



Call for Expressions of Interest:

Scoping studies on agricultural innovations in 12 countries

(Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Philippines, S India, Nepal, Morocco, Guatemala, Peru)

Scope of call

CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment is seeking Expressions of Interest (EoIs) from research teams interested in carrying out initial scoping reviews on the adoption and impact of agricultural innovations in a set of twelve countries (Ghana, Mali, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Malawi, Philippines, S India, Nepal, Morocco, Guatemala and Peru).

Researchers from CGIAR institutions are **not** eligible to apply with an EoI. We anticipate each of these scoping reviews being funded with a research grant of up to \$250,000 USD per country.

Background

Innovations that raise the productivity and/or increase the resilience of food systems are an essential component of development pathways for most countries. [CGIAR](#) is a global network of research centers implementing a strategy of “Transforming food, land, and water systems in a climate crisis.” At the heart of the strategy is the development and dissemination of innovations that can contribute to such transformations, cutting across the specialized domains of crop and animal agriculture, and the management of natural resources. By focusing on some key geographies for the global agricultural research system we can collect high-quality data on the adoption of innovations at a national policy-relevant scale, and with an eye on the long-term dynamics of change.

The CGIAR Standing Panel on Impact Assessment (SPIA) is an external, impartial panel of experts in impact assessment appointed by, and accountable to, the CGIAR System Council. SPIA is responsible for providing rigorous evidence of the reach and causal impacts of CGIAR research and for providing independent strategic advice to the CGIAR System on efficient and effective impact assessment methods and practices. In May 2023, the CGIAR System Council approved the SPIA workplan for the period 2024 – 2030 in which a central pillar is the scaling up and institutionalization of SPIA's portfolio of country studies. These are studies aiming to quantify the *reach* of the CGIAR system in high-priority countries around the world. To date, SPIA has developed and implemented this approach in four countries: Ethiopia, Uganda, Vietnam and Bangladesh. We refer to this group as *Phase 1* countries. We are also expanding this research agenda to four new countries (i.e. *Phase 2* – countries of Colombia, Nigeria, Egypt, and India) and, through this call for EoIs, carrying out scoping reviews in a further 12 countries (*Phase 3* countries).

Deliverables

1. A detailed stock-take excel table that lists CGIAR innovations (see definitions below and guidance document [here](#)).
2. A narrative report (approx. 20 pages) summarizing the methodology and findings of the stocktake process
3. A short report on the data landscape in the country, focusing on an evaluation of potential sources of panel survey data that could be used for tracking adoption of innovations in future

Process

EoIs are welcomed following the steps in the timeline outlined in the box.

SPIA will evaluate the submissions and invite interested researchers to join more detailed discussions about potential full proposals. Criteria for evaluation of EoIs (and eventually the full proposals) include the following:

- expertise of the proposed team (considering country, thematic, and methodological expertise)
- research and public-good track record of researchers in the proposed team
- demonstrated record of publications in high-quality journals

*Please do not hesitate to contact SPIA with any questions you have about preparing an EoI.
Emailing spia@cgiar.org is the best way to reach us – we will get back to you promptly.*

- synergies with existing work
- evidence of motivation
- proposed methods and approaches, within the framework described in this call

Any full proposals that are eventually requested and received will then be subjected to rigorous external peer-review. While Eols for all Phase 3 countries will be due on 31 January 2024, invitations and deadlines for full proposals will be staggered over several months. Successful contracts will be for a two-year period starting in 2025.

Format

Eols are to be submitted using our web form which will have fields as follows: description of key individual(s); country, or set of countries, the application is for (Eols can address more than one country study); specific role sought (full study, advisory, operational, other); comparative advantage; proposed methods and approaches. The Eols will be short (less than 1,000 words) and standardized in format.

Webinar for applicant Q&A

SPIA Senior Research Fellow James Stevenson and SPIA Chair Travis Lybbert will be hosting a webinar on Tuesday 9 Jan 2024. We will give a short presentation and answer any questions that prospective Eol applicants may have. [Please submit questions in advance here](#). The website for this Call will be updated with additional clarifications and FAQs to reflect this virtual discussion.

What is a SPIA country scoping review?

In the period 2015 – 2022, SPIA developed and refined a set of common research activities that form SPIA’s country study approach, and that together result in comprehensive evidence of the reach of CGIAR innovations at the country level. The first step in this process is to develop a “stocktake” of innovations. The methodology for doing this is described in guidelines [here](#).

“Stocktaking” is a systematic inquiry into the scope of CGIAR research activity over the preceding 20+ years, with the goal of finding a longlist of CGIAR-related innovations and policy influence claims. This aims to identify those innovations that are expected to have reached sufficiently large scale to be worthy of potential further investigation through field data collection. In the case of Phase 3 countries, SPIA would need to carry out additional fundraising in order to support any field data collection. Rather, we are supporting this initial scoping review (i.e. “stocktake-only”) with the goal of gaining important qualitative insights into the potential reach and impacts of CGIAR-related innovations.

Such an approach requires a combination of in-person engagement in-country and can be carried out largely by early-career researchers with the appropriate support and guidance of senior, experienced researchers for advice on methodology. The senior researchers’ role is essential to bring convening power and connections to open doors at a high level (in government, within the community of research funders, CGIAR leadership, etc). One independent academic institution with a clear public goods mission will be in the lead in each country.

Country study support team

A core country study support team, directly supervised by the SPIA Chair and employed through CGIAR center hosting arrangements will provide support on the stocktaking methodology, and help broker linkages with CGIAR research staff where needed.

Phase 3 Eol timeline – Key dates

ASAP: [Register for a webinar here](#)

By 5 Jan 2024: Submit questions for us to address in the webinar

9 Jan: Webinar with Travis Lybbert and James Stevenson (9am EST / 2pm London / 5pm Nairobi / 7:30pm Delhi)

15 Jan: Eol application portal goes live

31 Jan: Deadline for Eol submission

Feb-May: Clarifying discussions between SPIA and Eol researchers

June-July: Invitations will go out to prepare full proposals

Sept-Oct: Full proposals due

Oct-Nov: SPIA review of proposals and decisions

Dec 2024 - Jan 2025: Contracting

Contracts to begin ASAP after 1 Jan 2025