



## PAKISTAN Strategy Support Program



### **Competitive Grants Program**

### **Call for Applications**

**Proposals due 31 October 2012**

**(Call for Applications circulated 10 August 2012)**

## **Research to Support the Framework for Economic Growth of Pakistan**

In May 2011 the National Economic Council of Pakistan adopted a new *Framework for Economic Growth* recommended by Deputy Chairman Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque and the Planning Commission. The new Framework aims at fostering sustained higher growth and enhanced quality of life through improved governance, vibrant markets, creative and connected cities, and energetic youth and communities. The *Framework* calls for Pakistan to adopt an ongoing process of reform to improve public service delivery, foster economic competition and international trade, enhance innovation and entrepreneurship, increase youth employment, and raise labor and total economic productivity.

In July 2011, with the support of the Planning Commission, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), in collaboration with Innovative Development Strategies (Pvt.) Ltd., launched the Pakistan Strategy Support Program (PSSP). The PSSP is funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and guided by a National Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque. The PSSP has a focus on agriculture and the rural economy with an overall agenda that supports the *Framework for Economic Growth*.

Fostering innovation within the academic and policy-oriented research communities of Pakistan is vital to the new growth strategy. Under the leadership of Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, the PSSP joins with the Planning Commission of Pakistan to announce this second Call for Applications for Research Competitive Grants. The Competitive Grants Program is guided by a Research Advisory Committee (RAC) comprised of fourteen senior Pakistani and international economic development scholars. Under the first grants program, 22 awards were announced 6 June 2012 with total funding of \$490,000 for the first year of the projects.

## Program Description

### Eligible Research

Proposals are sought for economic and other social science research that identifies key policy decisions that will support the new growth strategy; assesses empirically the impacts of those decisions; evaluates constraints to policy reform; and examines alternative policy recommendations to enhance their impact. This is a broad-based call for proposals across the four thematic areas of the *Framework for Economic Growth*.

Specifically, the proposals should be in conformity with reform ideas envisaged in the *Framework*. The intent is that the research will deepen knowledge of the *Framework* issues at the local and the national levels. Some of the themes that can be addressed are as follows:

#### *Quality Governance*

- Measurement of public service delivery
- Civil service reform: compensation, human resource management, management, training and talent retention, skill needs and availability
- Local governance and its impact on development
- Efficacy of government market regulation
- Size and role of government and its impact on investment
- Management and performance of public sector enterprises to lessen the drain on the economy
  - Financial and management structure
  - Causes of losses and performance failures
  - Alternative management structures and avenues for privatization and public-private partnerships

#### *Vibrant Markets*

- Assessing the state of market competition, including issues of cartelization, entry barriers and regulatory capture
- Assessing openness, including protection policy and its impact
- State of entrepreneurship
- State of labor markets
- Financial market development and competition
- Cost of doing business, market entry and entrepreneurship in local areas
- Property rights and the state of land and real estate markets
- Technology and productivity: sources of growth generation and impacts on agriculture, manufacturing and large-scale services

#### *Creative Cities*

- Assessing urban development using international yardsticks to develop new data bases (density, high rise, mixed use and walkability of city centers are considered desirable)
- The economy of cities
- Urban output and productivity
- Identity and comparative advantage
- Dispersed urbanization and growth or rural towns

- Demand for city services and the quality of supply (e.g. is there an excess demand for retail, office space or community space and why does it persist?)
- State of the urban construction industry to understand constraints to growth
- Administration and regulation from the point of view of growth--exit voice loyalty
- Government control of prime urban space and its ramifications for growth
- Public transport: issues in demand and supply
- Connectivity of cities to globalization

### *Youth and Community*

- The state of the community
- Youth entrepreneurship and employment
- Income and wealth distribution and the sustainability of economic growth
- Local action, NGOs and community associations
- Education facilities as public spaces
- Current state and policy on public spaces for youth and the excluded: town squares, community centers, libraries, internet access
- Understanding youth needs and opportunities

### Categories of Grants

The second PSSP Competitive Grants Program offers two categories of grants:

Small Grants: For project to be completed within one year, grants up to US\$20,000

Large Grants: For projects of one or two years duration, grants up to US\$50,000 per year

An applicant's choice of which grant size to apply for and their proposed budget should be commensurate with the scale of the proposed research. As with the first set of grants awarded (6 June 2012), the RAC may initially fund two-year projects for their first year only, with extension of funding dependent upon progress of the project.

### Applicant Qualifications

Proposals are solicited from faculty members and staff at national and provincial universities and research institutes within Pakistan. Proposals are also solicited from scholars at foreign universities and research institutes with interest in the economic growth and policy issues of Pakistan. Proposals are encouraged that support Pakistani graduate students enrolled in Ph.D. and thesis-based master's degree programs at Pakistani and foreign universities. Special consideration will be given to proposals from institutions located in disadvantaged areas of Pakistan.

Proposals from each of the three groups of applicants will be evaluated in separate competitive categories. Outstanding proposals from each category are anticipated to be funded. Proposals may be submitted by individual applicants or by teams of up to four co-investigators. Collaborative proposals by teams based at multiple institutions are encouraged.

## Application Guidelines

### Elements of the Grant Application

English is the language used in the PSSP Competitive Grants Program. Applications must include the following:

- Attached Application Cover Sheet (one for each Principal Investigator)
- Title Page, Abstract (up to 250 words), and Table of Contents
- Description of the proposed research including a problem statement; brief review of relevant existing studies (no more than 2 pages); hypotheses maintained and to be tested; proposed technical approach to the research; sources of data; potential pitfalls facing the analysis; anticipated uses of the results; policy implications and potential beneficiaries; and list of references. This body of the proposal must not exceed 12 single-spaced pages with size 12 type font.
- For applicants who are faculty members and research staff, a curriculum vita for each Principal Investigator
- For applications for which a substantial portion of requested funds will be used to support a graduate student, (i) an official transcript of graduate coursework completed and list of planned additional course enrollment, and (ii) a letter of recommendation from the applicant's principal advisor (to maintain confidentiality, the letter of recommendation may be submitted to PSSP by the 31 October 2012 deadline but separately from the other application materials)
- Timeline for achieving each phase of the research
- Budget indicating proposed expenditures and a brief explanation of each cost. Budget may include such items as direct salary and fringe benefit costs for Principal Investigators, research assistants, or graduate students; graduate student tuition; data acquisition or collection including field surveys; travel (including for study leave abroad, presentation of the research, or other relevant purposes); and equipment. Institutional overhead is limited to 15 percent of the total project cost. The budget explanation should indicate any additional funding available or expected to be received in support of the proposed research. However, cost-sharing is not required for PSSP competitive grants.

### Submission Process and Deadline

Applications must be submitted electronically to [IFPRI-PSSPGrants@cgiar.org](mailto:IFPRI-PSSPGrants@cgiar.org).

Complete applications will be acknowledged by return email within 14 days of submission.

Applications are due 31 October 2012 by midnight Pakistan Standard Time (PST). Incomplete applications and applications received after this deadline will not be considered.

## **Operation of the Competitive Grants Program**

### Selection Criteria and Process

All complete grant applications will be reviewed by a scholarly review panel composed of members of the RAC. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of importance of the topic and relevance to the challenges identified in the *Framework for Economic Growth*; cohesion and creativity of the proposed research; technical feasibility of the proposed analysis; and qualifications of the Principal Investigator(s) for undertaking the proposed study. Equal weight will be given to each criterion.

Top-ranked proposals will be invited for oral presentation (in person or by video) before the review panel at a workshop in Islamabad 7-10 February 2013.

Selection decision and grant awards will be announced by 28 February 2013.

### Disbursement of Funds

Disbursement of funds to successful grant applicants will occur in three tranches: one upon completion of the contract for the awarded proposal; one upon acceptance by the review panel of an interim research report (due at six months); and one upon acceptance by the review panel of the project's final research report.

Contracts for the selected awards can be through an applicant's institution or on an individual basis with approval from their institution. Contracts for the awards announced in February 2013 are for projects to begin as early as 15 April 2013 and no later than 15 June 2013.

## **Expected Outputs and Grants Program Workshops**

Grant recipients are expected to produce a research article or monograph of international peer-reviewed publication quality. Interim and final reports submitted to the review panel for approval of grant fund disbursements are expected to be intermediate products leading to this final published output.

The PSSP Competitive Grants Program will organize a series of annual research workshops. Grant recipients are expected to make at least one presentation of their work corresponding to their interim research report and/or a presentation corresponding to their final research report. Travel expenses for these presentations will be provided separately from the grant budgets.

The first Competitive Grants Program workshop was held 26-27 May 2012 for presentation of short-listed proposals from the first competition. The second workshop will be 7-10 February 2013. Interim reports from the awardees announced in June 2012 will be presented, along with the short-listed proposals for new projects. Members of the review panel and other invitees will participate in the workshop.

## **Grants Program Administration**

The PSSP Competitive Grants Program is guided by its fifteen-member Research Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. A list of the RAC members is attached.

The Competitive Grants Program is administered by the IFPRI Pakistan Strategy Support Program, which is responsible for implementation of grant selection decisions made by the RAC, disbursement of funds based on fulfillment of the grant requirements by recipients, and other operational aspects of the program.

### Questions about the PSSP Competitive Grants Program

The Call for Applications for the 31 October PSSP Competitive Grants Program is available electronically on the Planning Commission web site ([www.pc.gov.pk](http://www.pc.gov.pk)) and at [www.pssp.ifpri.info](http://www.pssp.ifpri.info). It can also be requested at [IFPRI-PSSPGrants@cgiar.org](mailto:IFPRI-PSSPGrants@cgiar.org).

Questions about the PSSP Competitive Grants Program may be addressed to [IFPRI-PSSPGrants@cgiar.org](mailto:IFPRI-PSSPGrants@cgiar.org). Questions will be answered by return email within seven days.

**Second PSSP Competitive Grants Program  
Proposals due 31 October 2012**

**Application Cover Sheet**

\_\_\_: Small Grant    \_\_\_: Large Grant (1 year)    \_\_\_: Large Grant (2 year)

**Submit with full application to: [IFPRI-PSSPGrants@cgiar.org](mailto:IFPRI-PSSPGrants@cgiar.org)**

Principal Investigator	Authorized University Representative
Name (one sheet for each PI; lead PI should be identified)	Name
Address	Address
Email	Email
Telephone	Telephone
Proposed Budget	
Proposed Grant Start and End dates	
Statement of Intent  By making this application, I verify my intent to undertake the proposed competitive grant project within the time period and budget as specified in the proposal.	Statement of Support  By endorsing this application, I verify my support for the principal investigator undertaking the proposed competitive grant project within the time period and budget as specified in the proposal.
Type name or insert electronic signature (Formal contracts will be signed with successful applicants)	Type name or insert electronic signature



# PAKISTAN

## Strategy Support Program



### Members of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) 2012-2013 Competitive Grants Program

#### Chairman and Deputy Chairman

**Dr. Nadeem Ul Haque** (RAC Chairman) is Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan. He has held positions as a Division Chief at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and as Director of the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics (PIDE).

**Dr. David Orden** (RAC Deputy Chairman) is Senior Research Fellow in the Markets, Trade and Institutions Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Professor, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

#### Members

**Dr. Nuzhat Ahmad** is Director and Research Professor at the Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC), University of Karachi.

**Dr. Imran Ali** is Professor of Business Policy at the Karachi School for Business and Leadership (KSBL).

**Dr. Ali Cheema** is an Associate Professor of Economics at the Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and Fellow of the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS) and the Center of Economic Research, Pakistan (CERP).

**Dr. Stephen Davies** is Professor in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at Colorado State University.

**Dr. Akmal Hussain** is Distinguished Professor of Economics at FC College University, Distinguished Professor, Beaconhouse National University, and Senior Fellow, Pakistan Institute of Development Economics.

**Dr. Iqrar Ahmad Khan** is Vice Chancellor and Professor of Horticulture at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad.

**Dr. Sohail Jehangir Malik** is Visiting Senior Research Fellow in the Development Strategies and Governance Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and Chairman, Innovative Development Strategies (Pvt.) Ltd., Islamabad.



**Dr. John Mellor** is President of John Mellor Associates, Inc. He was the founding Director General of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

**Dr. Nicholas Minot** is Senior Research Fellow in the Markets, Trade and Institutions Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

**Dr. Margaret McMillan** is Associate Professor at Tufts University and Senior Research Fellow in the Development Strategies and Governance Division of the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI).

**Dr. Syed Nawab Haider Naqvi** is HEC Distinguished National Professor and Director General of the Federal Urdu University of Arts, Science and Technology.

**Dr. Michael Wyzan** (ex officio member) is General Development Officer for the Economic Growth and Agriculture Office at USAID/Pakistan.