

## **Innovation Marketplace: Highlighting Effective Collaboration between CSOs and CGIAR-Supported Centers**

### **Call for Applications**

The Secretariat of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) invites civil society organizations (CSOs) – including community-based organizations; local, national, and international NGOs; and universities – to apply for an opportunity to participate in the 2006 Innovation Marketplace with partners from the international Centers and Challenge Programs supported by the CGIAR. The event will take place during the CGIAR Annual General Meeting (AGM06), to be held at Washington, D.C., in the first week of December 2006. The purpose of the Innovation Marketplace is to acknowledge and learn from innovative collaboration between CSOs and the CGIAR.

We encourage CSOs and Center or Challenge Program partners who wish to pursue this opportunity to consider together whether one or more of your joint initiatives represent especially innovative, instructive and promising cases of CSO-CGIAR collaboration. If you decide on one or more good candidates, we invite you to prepare jointly brief descriptions of these – stressing their innovative features and potential for improvement and expansion – for submission by CSO partners.

- Based on your applications, an Advisory Group on the CGIAR-CSO Forum will select 25 cases to be featured in a poster exhibition at AGM06 on December 3-5.
- Each case must be presented by a single CSO representative as well as by a
- Center or Challenge Program researcher working closely with CSOs represented in the event.
- The CGIAR will contribute significantly to covering the costs of their participation.
- Only one case will be selected for any CSO.
- Up to five prizes of US\$30,000 each will be awarded to CSO organizations participating in the Innovation Marketplace.
- In addition, the 25 cases will feed into small-group discussions during the CSO/CGIAR Stakeholder Forum to be held at AGM06 on December 5. They may also serve as a source of ideas for major new initiatives, which should be designed to foster effective collaboration between CSOs and the CGIAR and will be funded on a competitive basis.

A full description of the process is provided below and is also available on the CGIAR Web site at:

[http://www.cgiar.org/meetings/agm06/agm06\\_stakeholder\\_cso.html](http://www.cgiar.org/meetings/agm06/agm06_stakeholder_cso.html)

## **Key Dates**

- September 15, 2006: Deadline for CSOs to submit applications and all supporting documents by email to [marketplace@cgiar.org](mailto:marketplace@cgiar.org).
- September 29, 2006: Announcement of the 25 cases chosen for inclusion in the Innovation Marketplace at AGM06.
- November 3, 2006: Deadline for receiving digital files of posters to be displayed in the Innovation Marketplace.
- December 3-5, 2006: CSO representatives participate in AGM06 with CGIAR collaborators and present their posters.
- December 5, 2006: Recipients of cash prizes (US\$30,000 each) announced and call for proposals launched to further CSO-CGIAR collaboration.
- January 29, 2007: Deadlines for CSOs and CGIAR partners to submit proposals for new initiatives.

## **Who Can Apply**

The Innovation Marketplace is open to all CSOs (including community-based organizations; local, national and international NGOs; and universities) that have taken part or currently collaborate in an initiative involving at least one CGIAR-supported Center, either directly or through a CGIAR Challenge Program.

## **How to Apply**

Applications should describe the following aspects of the collaborative initiative:

- Background
- Objective
- Expected outputs, outcomes and impacts
- CSO and CGIAR partners and their respective roles and contributions
- Innovative features of the collaboration
- Ideas for improving and expanding the collaboration

Applications may be submitted in English, French, or Spanish and should not exceed 1000 words (excluding the supporting letters mentioned below). An application from a CSO must include a supporting letter from a researcher in the collaborating CGIAR Center or Challenge Program, confirming that the organizations were or are linked through a partnership.

Each applicant must be committed to taking part in all stages of the Innovation Marketplace, including preparation of a poster, if the application is selected, and participation in the CSO-CGIAR Forum at AGM06. This commitment must be indicated in a message accompanying the application, which should also specify the name and affiliation of the CSO representative who would participate, if selected.

Applications and supporting documents must be sent via email to [marketplace@cgiar.org](mailto:marketplace@cgiar.org) by the September 15 deadline. Any inquiries about the Innovation Marketplace should be

sent to this email address. Applications that do not meet one or more of the requirements outlined above will not be considered.

### **The Selection Process**

Eligible applications will be evaluated by the CGIAR's 15-member CSO Advisory Group, which was formed early in 2006. Group members will score the applications based on the merit criteria listed below:

- Relevance of the partnership to the generation of important outputs, development outcomes and impact (15 points)
- Innovative character of the partnership approach and process (10 points)
- Relevance to other contexts and potential for scaling up (10 points)
- Evidence of joint decision making in the partnership (10 points)
- Significance of the initiative for strengthening the capacity of partners (5 points)

Scoring will be based solely on the application document. The 25 applications with the highest scores will be selected, and each of the corresponding 25 CSO delegates will be invited to prepare and present a poster in English and participate in the CSO-CGIAR Forum at AGM06. Simultaneously, the CGIAR Secretariat will confer with the Centers to determine which researchers should accompany their CSO partners at AGM06. Each CSO and CGIAR delegate will receive support (up to US\$3,000) for travel to Washington, D.C., and lodging.

### **Preparation and Presentation of Posters**

Each of the 25 applicants selected to participate in the Innovation Marketplace will be asked to prepare English-language posters, in collaboration with their Center partners, highlighting the innovative character of their partnership and ideas for improving and expanding it. Participants are required to send Microsoft Word files of the text of their posters via email to [marketplace@cgiar.org](mailto:marketplace@cgiar.org) by November 3 (also, please send any inquiries about the Innovation Marketplace to this email address). A booklet containing the content of the posters will be printed for dissemination at the Innovation Marketplace and as an aid to discussion in the CSO-CGIAR Forum.

### **Cash Prizes**

The CSO Advisory Group will select up to four recipients of cash prizes (US\$30,000 each), based on the application materials, the poster and an investigation of the initiative conducted with CSO delegates and CGIAR collaborators at AGM06. In addition, the partnership that receives the most votes cast by AGM06 participants will be given the People's Choice Award (also with a cash value of \$30,000). Prize winners will be announced at a ceremony on December 5. CSO delegates must attend the ceremony in order to receive an award. During the ceremony, the CGIAR will also announce a call for proposals for new initiatives aimed at strengthening CSO-CGIAR collaboration.