



Climate, food and farming research network (CLIFF)

Call for proposals

PhD research grants on climate change in smallholder agriculture

Introduction

The Climate Food and Farming Research Network (CLIFF) is a new network initiated by the CGIAR Challenge Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) in collaboration with the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen. The aim of the research network is to generate new and rigorous knowledge, and facilitate the sharing of this knowledge, of climate change mitigation and related adaptation activities in small-scale farming and food systems in developing countries. We have a number of grants of up to \$3000 available for the current call. The grant is to cover fieldwork expenses for an enrolled doctoral student conducting a study within **Theme 1**, described below. The CLIFF PhD research grants have the purpose of building research capacity in developing countries by supporting existing doctoral students working within the three network themes.

Context and objectives

The changing global climate poses a significant threat to food security, livelihoods and the environment globally, in particular those who are already most vulnerable: the millions of rural poor in developing countries. Developing countries are particularly vulnerable to climate change as a large proportion of their populations are dependent upon agriculture to support their livelihoods. The overall goal for future research is thus to find ways to overcome the threats posed by a changing climate upon goals of achieving food security, enhancing livelihoods and improving environmental management. Communities will need to adapt their agricultural systems, whilst mitigation measures will be required to reduce the level of greenhouse gases in the

atmosphere. At the farm scale, climate change mitigation and adaptation can offer new opportunities for productive and sustainable land management practices.

Within this context, the CLIFF research network seeks to support and conduct research within the following themes:

Theme 1

Mitigation potential: Research to evaluate and document the technically and economically feasible GHG abatement potential of various agricultural practices and technologies and their synergies with adaptation

Theme 2

Monitoring and measuring: The development of standardized, widely accepted, credible and scientifically sound methodology to measure and monitor reduced GHG emissions at farm and landscape level

Theme 3

Incentive systems: Research to investigate how institutional arrangements and incentives available through the trade of carbon and other GHGs can benefit poor farmers

Requirements and eligibility

- Applicants must be enrolled in a doctoral program at a University
- For this call, research proposals must address aspects within **Theme 1**
- Research should be conducted of small scale farming systems in **developing countries**¹

¹ From the following regions: Latin America and the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, South and East Asia and the Pacific.

- We encourage applications from citizens of developing countries
- The proposed research should start no later than May 1st 2011
- The grant is to cover research expenses and not tuition or other fees related to the doctoral students degree.
- All applicants must submit a budget
- Applications will only be accepted in English
- Grant receivers will be expected to submit a short field-work report within two weeks of completion of field-work
- Grant receivers will be required to submit a report in the form of a scientific paper no later than six months after the completion of field-work
- Grant receivers will automatically become members of the CLIFF network. CLIFF network membership provides PhD students with excellent networking and collaborative opportunities, both with fellow students as well as leading researchers in their field
- Regarding intellectual property rights (IPR), CLIFF scientists and partners will not be allowed to publish papers that use only one dataset without prior written consent from the person responsible for the data collection. CLIFF will hold the primary rights to publish synthesis papers based on a number of grant receivers research. CLIFF scientists wanting to publish synthesis papers will, however, inform all participants about the proposed papers, and invite and include them as co-authors based on standard academic rules of co-authorship. All IPR issues will be made clear in the contract established with the grant receiver.

Research proposal guideline

The research proposal must be **no more than 2200 words**. The proposal must be in the following format:

1. Project title: Clear, concise and include the country of planned research
2. Problem and justification: Present the problem to be addressed by the research and justify by relating it to current knowledge and

how the proposed research will fill a knowledge gap

3. Objective and Research question/s: Present a concise overall objective and specify research questions related to this
4. Methodology: Describe how you plan to approach the research question and what type of methods you will use. Consider data needs and how data will be analysed and interpreted
5. Feasibility: Present and discuss any aspects that might be an obstacle for the research and how you might address this
6. Expected results
7. References
8. A time plan of planned activities

Proposal evaluation

Applications fulfilling the criteria stipulated above will be evaluated by researchers affiliated the CLIFF network. Over and above fulfilling these criteria, proposals will be evaluated primarily based upon their scientific quality and the feasibility of the research plan.

Application process

The following documents are required in order to send a complete application. Ensure that all these documents are submitted in pdf format.

1. Curriculum Vitae, including a very brief description of your PhD project
2. Research proposal as outlined above
3. Budget
4. Letter of support from PhD supervisor
5. Proof of enrolment in a PhD program

- The application, consisting of these five pdf files, must be submitted by e-mail by Dec 6th 2010 to myles@life.ku.dk

- Successful applicants will be notified ultimo December 2010

- If you have any queries, please contact Myles Oelofse myles@life.ku.dk

- You can read more about CLIFF here: www.cliff.life.ku.dk