

## Questions and Answers

*Last update: February 23, 2022*

### **ARE – Request for Application (RFA011):**

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**1. For the varieties of the inputs, some of these inputs do not go with the plantation in May, can we exclude some and add others or we need to distribute the inputs as listed.**

**Answer:** you are free to choose the types of seeds that you would like to plan and procure for the farmers based on the suggested list, and you are not required to provide all the list at the same time.

In addition, suggestion of additional seeds is allowed, on condition that a solid verification and justification is provided on why these seeds are best to be planted and in which area and during which period of time.

**2. Do you accept local varieties that do not have certificates?**

**Answer:** Seed Certification Labels or Seed Grower's Declarations of Quality in line with ADS312, is required and should be presented during implementation.

The requirements for the Seed Grower's Declarations of Quality can be accessed and viewed using the following link: [https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USAID-BHA\\_Ag\\_Annex\\_A\\_-\\_Seed\\_Grower\\_Declaration\\_of\\_Quality\\_September\\_2020.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USAID-BHA_Ag_Annex_A_-_Seed_Grower_Declaration_of_Quality_September_2020.pdf),

**3. Do we need to have given procurement procedure to go with the audit of USAID?**

**Answer:** there is no given requirements about the procurement process, however and in case the applicant has proven to have sufficient capacity to conduct the procurement, and depending on the type of the award, the procurement conducted by the grantee must adhere to USAID governing policies.

**4. You mentioned 5,000 farmers at least to plant 11,000 dunum, is there a minimum value of input that the farmers should receive, and can we change the number of planted areas based on the number of farmers and vice versa?**

**Answer:** under this RFA small farmers are targeted, as included in the RFA. However, please feel free to justify your selection; accordingly, the review will be based as per your justification and clarification.

**5. Will the fund under this RFA go to several applicants?**

**Answer:** as per the RFA011, the proposed intervention will work with one or more local partner across Lebanon. And you can apply to one or more parts, partly to North Lebanon and partly to the Beqaa, this is applicable.

**6. Can an international NGO to apply for RFA011 if they are registered in Lebanon?**

**Answer:** yes, if registered in Lebanon.

**7. Do we need any requirements for farmers to apply? Do they need a rental agreement or title deed? Is there a maximum or minimum number of farmers?**

**Answer:** farmers should be small farmers, own/ plant a maximum of 2.5 dunums on average. Farmers should be Lebanese and should have the infrastructure to plant and grow the seeds that will be provided. The applicant will be providing the criteria based on which farmers will be selected. There is no max or min number of farmers, as an entire project we aim to reach 5,000 farmers but the applicant can apply to a part of it and not the entire part.

**8. *Small farmers in the Beqaa are different from Mount Lebanon depending on the land size, as in Beqaa there are huge lands. Do you take this under consideration or criteria should we put for all of Lebanon?***

**Answer:** the RFA recognizes that there are different land sizes in different regions and that small farmers have different land sizes, just describe this in your proposal, and provide a justification for your approach. Noting that the figures included in the RFA were based on the average farm size as illustrative.

**9. *Is there a minimum amount for contribution per beneficiary?***

**Answer:** No

**10. *Is the project implementation only restricted to open fields?***

**Answer:** the project implementation is restricted to open field, excluding greenhouses.

**11. *Sometimes we have small farmers and other times is MSMEs, are we going to work only with local farmers, or can we do a combination of small entrepreneurs and individual farmers?***

**Answer:** You can suggest this in your application with a clear justification, and it will be reviewed as per the merit review criteria included in RFA011 under **SECTION V. APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA**.

**12. *We have to stick to the 11,000 dunum yet we can increase the number of farmers.***

**Answer:** The number of farmers can go up to what is included; however, we would like the average farm size to be 2.5.

**13. *Considering the operation percentage for the implementing partner can you please justify?***

**Answer:** This is part of the applicant's budget and will be reviewed by ARE, there is no fixed percentage.

**14. *Will seedlings trays be provided with the seeds and compost?***

**Answer:** this up to the applicant to decide based on the proposal, this is not an actual requirement.

**15. *Is there a specific required ratio for women and youth beneficiaries?***

**Answer:** ARE encourages the inclusion of youth and women and it is included and mentioned in the merit review criteria under **SECTION V. APPLICATION MERIT REVIEW CRITERIA of RFA011**, the ratio needs to be decided by the applicant based on the areas targeted and knowledge of the targeted farmers.

**16. *In regard of the yield, not all the harvest will be within the project timeline yet there is a target to reach, can you please advise who will be following up?***

**Answer:** ARE will be following up on the monitoring and evaluation of the project outcomes and it is not required by the implementing partner.

**17. *What are the farmers' requirements (i.e. documents to be presented as proof of land: ownership deed, rental contract...)?***

**Answer:** With respect to the land usage, any supporting documentation that proves a legal usage of the land will be acceptable. Other farmers' requirements for them to be selected among those who will be receiving seeds assistance should be suggested **by the applicant** as part of their approach and methodology.

**18. *What is minimum land area per farmer.***

**Answer:** ARE is targeting small holder farmers in this activity, with a minimum farm size of 0.5 dunums.

**19. Are there any specific requirements for verification and validation of distribution, seeding and compost?**

**Answer:** The approach that should be followed for the verification and validation of seeds and compost distribution should be provided **by the applicant**. ARE team will evaluate this approach based on the Merit Review Criteria mentioned in SECTION V of the RFA.

**20. What are the criteria of monitoring and reporting approach?**

**Answer** The applicant should be able to suggest a monitoring and reporting approach that meets the goals and indicators set by ARE. These are mentioned under Section: "ARE EXPECTED RESULTS AND RELATIVE INDICATORS", page 5 of the RFA.

**21. It is possible to apply as a consortium of several Lebanese Organizations? If yes, is there a maximum or minimum number of consortium members ?**

**Answer** Yes, a consortium of Lebanese Organizations can apply; there is no limit to the number of consortium members

**22. Is there a minimum number of farmers to be targeted if we decide to target less than 5000 farmers?**

**Answer** No

**23. What is the maximum size of land to be considered "small producer"?**

**Answer** 5 dunums for all regions except the Beqaa; 8 dunums for the Beqaa

**24. RFA - Table 1 Illustrative Distribution scheme and Table 2 Illustrative Agricultural production: Can we modify all information based on our experience (type of crops, # of farmers per crops, average farm size, estimated production etc)?**

**Answer** Yes, this is only an illustrative scheme that can be modified

**25. Annex A - Section IV. Costs - Distribution scheme: do we have to use the same % allocated as per the table under this section or is it just indicative and we can modify it?**

**Answer** This is just an indicative distribution scheme that can be changed

**26. Annex A - A.2 Instruction per Sections states that "Applications must be supported by Annex B, Detailed Grant Budget." However, Annex B is a template for the timeline and not for a detailed budget. What template should we use for the detailed budget? Is it the one available under A.3 "Section IV. Costs"?**

**Answer:** Excuse the typo, Annex B is indeed the implementation timeline not the detailed budget. There is no specific Annex for the budget. At this stage the budget should be included in the table under question 14 of the grant application.

**27. In line with the distribution scheme and the crops provided as well as focus on the non-irrigated lands, does Chemonics have already a preference on the locations to be targeted? As this indeed requires quite tailored and specific targeting.**

**Answer** There is no preference on the locations; the intervention should target small-holder open-field farmers that grow in both unirrigated and irrigated production systems

**28. besides main activities such as targeting/outreach, distribution and procurement, would Chemonics be interested in adding the component to the application on provision of the tailored training to the farmers to complement the distribution with more longer-term oriented approach?**

**Answer** This will be part of the technical approach and will be assessed according to the scoring of the Merit Review Criteria; this approach should contribute to the ARE's expected results and relative indicators.

**29. The call stipules that local businesses should include in the procurement process. With this I would like to inquire if Chemonics already received a waiver for the whole program from USAID on purchasing the agriculture commodities in country or is it something that each successful applicant shall apply independently?**

**Answer** Yes, ARE has already obtained a waiver for the purchase of seeds for the entire program