



December 29, 2011

**FRG-II Project (EIAR/JICA)
Call for research proposals on
FRG based research activities at Farmer Training Centers (FTCs)**

The Project for Enhancing Development and Dissemination of Agricultural Innovations through Farmer Research Groups (FRG II) calls for research proposals from federal and regional research centers and agricultural universities in Ethiopia on the theme:

“FRG based research activities at Farmer Training Centers (FTCs)”

Deadline for receipt of entry is February 15, 2012

Background:

FRG II Project is jointly implemented by EIAR and JICA to promote farmer participatory research in the Ethiopian Agricultural Research System through farmer research groups. Currently, “Research activity using FTCs” and “Use of FTCs for technology generation and dissemination” are recognized as one of the important outcomes for policy recommendations. In this regard, FRG II project calls for proposals in the above mentioned area for support for the coming production seasons.

Purposes of the FRG based research:

FRG approach is one of the research methods by which a multidisciplinary research team, development agents and group of farmers jointly conduct research on selected topic based on farmers’ needs. For further information of the approach, please see “Guideline to participatory agricultural research through farmer research group for agricultural researchers”¹

The FRG based research at FTC (s) proposals are expected to aim at identifying the effective use of FTCs for technology generation through FRG based research approach. Through the implementation of this FRG based research, applicants are also expected not only to evaluate the technical efficacies but also to exhibit the ease of application and economical efficiencies of the specific technologies which is going to be tested in this specific FRG based research activities.

Eligibility to apply for the call:

Applicants should meet following conditions:

1. Research team members should consist of multi-disciplinary researchers from Federal/ Regional

¹ You can download the FRG guideline at:
http://www.eiar.gov.et/Publications/FRG_guideline_2009.pdf
or contact us.

Agricultural Research Centers and Universities with Faculty/ College of Agriculture.

2. The target commodity should be one of the major commodities in your institute's mandate area or major technical issue related to the major commodity in the area.
3. The research team should be able to work with the partner FTC smoothly.

How to apply:

The proposals should be prepared following the format shown below, and should be submitted by hand, post, fax or e-mail attached to FRG II Project Office by February 15, 2012. The result will be informed in February, 2012.

Support provided:

The maximum budget allocated for each FRG based research per one financial year is 40,000 Birr for three years. Additionally, technical support would be provided through forms of advice, workshops, exchange of visits, etc. As a part of the support by the project, FRG Training Session will be provided (for 3 days, would be held in March or April, 2012).

* Discussion sessions for the refinement of your research plan will be held at the training session above mentioned. After completion of the refinement of research plan/ schedule, the budget would be disbursed.

Selection criteria:

1. Relevance of the intervention would be evaluated and its potential impact on small scale farmers.
 - Does the research topic address farmers' practical needs?
2. Relevance of having FRG research at FTC is well articulated in the proposal.
 - What is the advantage of having the FRG research at FTCs?
3. Appropriateness of the approach proposed for implementing and evaluating research activity, and delivering its outputs to target farmers/stakeholders.
 - Is the problem identified addressed in a well structured and scientifically sound approach?
 - Does the proposal specify the roles of farmers and other stakeholders in the research activity?
4. Technical capacity of the proposed research team and appropriateness of budget and timeline proposed.
 - Is the research that is proposed logistically feasible, financially possible, and likely to produce timely results?
5. The experimental plan/design in the proposal should be prepared with the appropriate manner in scientific articles.
 - Treatments/ Variables and the rationale behind
 - Observation items and the evaluation criteria
 - Data analysis objects/ methods
 - Citations/References

In addition the geographical distribution of the research sites would also be taken account of.

Format of proposal:

1. Research title
2. Case team
3. Team members (Principal investigator and team members and their disciplines)
4. Crop/ Commodity(ies)
5. Background (Farmer's situation with constraints and potentials. Review of work that has been done on the issue)
6. Justification/Rationale (importance and significance of attempting to introduce the technical options with technical, sociological, economical and environmental feasibility)
7. Objectives (Practical, specific and tangible objective is described)
8. Target area/Potential impact area
9. Research design (Materials used, methods applied with relevance of FTC based FRG research , data to be collected, expected roles of each actor)
10. Trial location including the name(s) and location(s) of the FTCs
11. Duration (basically, 3 years)
12. Work plan (it is preferable to present this with charts/diagrams, to make it visually-apparent)
13. Expected outputs (Product of the research and its application in farming)
14. Estimated financial requirement
15. Contact information of the research team (please provide information including phone/fax numbers, mobile numbers, and e-mail addresses of all team members)

For further information, contact:

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