.

B. Cost Share

USAID requires Applicant and their partners provide a minimum cost share of five percent (5%) of the total PAEGC contribution. Such funds may be mobilized from the recipient or their partners; other multilateral, bilateral, and foundation donors; host governments; and/or local organizations, communities and private businesses that contribute financially or in-kind to implementation of activities at the country level. For guidance on cost sharing, please see 22 CFR 226.23 at <http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov> and search under Title 22 Foreign Relations.

USAID shall make the final determination and assess whether or not the Applicant's cost share contributions (e.g. categories or items) meet the standards set in 22 CFR 226.23.

[END SECTION III]

SECTION IV – PROPOSAL AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Points of Contact

Erik Markovs, Contracting Specialist
Amy McQuade, Contracting Specialist
U.S. Agency for International Development
PoweringAg@usaid.gov

Questions and Answers:

Questions regarding this BAA should be submitted no later than 5:00PM EST on **January 4, 2012** to the email address: PoweringAg@usaid.gov to provide sufficient time to address the questions and incorporate the questions and answers as an amendment to this solicitation (if necessary). Verbal explanations or instructions given before the issuance of an Award will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective Applicant concerning this BAA will be furnished promptly to all other prospective Applicants as an amendment to this BAA, if that information is necessary in submitting proposals or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective Applicant.

B. Online Application Platform

Proposal submissions must be uploaded to the Online Application Platform found at: www.PoweringAg.org/apply. Complete instructions regarding how to submit proposals are provided on the website. **Proposals submitted via facsimile or e-mail will not be accepted.** If the Applicant experiences any difficulty with submitting a proposal through the Online Application Platform, the Applicant should send an e-mail to support@poweringag.chaordix.com. All proposals received by the submission deadline will be reviewed for responsiveness to the specifications outlined in this CFP. Applicants must ensure that their proposals are received by USAID in their entirety. No additions or modifications to the proposals will be accepted after submission deadline stated in this CFP. USAID bears no responsibility for data errors resulting from transmission or conversion processes associated with electronic submissions.

C. Indication of Non-Disclosure

Applicants that include data/information that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose or used by the USG except for this solicitation's evaluation purpose, should indicate so through the Online Application Platform, and mark as instructed the box that references the following text:

“This application includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the U.S. Government and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed – in whole or in part – for any purpose other than to evaluate this application. If, however, a grant is awarded to this Applicant as a result of – or in connection with – the submission of this data, the U.S. Government shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting grant. This restriction does not limit the U.S. Government's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets” and, mark each sheet of data it wished to restrict with the following legend:

“Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this application.”

Applicants should retain for their records a copy of all information and documentation that they input/upload to the Online Application Platform. It is the Applicant’s responsibility to ensure that files are complete and transmitted by the deadline. The Applicant bears full responsibility for data errors or omissions.

D. Content and Form of Proposal Submission

There will be two stages of proposal submission: Stage One and Stage Two. Applicants whose proposals are ranked the highest during Stage One will be required to submit supplemental documents for Stage Two as outlined in section IV.D 2 below.

1. Stage One: Initial Proposal Package

All Applicants must submit the following documents by the closing date of this CFP. A complete proposal consists of the following sections:

- a) Basic Applicant Information
- b) Proposal Summary for Innovation Screening
- c) Technical Solution Narrative
 - I. Innovation
 - II. Technical Solution
 - III. Market Sustainability
 - IV. Org Capacity & Key Personnel
- d) Appendices and
- e) Proposal Summary Budget

In uploading documents to the Online Application Platform, it is important to note the following instructions:

- All uploaded documents are to be submitted in English.
- All documents should be presented in size 11 point/Times New Roman font, single-spaced, on U.S. Letter-sized paper (8.5 inch x 11 inch).
- Documents will only be reviewed if they are submitted in the file formats stipulated in this section.
- For documents to be uploaded as PDF files, Applicants should (where possible) avoid scanning documents – instead, to enhance readability, the files should be saved directly as PDF files. There is widely available PDF creation software on the internet that can print documents to PDF available at <http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdcreator/>.
- Any charts or tables included within the Technical Proposal Narrative or any other part of the proposal must be within the specified page limits.
- References and citations to academic publications or other resources are not required and if included, must fall within the specified page limits.

a) Basic Applicant Information

Information is submitted to input fields accessed through the Online Application Platform.

Through the Online Application Platform, Applicants are asked to input the following details about the organization that is applying for funding through PAEGC:

- Name and full address of Applicant including country where Applicant is incorporated or registered
- Type of organization/firm (e.g., for-profit, non-profit, academic institution, etc.)
- Point of Contact information (name, position title, phone number, fax number, e-mail address)
- Names of other organizations/firms that are partnering organizations in the proposal
- Concise proposal title
- Country(ies) where the proposed activities will be implemented

b) Proposal Summary for Innovation Screening

Responses to each question are to be submitted through input fields accessed through the Online Application Platform.

- To what extent does the proposed solution accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy solutions for increasing agriculture productivity and/or value in low or middle income developing countries? (Response is limited to 200 words)
- How is the proposed technical solution sufficiently different from currently available technologies and/or practices in the proposed area of need(s) to qualify as innovative? (Response is limited to 200 words)

Please note that the PAEGC Founding Partners will conduct an innovation screening based on the Applicants' responses to these questions - so careful attention to this section is important. Also note that the responses of PAEGC funding recipients may be used for public communication after the Awards are made. The Founding Partners reserve the right to make minor edits to the responses in order to enhance their readability for public communication. **Because the responses may be used publicly, proprietary information should not be disclosed in the Innovation Screening.**

c) Technical Solution Narrative

This portion of the proposal is to be uploaded to the Online Application Platform as a PDF file that does not exceed ten pages in length nor ten MB in size. Cover pages are not necessary. The Technical Solution Narrative will be evaluated against the criteria detailed in Section V. As such, Applicants are required to use the headings below, which are the same as the evaluation criteria, within their uploaded documents.

I. Innovation

Explain why the proposed activity(ies) demonstrate an unconventional or creative approach to achieving the PAEGC objective, and how it improves upon the best existing alternatives. In what manner are the proposed activities remarkably different from current practices in its targeted area of the clean energy/agriculture nexus? Describe the proposed activity(ies) potential to achieve groundbreaking impact and/or to become a true game changer in the field.

II. Technical Solution

Indicate how the proposed solution fulfills the objective of PAEGC. State the specific barrier(s) being addressed, the proposed solution, how it will be developed, and who the direct and indirect beneficiaries are. Describe the definition of success for the proposed program approach. What is the expected end result at the conclusion of the Award? Briefly describe the project's implementation plan, including a clear set of key activities and milestones to achieve the PAEGC objective. Identify impediments or critical decision points that could require a revision to the work plan or milestones. It is expected that in this section, Applicants will discuss the contributions the proposed solution will

have on reducing GHG emissions while supporting agricultural-based economic growth. Additionally, this section should address the extent in which the proposed activities are aligned with host country development initiatives and relevant energy/agriculture policy issues that may affect implementation.

Briefly describe a monitoring and evaluation plan for the proposal activity(ies). Identify the performance measures and indicators that will be used to monitor progress and capture results. Describe the methodology for defensibly measuring and evaluating performance and achievements.

Recipient of PAEGC Awards will abide by and strongly support USAID principles of gender equity and equal opportunity throughout all proposal activities. Therefore please describe how the potential impact of the activity(ies) will equitably benefit both women and men within the target area of operation. How will women beneficiaries be engaged in the activities' implementation? To what extent will the proposed intervention lead to increased economic/social opportunities for women? For more information on the USAID Gender Equality Policy, please see: http://transition.usaid.gov/our_work/policy_planning_and_learning/documents/GenderEqualityPolicy.pdf

III. Market Potential and Sustainability

Briefly describe the sustainability of operations and the benefits once PAEGC funding ends. This should take a market-driven approach, exhibiting a strong, detailed understanding of the target market for the proposed clean energy solution, and the potential for the proposed solution to be replicated and grown to commercial scale. For pre-commercial technology innovations, define the potential market, including demographics, geographic location, segment of the agricultural supply chain, etc. Also define anticipated price points that could achieve cost recovery. Discuss any strategies for further donor and/or investor support to bridge the gap between end of PAEGC support and commercialization. For commercial projects, describe the actual market size and potential for growth for current and anticipated price points. For all projects, identify constraints, such as local capacity, institutional barriers, policy and/or trade barriers, etc., which could jeopardize the sustainability of the project. Describe how the constraints might be overcome.

IV. Organizational Capacity and Key Personnel

Briefly describe your organization's capacity to meet the PAEGC objectives and manage all proposed activities. Applicants should provide specific examples of relevant activities previously conducted/managed and illustrate the experience gained and lessons learned. Brief descriptions of Key Personnel's experience and qualifications, as well as resumes, should be included as appendices. In addition, the Applicant should describe the relative roles and responsibilities of the Applicant and all partner organizations, as well as describe how the proposed staffing plan will contribute to achieving the PAEGC objectives and proposal outcomes.

d) Appendices

To accompany the Technical Solution Narrative, Applicants are asked to upload to the Online Application Platform PDF files of the following appendices.

No one individual PDF file for an appendix should exceed ten MB in size.

- **Letters of Agreement with Partnering Organizations**
(No more than six agreement letters, no longer than two pages in length each)

If the Applicant has established a consortium or another relationship among its partners, the Applicant should upload a copy of the agreement letter. The agreement should include a full discussion of the relationship between the Applicant and partner organization(s), including identifying the Applicant responsible for Award administration and the Applicant responsible for accounting. Also the agreement should discuss how the Award effort will be allocated and the expressed agreement of the principals thereto to be held jointly and severally liable for the acts or omissions of the other. Individual Letters of Agreement should not be more than two pages in length, and should not be of a file size greater than ten MB.

Note: Applicants are not required to partner with other organizations for the submission of proposals. However, if Applicants do intend to partner with another organization, then they must upload a Letter of Agreement.

- **Resumes of Key Personnel**

(No more than three resumes, which are each limited to three pages in length and one page for the Letter of Commitment)

The resumes of up to three Key Personnel should be uploaded as appendices. Resumes may not exceed three pages in length and must be ordered chronologically, starting with most recent experience. Each resume for the proposed Key Personnel positions must be accompanied by a signed Letter of Commitment from the candidate indicating his/her: (i) Availability to serve in the stated position, in terms of days after award; (ii) Intention to serve for a stated term of the service; and (iii) Agreement to the compensation levels set forth in the cost application.

Resumes for Key Personnel should include at least three references for each proposed individual, including up-to-date telephone numbers and e-mail contact information.

e) Proposal Summary Budget

Subject to the availability of funds, the individual Award(s) will range from USD \$300,000 to \$1,500,000 for up to three years period of performance.

Information is submitted to input fields accessed through the Online Application Platform. Applicants are asked to input the following budget categories amounts in USD:

Budget Category	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Direct Labor			
Fringe Benefits			
Travel and Transportation			
<i>Development Exchange*</i>	\$5,000		
Allowances			
Supplies and Equipment			
Proposed Sub-awards			
Other Direct Costs			
Indirect Costs			
Cost-sharing			

**Awardees should budget one team member to attend the Development Exchange, and estimate a cost of \$5000 for airfare, accommodation, registration and meals.*

2. Second Stage of Proposal Submission:

Only Applicants selected during the First Stage will be required to submit Past Performance Forms and a detailed budget. In some cases, USAID may request for Applicants to elaborate on technical proposal submissions. The following documents will be requested for the Second Stage of Proposal Evaluation:

A. Past Performance Information Forms

(no more than five Past Performance Information Forms)

Applicants will be required to submit Past Performance Information Forms in Attachment A of the CFP. Past Performance Information Forms should contain reference information for awards involving similar or related programs during the past three years. Applicants must complete **ONLY PART I** of the Past Performance Information Form. USAID will contact the references provided by the Applicant in **PART I**. **PART II** of the Past Performance Information Form will be completed by the reference.

If an Applicant is proposing to use partners or sub-awardees that will provide 20% or more of the work under the proposal, it should provide the same information for partnering organizations. Special attention should be given to establishing the relevance of past performance to the PAEGC objectives.

USAID may contact references and use past performance data, along with other information, to determine the Applicant's past performance. USAID reserves the right to obtain this information from any and all sources inside or outside the government, and to use the information in evaluating an Applicant's past performance.

A prior USAID-funded contract, grant, or cooperative/collaboration agreement is not a prerequisite to apply. Lack of prior USAID experience will not impact the scoring of the Applicant's proposal.

B. Detailed Proposal Budget

The Applicant is requested to submit a Budget Spreadsheet (Microsoft Excel format), with an accompanying Budget Narrative (in Microsoft Excel and/or Word format). There is no word/page limit for the Budget Spreadsheet and Narrative.

PAEGC encourages Applicants to focus resources on project implementation rather than salaries, equipment and supplies. The Budget portion of the Proposals will be reviewed for cost realism and cost effectiveness.

- **Budget Spreadsheet**

The budget should represent a detailed break-down of the summary budget, which the Applicant submitted as part of the Stage One submission. The basic definitions for the detailed cost elements are provided below.

- **Budget Narrative**

The budget narrative should provide information on the basis for estimating each line item, including reference to sources used in substantiating the cost estimate (e.g. organization's policy, payroll document, vendor quotes, etc.).

a) Direct Labor

Direct salaries, wages and annual increases for all personnel proposed under the application must be in accordance with the Applicant's established personnel policies. To be considered adequate, the policies must be in writing, applicable to all employees of the organization, subject to review and approval at a high enough organizational level to assure its uniform enforcement, and result in costs which are reasonable and allowable in accordance with applicable cost principles. The narrative should include a level of effort analysis specifying personnel, rate of compensation, and amount of time proposed. Anticipated salary increases during the period of the agreement should be included;

b) Fringe Benefits

If the Applicant has a fringe benefit rate that has been approved by a USG agency, such rate should be used and evidence of its approval should be provided. If a fringe benefit rate has not been so approved, the application should propose a rate and explain how the rate was determined. If the latter is used, the narrative should include a detailed breakdown comprised of all items of fringe benefits (e.g., unemployment insurance, workers compensation, health and life insurance, retirement, FICA, etc.) and the costs of each, expressed in dollars and as a percentage of salaries;

c) Travel and Transportation

The application should indicate the number of trips, domestic, regional, and international, and the estimated costs. Specify the origin and destination for proposed trips, duration of travel, and number of individuals traveling. Per diem should be based on the Applicant's normal travel policies.

d) Allowances

Allowances must be broken down by specific type and by person and must be in accordance with the Applicant's established policies.

e) Supplies and Equipment

Differentiate between expendable supplies and nonexpendable equipment (NOTE: Equipment is defined as tangible nonexpendable personal property including exempt property charged directly to the Award having a useful life of more than one year and an acquisition cost of \$5,000 USD or more per unit, unless the Applicant's established policy establishes nonexpendable equipment anticipated to be required to implement the program, specifying quantities and unit cost).

f) Sub-awards (contracts/grants) (if any)

Applicants who intend to utilize subawardees should indicate the extent intended and a complete cost breakdown, as well as all the information required herein for the Applicant. Sub-awards cost applications should follow the same cost format as submitted by the Applicant.

g) Other Direct Costs

This could include any miscellaneous costs such as office rent and utilities, communications, transportations, supplies, public outreach, sub-awards, audits, report preparation costs, passports, visas, medical exams and inoculations, insurance (other than the Applicant's normal coverage), etc. The narrative, or supporting schedule, should provide a complete breakdown and support for each item of other direct costs.

h) Indirect Costs

The Applicant should support the proposed indirect cost rate with a letter from a cognizant U.S. Government audit agency, a Negotiated Indirect Cost Agreement (NICRA), or with sufficient information for USAID to determine the reasonableness of the rates (For example, a breakdown of labor bases and overhead pools, and the method of determining the rate).

i) Cost Sharing

USAID requires Applicant and its partners provide a minimum cost share of five percent (5%) of the total PAEGC Contribution. Such funds may be mobilized from the recipient and/or partner organization(s); other multilateral, bilateral, and foundation donors; host governments; and local organizations, communities and private businesses that contribute financially and in-kind to implementation of activities at the country level. Leveraged non-USAID resources from private firms and institutions (such as equipment, training, level of effort and any in-kind contributions) may be considered part of cost share. Cost sharing may also be demonstrated either through direct funding, beneficiary contributions, in-kind assistance, or a combination thereof. USAID shall make the final determination and assess whether or not the Applicant's cost share contributions (e.g. categories or items) meet the standards set in 22 CFR 226.23.

C. USG Forms and Certificates

Depending on mechanism, Applicants may be requested to submit the following:

- **USG Standard Forms SF-424 series, which includes the**
 - SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance,
 - SF-424A, Budget Information – Non-construction Programs, and
 - SF-424B, Assurances – Non-construction Programs
- **Certificates**
 - Certificate of Compliance if your organization's systems have been certified by USAID/Washington's Office of Acquisition and Assistance (M/OAA)

Each of these USG Standard Forms can be downloaded from:

<https://apply07.grants.gov/apply/FormsMenu?source=agency>

[END SECTION IV]

SECTION V. – PROPOSAL REVIEW INFORMATION

A. Technical Review Process and Evaluation Criteria

USAID will review all proposals received in response to the subject BAA. Any proposal including activities listed in Section I.5: *Project activities which will not be funded*; will not be eligible for funding. **All other factors being technically equal, the PAEGC Partners reserve the right to ensure project and geographic diversity as well as USAID capacity for implementation of proposed activities in proposals selected for award.** The Founding Partners expressly reserve the right to not fund ideas that are or will be receiving other USG funding for the same or essentially the same concept.

The Government reserves the right to select for negotiation all, some, one, or none of the proposals received in response to this CFP and to make awards without discussions with Applicants. The Government also reserves the right to conduct discussions if the Source Selection Authority later determines them to be necessary. USAID reserves the right to accept proposals in their entirety or to select only portions of proposals for award. In the event that USAID desires to award only portions of a proposal, negotiations may be opened with that Applicant.

Proposals will not be evaluated against each other since they are not submitted in accordance with a common work statement. The primary basis for selecting proposals for acceptance shall be technical, importance to agency programs, and fund availability.

Eligibility Requirements. All proposals will be reviewed for the following: (i) The proposal is complete and not missing any required documentation as outlined in **Section IV.D.1 Initial Proposal Package** and in **Section III Eligibility Information**; (ii) The Applicant is not based-in or proposing to implement activities in a country not authorized by this CFP's Geographic Code; (iii) The Applicant is not a government entity nor an individual; (iv) and any other requirements of this CFP. Proposals may be disqualified from further review if they do not satisfy eligibility requirements.

The review process will consist of two stages as outlined below:

- 1. Stage One:** will consist of Innovation Screening and Technical Solution Evaluation. Only those proposals that passed the Innovation Screening and satisfied the eligibility requirements will have their Technical Solution Narratives evaluated.
- **Innovation Screening.** At this stage proposal reviewers will evaluate the Proposal Summaries prepared by Applicants. Responses to the two questions in the Proposal Summary section will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Question One: To what extent does the proposed solution accelerate the development and deployment of clean energy solutions for increasing agriculture productivity and/or value in low and middle income developing countries?

Evaluation Criteria: Convincingly demonstrate that the proposed approach is directly relevant to achieving the PAEGC objective and addressing one or more of the barriers described in the Background and Problem Statement.

Question Two: How is the proposed solution different from currently available technologies and/or practices in the proposed area of need(s) to qualify as innovative?

Evaluation Criteria: Convincingly demonstrate an unconventional or creative approach to achieving the PAEGC objective that is clearly differentiated from existing approaches.

- **Technical Solution Evaluation.** A panel of internal and external evaluators will review **only** those proposals that pass the Innovation Screening and satisfy the eligibility requirements, and will evaluate the Technical Solution Narrative against the Evaluation Criteria, described in detail in Section V.B below.
- 2. **Stage Two: Past Performance and Cost Review.** Only the Applicants who are selected during Stage One will be contacted and requested to provide Past Performance and detailed budgets with budget narratives.
- **Past Performance** will be evaluated based on the feedback received from the references provided by the Applicant.

USAID will evaluate the extent to which Applicant has satisfactorily implemented/managed activities of similar scope and objective, including such aspects as quality of product or service provided, cost control, timeliness of performance, customer satisfaction and effectiveness of key personnel.

In the case of an Applicant without a record of relevant past performance or for whom information on past performance is not available, the Applicant may not be evaluated favorably or unfavorably on past performance. If the Applicant and/or their proposed subcontractors has no relevant past performance or past performance is unavailable, the Applicant must provide a statement to that effect. Please note that USAID reserves the right to obtain past performance information from other sources including those not named in this proposal.

- **Cost Review:**

Costs included in the proposed budget will be reviewed to ensure they are allowable, allocable, and reasonable. Proposed budgets will also be subject to cost realism analysis. The cost realism analysis will verify the Applicant's understanding of the requirements, assess cost effectiveness and the degree to which the cost proposal reflects the approaches in the technical solution, and assess the degree to which the costs included in the proposal accurately represent the programmatic requirements set forth in the proposal.

[Note: Applications that do not present realistic costs may risk not being considered for award.]

B. Technical Evaluation Criteria

All of the criteria are weighted equally except for “Innovation,” which is worth twice as much as the other three criteria.

1. **Innovation:** The extent to which the proposed solution demonstrates an unconventional and/or creative approach to applying clean energy technology to enhance agricultural productivity and/or value, in a manner that clearly differentiates from alternative approaches and remarkably improves upon existing practices in the target area of operation.
2. **Technical Solution:** The extent to which the proposed solution supports the objective of PAEGC and can be realistically implemented, monitored, and result in measurable, gender-equitable impact.

3. **Market Potential and Sustainability:** The extent to which the proposed solution responds to an identified market demand and has the potential for positive sustainable impact on beneficiaries beyond the award's period of performance.
4. **Organizational Capacity and Key Personnel:** The extent to which the Applicant has the capacity to manage the proposed solution, as demonstrated by the relevant expertise of the Applicant (and partner organizations, if any), and technical experience of Key Personnel.

[END SECTION V]

SECTION VI – AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

Awards made through this BAA may be in the form of grants, cooperative agreements, contracts, and collaboration agreements, depending on the nature of the submitting organization and proposal. A USAID Contracting and Agreements Officer will determine the appropriate Award instrument for the selections resulting from this solicitation. Prior to Award execution, USAID may solicit additional information necessary to execute the Award.

A. Additional Requirements

1. DUNS and CCR Registration

Award nominees need to obtain a Data Universal Number (DUNS) and be registered with the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) before award. This process can be slow; it is strongly encouraged that organizations begin this process early. A DUNS number is a unique identifier that verifies the existence of a business entity globally. DUNS numbers are assigned for each physical location of a business. The CCR is the primary registrant database for the U.S. Federal Government.

For more information about this process can be found here:

Obtaining a DUNS Number: <http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform>

Registering with CCR: <https://www.bpn.gov/ccr/>

2. Substantial Involvement

In accordance to ADS 303.3.11, USAID substantial involvement, applicable to Assistance Awards, is described at <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf>.

3. Representations, Certifications and Administration by Type of Award Mechanism

Assistance Awards to U.S. non-governmental organizations will be required to submit certifications in accordance with Chapter 303 of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS-303), 22 CFR 226, 2 CFR 220 for universities (formerly OMB Circular A-21), 2 CFR 230 for non-profit organizations (formerly OMB Circular A-122), and OMB Circular A-133 for both universities and non-profit organizations or 48 CFR 31.2 (for for-profit organizations), and Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations.

These policies and federal regulations are available at the following web sites:

ADS-303: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.doc>

22 CFR 226: http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_03/22cfr226_03.html

22 CFR 228: http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_10/22cfr228_10.html

Applicable OMB Circulars: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/index.html>

48 CFR 31.2: <http://www.arnet.gov/far/>

Standard Provisions for U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations:

<http://www.usaid.gov/pubs/ads/300/303maa.pdf>

Assistance Awards to non-U.S. non-governmental organizations will be required to submit certifications in accordance with Chapter 303 of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS-303), 2 CFR 220 for universities (formerly OMB Circular A-21), 2 CFR 230 for non-profit organizations (formerly OMB Circular A-122), or 48 CFR 31.2 (for for-profit organizations), and Standard Provisions for non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations. Standard Provisions for Non-U.S. Nongovernmental organizations are available at <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.doc>.

Assistance Awards to public international organizations will be required to submit certifications in accordance with Chapter 308 of USAID's ADS (ADS-308), including the Standard Provisions set forth in ADS-308.5.15. These documents are available for further information at:

ADS-308: <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/308.pdf>

Survey on Ensuring Equal Opportunity for Applicants:

<http://www.ed.gov/fund/grant/apply/appforms/surveyeo.pdf>

SF-424 Cost application/Cost Application Documents:

http://www.grants.gov/agencies/approved_standard_forms.jsp.

Contracts to U.S. and non- U.S. governmental organizations and private organizations will be required to submit certifications in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulations and the Agency for International Regulations (AIDAR) Supplemental, Chapter 302 of USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS-302), and Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations. These documents are available for further information at:

FAR: <http://www.acquisition.gov/far/>

AIDAR: <http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/aidar.pdf>

ADS-302: <http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/302.pdf>

Standard Provisions for U.S. and Non-U.S. Nongovernmental Organizations:

<http://www.usaid.gov/pubs/ads/300/303maa.pdf> and

<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303mab.doc>.

4. Intellectual Property

Intellectual property provisions applicable to contract awards are subject to the provisions of the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and the USAID FAR Supplement (AIDAR) (available at <http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/aidar.pdf>). When the awardee is a college, university, nonprofit organization or small business firm, FAR clause 52.227-11 and FAR clause 52.227-14 shall apply. When the awardee is a large business firm, FAR clause 52.227-14 will apply. USAID may include FAR Clause 52.227-16 Additional Date Requirements in the resulting contract if appropriate.

USAID will utilize the following regulations for intellectual property (IP) issues arising from

- Patent development, including USAID-funded research, technology development, and technology transfer for commercialization or other distribution;
- The creation and funding of copyrighted material and marks; and,
- The handling of information that are trade secrets.

[17 U.S.C. 101, 105](#)

[17 U.S.C. 301 - 305](#)

[22 CFR Part 226](#)

[35 U.S.C. 100-212](#)

[37 CFR Part 401, "Rights to Inventions Made by Nonprofit and Small Business Firms under Government Grants, Contracts, and Corporate Agreements" \(implementing the Bayh-Dole Act\)](#)

[AIDAR Subchapter E – Part 727](#)

[FAR Part 27 – Patents, Data, and Copyrights](#)

[FAR 52.227-11, "Patent Rights – Ownership by the Contractor" \(short form\) \(for U.S. nonprofit firms or small businesses\)](#)

[FAR 52.227-13, "Patent Rights – Ownership by the Government" \(for other than U.S. nonprofits and small businesses with work to be performed overseas\)](#)

5. Title and Rights in Property

During negotiations, Applicants should identify where title to all property types acquired for PAEGC activities is critical to their commercialization efforts. USAID will determine whether title to property will remain with Applicants for a specified period to be negotiated prior to award.

6. Branding & Marking Requirements

In accordance to ADS 303.3.6.3(f) – Branding and Marking are required and Applicants should budget accordingly. See <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/300/303.pdf> for more information.

7. Initial Environmental Examination (IEE)

Section 117 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, requires that the impact of USAID's activities on the environment be considered and that USAID include environmental sustainability as a central consideration in designing and carrying out its development programs. This mandate is codified in Federal Regulations (22 CFR 216) and in USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Parts 201.5.10g and 204 (<http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/200/>), which, in part, require that the potential environmental impacts of USAID-financed activities are identified prior to a final decision to proceed and that appropriate environmental safeguards are adopted for all activities. The environmental compliance obligations of the Applicant under these regulations and procedures are specified in the following paragraphs of this RFA.

An Initial Environmental Examination (IEE) has been approved for this BAA. The IEE covers activities expected to be implemented under this agreement. USAID may determine that a Negative Determination with Conditions applies to one or more of the proposed activities. This indicates that if these activities are implemented subject to the specified conditions, they are expected to have no significant adverse effect on the environment. The recipient shall be responsible for implementing all IEE conditions pertaining to activities to be funded under this Award.

As part of its initial Work Plan, and all Annual Work Plans thereafter, the Applicant, in collaboration with the USAID Contract and/or Agreement Officer's Representative (C/AOR) and Mission Environmental Officer or Bureau Environmental Officer, as appropriate, shall review all ongoing and planned activities under this Award to determine if they are within the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation.

Unless the approved Regulation 216 documentation contains a complete environmental mitigation and monitoring plan (EMMP) or a project mitigation and monitoring (M&M) plan, the recipient shall prepare an EMMP or M&M Plan describing how they will, in specific terms, implement all IEE and/or EA conditions that apply to proposed project activities within the scope of the Award. The EMMP or M&M Plan shall include monitoring the implementation of the conditions and their effectiveness.

If the recipient plans any new activities outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation, it shall prepare an amendment to the documentation for USAID review and approval. No such new activities shall be undertaken prior to receiving written USAID approval of environmental documentation amendments.

Any ongoing activities found to be outside the scope of the approved Regulation 216 environmental documentation shall be halted until an amendment to the documentation is submitted and written approval is received from USAID. In addition, the recipient must comply with host country environmental regulations unless otherwise directed in writing by USAID. In case of conflict between host country and USAID regulations, the latter shall govern.

8. Ethics Policy

Awardees are expected to adhere to the Ethics Policy found at the following link:
http://www.grandchallenges.ca/wp-content/uploads/ethics_policy_2010May03_EN.pdf

B. Reporting Requirements

Specific reporting requirements will be stipulated at the time of Award negotiation. Applicants should anticipate the following deliverables to demonstrate the project's progress and success:

- A detailed monitoring and evaluation plan, with expected timelines to completion
- Annual progress report detailing the technical and programmatic achievements
- A clear proof-of-principle demonstration described in the original proposal and documented as part of the final report, including detailed documentation of the technical work accomplished and success and lessons learned from the project.
- Dissemination of knowledge through publications in peer-reviewed literature, patent applications, etc.

In addition, awardees will likely be responsible for the following activities and documentation during the life of the program:

- Conducting ongoing assessment of progress and a final evaluation, and submitting periodic reports according to the requirements outlined in the Award;
- Briefing Powering Agriculture Partners on project progress and outcomes;
- Cooperating with Powering Agriculture Partners to facilitate rigorous program evaluations; and
- Maintaining communication with key Powering Agriculture staff.

[END SECTION VI]

SECTION VII – REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

USAID Feed the Future Strategy: www.feedthefuture.gov

USAID Climate Change Strategy: <http://www.usaid.gov/content/global-climate-change/usaid-global-climate-change-and-development-strategy>

USAID Grand Challenge Program: <http://www.usaid.gov/grandchallenges>

Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR): <http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/far.html>

Automated Directives System (ADS): <http://transition.usaid.gov/policy/ads/glossary.pdf>

[END SECTION VII]

SECTION IX – ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A: Past Performance Information Form

PAST PERFORMANCE INFORMATION FORM	
PART I: Applicant Information (to be completed by Applicant)	
Applicant's Name:	Information Provided in Response to USAID Solicitation Number:
1. Name of Awarding/Funding Entity:	
2. Title of Award:	
3. Award Number:	
4. Award Type (i.e. Grant, Contract etc.):	
5. Value of Award:	
6. Period of Performance/Duration of Award (Start Date – Closing Date):	
7. Technical Focus/Objective of Award:	
8. Problems Encountered (if any) during Award Implementation:	
9. Contact details for Awarding/Funding Entity:	
9a. Contract/Grant/Agreement Officer's Name:	
9b. Technical Officer's Name:	
9c. Current Phone Number of Awarding/Funding Entity:	
9d. Current E-Mail Address Awarding/Funding Entity:	
PART II: Performance Assessment (APPLICANTS DO NOT COMPLETE – responses to be provided by Awarding/Funding Entity)	
1. Quality of product or service provided by Awardee - including consistency in meeting performance targets and effectively supporting objective of Award. Comment:	
2. Cost control, including forecasting costs as well as accuracy in financial reporting. Comment:	
3. Timeliness of performance, including adherence to agreed-upon implementation schedules and other time- sensitive project conditions, and effectiveness of Award management to make prompt decisions and ensure efficient operation of tasks. Comments:	
4. Customer satisfaction, including satisfactory business relationship with Awarding/Funding Entity, coordination among sub-awardees/partners (if applicable), prompt and satisfactory correction of problems, and cooperative attitude in fixing problems. Comment:	
5. Effectiveness of key personnel including: effectiveness and appropriateness of personnel for the job; and prompt and satisfactory changes in personnel when problems with clients where identified. Comment:	