

Questions and Answers

ARE – Request for Application (RFA020): Strengthening Lebanese Livelihoods by Supporting Agricultural Production

1. *Should the applicant have linkages with farmers prior applying?*

Answer: The applicants should demonstrate any current or past experience and linkages with farmers

2. *Is the applicant requested to do a needs assessment or are the trainings given on a general basis?*

Answer: Based on *Activity 3, in section IC. DETAILED PROGRAM DESCRIPTION*, it is up to the applicant to suggest how the trainings will take place. It is also based on the methodology that the applicant will select.

3. *Do all farmers get the same trainings or should the applicant design the trainings based on the needs?*

Answer: It is up to the applicants to decide the type of training(s) to be provided or the methodology for assessing the training needs of farmers

4. *Should the applicant conduct the evidence-based assessment of the beneficiary needs and include the results in the proposal, or should it be done during the implementation?*

Answer: Yes, the methodology should be included in your application. The actual implementation will take place following the approval of the grant and awarding it to the applicant. It's up to the applicant if they want to do a needs assessment for the proposal.

5. *Is a log frame required at the time of submitting the application?*

Answer: No

6. *What compost type should the applicant use? Should it be from animal or vegetable sources?*

Answer: It needs to be certified from local laboratories and contains a significant amount of nutrients and microbiological agents, making sure that it is applicable for agricultural use.

Follow-up question:

Is there a specific criterion for the compost type?

Answer: it is up to the applicant to suggest but compost must be lab tested and meet the standards for agricultural use.

7. *Is there a specific number for each variety?*

Answer: it depends on the methodology of each applicant and how they will anticipate the distribution of the seedlings. The final seed package will be finalized jointly with the ARE technical team.

8. *Annex G: List of approved Seeds and Seedlings is not added on Daleel Madani.*

Answer: Annex G, has been added on Daleel Madani, with Annexes D-E-F, and can be accessed in the Related section documents using the following link: <https://daleel-madani.org/civil-society->

[directory/chemonics-international-inc/calls/agriculture-and-rural-empowerment-are-activity-request-application-rfa-020-strengthening-lebanese](https://www.chemonics-international-inc/calls/agriculture-and-rural-empowerment-are-activity-request-application-rfa-020-strengthening-lebanese)

9. As mentioned in the call that one or more implementing partners will be selected, does each applicant have to outreach the total number of beneficiaries?

Answer: the target is to reach 5000 open field growers, and 500 greenhouse growers. If the applicant decided not to target the total number, then the scoring will be given accordingly.

10. How many applicants will be selected to be awarded this grant?

Answer: it depends on the applications we receive. It can be awarded to one or more applicants depending on how they are meeting the targets.

11. Is an international NGO eligible, which is a part of a consortium, in case the lead applicant is a Lebanese organization, and the INGO is only a co-applicant?

Answer: Yes, if the lead applicant is a Lebanese organization, then the application will be accepted, and can include an international organization registered in Lebanon, as a consortium.

12. What do you mean by the beneficiaries mentioned in Activity 1?

Answer: the beneficiaries are the farmers who will be receiving assistance from this intervention.

13. Is it possible to submit a proposal by a consortium of organizations?

Answer: yes, consortiums are allowed to submit applications as long as there is one lead applicant.

14. Can the applicants use their DUNS number if they are still waiting for their UEI number?

Answer: DUNS are no longer valid. For the submission of the application, no need to include the UEI. UEI will be needed at a later stage by the selected applicant and prior to the signature of the agreement.

15. Can the proposal be focused on one governorate?

Answer: Yes however be sure to consider the overall target is to reach 5000 open field growers, and 500 greenhouse growers.

16. Can you provide information on the breakdown of the budget between direct and indirect costs? Is 80 direct, 20 indirect fine with you?

Answer: We cannot provide any details on the budget breakdown. It is up to the applicant to suggest.

17. Can the applicants help farmers through Agri coops and startups in the selected areas?

Answer: Any farmer that fits the criteria suggested by the applicant would be eligible to receive the assistance. However, we will support individuals not organizations, e.g., coops.

18. Is there a minimum number of sessions that should be conducted with each group, and can the applicant conduct a series of sessions addressing the same topic?

Answer: This is up to the applicant to suggest a methodology for how the trainings will take place.

19. How many co-lead applicants are allowed?

Answer: As many as it would be suitable for an application to be submitted.

20. Can we budget a phone line for this project?

Answer: please refer to section *IVA3. INELIGIBLE EXPENSES* to check the ineligible expenses that cannot be budgeted in this grant.

21. What are the supporting documents for proving that the farmers' land required dunums?

Answer: this will be part of the verification process that the applicant will be suggesting. It can be through actual field visits or legal documents. In other terms, this will be up to the applicant to choose the way of verification.

22. Can the method of payment be in the Lebanese currency?

Answer: Our reimbursements to the grantee might be in Lebanese pounds. This will depend on the USAID guidance that we follow. For now, it is done in USD. However, in case there is a guidance or memo from USAID side asking to reimburse in LBP, then we have to abide by it.

23. Can greenhouse farmers exceed 10 greenhouses and what is the maximum number acceptable for the greenhouses per farmer?

Answer: The maximum number is 10 greenhouses. This intervention is targeting small farm holders. Any number of greenhouses less than 10 per farmer will be acceptable.

24. As the submission phase, does the applicant have to include all the details of the trainings including topics, numbers of sessions?

Answer: The application should include a clear methodology on what the training will look like. It should include the topics and how the main training sessions will take place, whether they are divided physically or online as handouts or a mix of both.

25. Should the farmer be the owner of the land?

Answer: No, the farmer can be owner or the land can be rented. Mainly, proof will be needed that the farmer is eligible to use the land.

26. Can the payment currency change from USD to LBP during the project?

Answer: This has never happened before. This is directly related to the economic situation in Lebanon. Therefore, the payments in U.S. dollars have emerged following the crisis. Currently, we do not anticipate any change in guidance from USAID; however, this could happen.

27. Does ARE support providing some data about the 5,500 farmers?

Answer: ARE does not provide any lists of farmers for grantees.

28. How can the applicant prove the documents related to growers?

Answer: the methodology that the applicant will submit should suggest the selection and verification process of how to ensure that these growers are included. ARE would choose a sample of the farmers to visit for actual verification and validation.

29. Is it restricted to specific growers, or it can include people who have small lands?

Answer: it doesn't necessarily target commercial growers. It can include growers growing for their own personal household consumption. Please check the beneficiary criteria in the RFA.

30. *Is planting avocado trees part of the project?*

Answer: The seeds and seedlings do not include trees. They are seeds and seedlings for vegetables.

31. *Can the land exceed 5,000 square meters per farmer?*

Answer: Please refer to the RFA where the actual size of land is mentioned per farmer.

32. *What is the procurement process of seeds and seedlings, is it a competitive process or selected from listed sellers?*

Answer: It is up to the applicant who will be responsible for the procurement process. However, please note that this process should go hand in hand with the procurement process accepted by USAID.

33. *Can the beneficiaries who benefited from a project funded by USAID a long time ago be included under this project? Is there a specific duration that must pass before they can be included?*

Answer: Yes, they can be included. However, the target is to reach out to new beneficiaries who have *not received previous support*.

34. *Can the beneficiary be an owner of unexplored or unplanted land?*

Answer: Yes, they are eligible if the applicant can prove that the beneficiary will plant the seeds.

35. *Can using technology to manage, monitor and map the farmers be part of the amount covered by the grant?*

Answer: If the expense is an eligible expense, then it could be considered for funding.

36. *Is there a tentative start date for this project?*

Answer: The anticipated start date is mentioned in the RFA. However, it is not a fixed date, so this is a tentative date.

37. *Are solar systems eligible?*

Answer: No. The objective of this intervention is to distribute seeds, seedlings, and compost to the farmers.

38. *How can the applicant make sure that a beneficiary did not get any benefits from another program? Is there any data with you that can help in allowing more farmers to get benefits from these programs?*

Answer: we can assist in checking whether the farmers have received assistance from our program. However, there is no clear way forward whether they have received assistance from other programs. The objective is to try to reach out to new farmers as much as possible' It's not to exclude totally other farmers.

39. *When will the applicant be paid after offering seeds and seedlings to the farmers?*

Answer: this will depend on the type of agreement to be signed with the applicant. The type of agreement will be decided following the selection of the applicant and after the admin due diligence and technical due diligence are done between ARE and the applicant. Accordingly, the payment terms are based on the type of agreement to be signed.

40. *Is there any deadline for finishing the project?*

Answer: the RFA mentions that this is a 12-to-15-month project, not to be extended beyond 15 months of implementation.

41. Is the applicant obliged by a specific date to start implementation?

Answer: There is no obligation to start the implementation. This depends on the application itself, the methodology suggested and the agricultural calendar.

42. Is this seedling able to be replanted?

Answer: It will depend on the methodology that you will be suggested, whether this will be applicable in a consolidated approach or not.

43. Are there intermediary deadlines per activity?

Answer: it depends on the type of agreement. If the type of agreement is based on milestones, then the payments will be made within the milestones and thus there will be a deadline. Then the deadlines should be mentioned in the implementation plan, which should reflect how the implementation of the activity will take place per month.

44. Could you please let me know if the applicant can choose to implement this project in one specific area or if it needs to cover all areas in Lebanon?

Answer: As per the RFA, *Section IC, Intervention Approach, Activity 2* “[...] Prospective applicants should suggest an initial package of seeds (found in Annex G), seedlings, and compost to be distributed along with a methodology and geographic coverage [...]”. The suggested methodology will be evaluated under the first Merit Review Category: *Feasibility of Design & Technical Approach and methodology (including impact on gender and youth inclusion)*.

45. It appears that the international organizations can not apply as applicants must be a registered “Lebanese NGO”. I just want to confirm that the call is not open to INGOs.

Answer: The lead firm must be a local organization. International Organizations can be included as a partner or part of a consortium, pending they are legally registered in Lebanon.

46. Can you confirm if all applicants should be registered in Lebanon or only the lead?

Answer: All partners must be registered in Lebanon.

47. Could this grant be used for a honey production project? for a blueberry plantation project? What is the maximum amount that can be granted?

Answer: this grant cannot be used for honey production project nor blueberry plantation project. The grant ceiling is mentioned in the RFA.

48. With reference to the subject, I am writing on behalf of Caritas Lebanon to inquire about the submission of IDs and certifications for our upcoming project. Specifically, we would like to know if we are required to submit the IDs and certifications of 5000 small-holder open-field growers and 500 small greenhouse vegetable farmers at the design phase or after we have received the fund and signed the agreement. Additionally, would it be possible for us to provide voucher assistance for inputs instead of providing (in-kind) seeds and seedlings. Furthermore, do you have any preferred locations for the project to be implemented as we have a presence in all regions in Lebanon?

Answer: The IDs and self-certifications: these will be needed after the farmers have been selected, and not at the design phase.

Under this intervention, it is not possible to provide voucher assistance for inputs instead of providing seeds and seedlings.

As for the question regarding the preferred location of implementation, the RFA mentions that this is a nation-wide program.

49. Is it possible to apply for one part of the grant? For example, applying only for farmers' outreach and training or only for procurement of seeds?

Answer: No

50. What is the ceiling per grant for the implementation of the training intervention? Is it possible to get this ceiling, since the RFA mentions that "Applicants may apply for grants at less than the maximum amount with a proportional reduction in support accordingly"? Please advise.

Answer: There's no ceiling for individual intervention. Total Grant ceiling is mentioned in the RFA.

51. In Annex G, you provide a list of approved seeds for the intervention. Shall the applicant for the grant proceed in procuring for the number of units provided in this list?

Answer: The applicants will be procuring the seed types/varieties not necessarily the number of units. That will be determined after award with the technical team.

52. Is it possible & acceptable to apply while not covering all of the project activities; is acceptable to submit a proposal covering both of the compost distribution & technical capacity building provision components of the project and not including the distribution of the vegetables seeds & seedlings.

Answer: Applications should cover all activities to be considered acceptable.

53. Does the budget 600,000\$ include the cost of compost, seeds, and seedling? or is it only for the coverage of provided services?

Answer: Yes, it covers everything.

54. Can we have the total detailed budget mentioned in Annex B excel form?

Answer: yes, if you have not received Annex B. Budget in excel form, please send an email to grants@lebanonare.org to send it to you.

55. Annex F mandatory standard provision, as applicants we are concerned in which part the fixed amount or the other types of grants?

Answer: the type of agreement to be signed will be decided following the selection of the applicant and the finalization of the due diligence stage.

56. can you please advise what do you mean by "USG" mentioned in "ARE expected results and relative indicators". Please advise if all applicants should submit all annexes (D,E and F) before the selection phase? I have read that Annex D shall be filled for the selected applicant but please confirm and advise for the rest. will you assist the grantee to obtain a number in case they don't have it? Please confirm.

Answer: USG means United States Government. For the Annexes, it is expected that Annexes D and E are filled and shared with the application. Annex F is shared as reference for the interested applicants on USAID provisions. As for the UEI, guidance for issuance of the UEI will be shared with the selected applicant, but it will be the responsibility of the applicant to get it.

57. Please confirm if it is possible to apply for the grant covering the compost distribution & capacity building provision and not include in our application the distribution of seeds & seedlings? In accordance with that, should the compost be distributed to farmers receiving the seeds/seedlings or can it be distributed to additional/new 1,500 farmers or more who didn't receive seeds/seedlings but have lands in dryland areas or to areas with poor soil conditions that are about to plant them? Please advise.

Answer: Applications should cover the implementation of all activities in the RFA