**FSN-IL Call for Expressions of Interest:**

Demonstrating the Cost-Effectiveness of Innovation Bundles to Support Food Systems Transformation for Nutrition, Food Safety, and Reduced Food Loss and Waste

***Expression of Interest Template***

*Please use this template to complete your expression of interest (EOI). Our application portal, Piestar, will prompt you to upload this document during submission. The expression of interest must be written in English and typed on standard 8 ½ x 11-inch paper with one-inch margins on all sides, using Times New Roman font no smaller than 12 points and single line spacing. All file names should include the PI’s last name and institution (e.g., CN-PI Last Name\_ Institution.pdf).*

*Please include a list of all references used in the expression of interest.*

Summary of **what is included** in this template:

* Title Page *(1 page maximum)*
* Technical Narrative *(4 page maximum)*
* Past Performance Narrative *(4 page maximum)*
* Reference List

Summary of **what else needs to be submitted** in Piestar:

* PI Qualifications *(4 pages maximum)*
  + *Required: CV of PI (2 page maximum)*
  + *Optional: CV of lead host-country PI/collaborator (2 page maximum)*

Questions regarding this EOI should be submitted via Piestar or to foodsystemsnutrition@tufts.edu by **February 20th, 2024**. Answers will be posted by **February 27th, 2024.**

**Title Page (1-page max)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Target Country** |  |
| **Title** |  |
| **PI Information** |  |
| Name |  |
| Title |  |
| Institutional Address |  |
| Phone |  |
| Fax |  |
| Email |  |
| **List of Collaborating Institutions and Organizations** |  |
| **Universal Entity Identification (UEI) from the System for Award Management (SAM)** |  |
| **Contact Information for Authorized Official from the Lead Institution** |  |

**Technical Narrative (4-page max)**

1. A clear problem statement aligned with country priorities outlined for one of the focus countries. challenges in implementing solutions/ideas presented in the national food systems transformation pathways.

2. Using the provided background, present their view of the research opportunities and outline critical research questions and proposed study type to answer those questions in one of the focus countries. The potential of the proposed study to have a significant impact should be provided.

3. The EOI should provide a justification/rationale for selecting the specific innovation (or bundle of innovations) topic and how the research would increase local and global knowledge.

4. Demonstrate how the research around the innovation influences the drivers of consumption choice in vulnerable populations, such as women and children, and how that is likely to translate to increased intake of safe, diverse, and nutritious foods and thus improved nutrition outcomes.

5. A demonstration of expertise in addressing one or more cross-cutting themes of gender and youth and climate smart and resilient food systems. Applicants are encouraged to review USAID’s 2012 Gender and Female Empowerment Policy[[1]](#footnote-1) and 2012 Youth in Development Policy[[2]](#footnote-2) and are encouraged to leverage the findings of the “Gender Integration in USAID’s Agricultural Research Investments: A Synthesis of Key Findings and Best Practices.”[[3]](#footnote-3) If expertise lies in climate smart and resilient food systems, applications must demonstrate how their research has contributed to the evidence base. For instance, activities focused on applied pro-resilience studies should support investments in storage, packaging, and cooling of nutrient dense perishable foods, ensuring food safety and minimizing food loss and waste under the most extreme environmental conditions.

**Past Performance Narrative (4-page max)**

1. Outline the applicant and its proposed partners expertise in implementing and testing innovations including cost effectiveness and development of business models that are focused on enhancing availability of nutrient-dense foods or ensuring food safety of nutrient dense foods and/or supported the prevention of food loss and waste specifically of perishable commodities.

2. Highlight the experience of all listed entities in the selected focus countries and indicate the background and expertise of all these organizations involved including the technical and managerial staff or team proposed for engagement.

**Reference List**

1. <https://www.usaid.gov/policy/gender-equality> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. <https://www.usaid.gov/policy/youth> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://www.agrilinks.org/gender-research> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)