

**AFRI Food Security
FY 2015
Frequently Asked Questions
about
International Partnerships**

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1. How do I identify an international partner?
 - You should check with the office at your institution that oversees international programs. Staff in that office can provide networks and contacts, as well as advice on developing effective international programs. Colleagues from your institution who work internationally also know of relevant networks.
2. Can I use NIFA support to travel internationally?
 - Yes, NIFA funding can be used to support international travel so long as the requested travel clearly supports project goals.
3. Do international partnerships make my proposal more or less competitive?
 - International partnerships are a dimension—nothing more or less—of a proposal, and are assessed as part of the entire proposal. Including an international partnership—even those in which the international partner brings his/her own funding to the proposed work—does not make the proposal more or less competitive. NIFA uses peer-review and the selection criteria described in the RFA to assess the merits of proposals. Any proposed international partnership must clearly address RFA goals and contribute to American agriculture.
4. Can I partner with people from any country?
 - You can partner with most countries. But to be certain, you should check the U.S. Department of State factsheets on bilateral relations with the country (ies) with which you plan to partner for any U.S. Government limitations or restrictions on the international partnership you are proposing.

State Department factsheets are at <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/index.htm>

Also, travel warnings are posted at the following site:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings.html>

5. What should I do if I want to make an application that includes an international partner?
 - Prior to the development of a full collaborative application with an international partner, we **strongly encourage** U.S. applicants to engage the AFRI Food Security RFA's point of contact (Mathieu Ngouajio, mngouajio@nifa.usda.gov or 202 401 4895) to confirm that the topic meets NIFA's mission to support high priority issues

relevant to U.S. agriculture. Contact the POC to clarify application procedures, and to receive further instructions for a joint application. For additional guidelines visit <http://www.nifa.usda.gov/globalengagement.cfm> under the resources tab.

6. How do I plan a budget with an international partner?
 - Most international participants in NIFA research grants can receive funds from a sub-contract issued from the U.S award recipient's sponsored programs management office. The roles and activities of the international collaborator should be clearly identified and integrated with the proposal objectives and described in the budget narrative. Some international partnerships bring their own funding, which can be described in an annex to the proposal. Funding modalities must be clear and, where needed, sub-contracts in place.
7. Is NIFA party to any current relevant international agreements of which I should be aware?

NIFA's strategy for global engagement centers on developing carefully considered partnerships that can advance U.S. agriculture and global food security. Examples include:

- In 2013, NIFA signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the U.S.- Israel Bi-national Agricultural Research & Development (BARD) Fund. More information is available at <http://www.bard-isus.com/funddes.aspx> and <http://www.bard-isus.com/local.aspx?lfid=62>.
- Also in 2013, NIFA piloted a joint program with the U.K.'s Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBRC) on "Animal Health and Production and Animal Products". For more information please go to pages 14-17 of http://www.nifa.usda.gov/funding/rfas/pdfs/14_afri_foundation_mod.pdf.
- NIFA will continue to provide partnership opportunities with the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases with other USDA agencies. <http://www.globalresearchalliance.org/community/alliance-member-countries/member-country-page-usa/>.
- NIFA continues to partner with the Joint North American Carbon Program with United State Global Change Research Program (USGCRP), (US, Canada, and Mexico) <http://nacarbon.org/carbona/>.
- Another network with the potential to partner is the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research with USGCRP (Asia-Pacific countries) <http://www.apn-gcr.org/>.