

Call for Proposals on

## **The Political Economy of Food System Transformation**

### **I. Overview**

The food system transformation agenda has been at the forefront of government and donor policy agendas for a number of years. Yet such transformation, whether measured by the creation of more productive agriculture, more job opportunities in agri-food systems, more nutritious and diverse diets, or a more sustainable use of natural resources, inevitably involves trade-offs over time, across priorities, and among different constituencies. Such constituencies include not only domestic actors, such as governments, the private sector, and consumers, but also those in the international research and development communities. Addressing such trade-offs to bypass policy inertia often requires tackling political economy constraints and identifying whose power and interests are at stake, what ideas and narratives exist to bolster those interests, and which types of institutions help mediate, amplify, or marginalize the legitimacy of those interests.

The CGIAR Research Program on Policies, Institutions, and Markets (PIM) is issuing a call for proposals for research projects that help identify political economy constraints to food system transformation and offer recommendations for tackling those constraints. PIM will support up to three projects under this call, with a maximum amount of \$50,000 allocated to each one. The duration of the proposed project will be approximately 18 months, starting in January 2020. Additional resources may be available in 2021, although no decision can be made on this until the final quarter of 2020.

### **II. Topics for Consideration**

The call is open to work on political economy at the sub-national, national, regional, and/or global levels as long as the level of analysis is appropriate for the proposed research question(s). A diverse range of topics are welcomed. A non-exhaustive list of issues that are of interest to PIM include the political economy of the following:

- Seed systems
- Public sector budget prioritization
- Healthy, sustainable diet transformation
- Transboundary resource management
- Migration and livelihood strategies, especially in fragile settings
- Technology policy
- Mutual accountability frameworks, such as Joint Sector Reviews

### III. Criteria for Selection and Eligibility

Proposals will be evaluated by relevant cluster and flagship leaders within PIM, as well as at least one other person with broad knowledge of the themes of the call. The following criteria will be used to select the winning proposals:

- Attention to all the submission guidelines provided in section V below
- The research question is problem-driven, meaning it is relevant to a genuine policy challenge where political economy analysis can contribute to policy solutions;
- The proposal clearly articulates the methodological approaches that will be used and which political economy hypotheses will be analyzed;
- The activity will result in at least two deliverables (paper and policy brief) that can be completed within the desired time frame;
- The proposal identifies one or more partnerships with stakeholders who can enhance the research's relevance and/or impact;
- The project has clear relevance to the [PIM Portfolio](#);
- To be eligible for submission, the prime applicant must be a staff member of a CGIAR center other than IFPRI. IFPRI colleagues can, however, be part of the research team.
- Cross-Center and cross-CRP collaborations are encouraged.

### IV. Submission Timeline

- **25 October** – Deadline for submissions. Please submit by 11:59PM (EST) to the following email address: [PIM-PECall-2019@cgiar.org](mailto:PIM-PECall-2019@cgiar.org)
- **30 November** – Applicants will be notified about the outcome of their submissions

### V. Submission Guidelines

All proposals should be no longer than 8 pages, single-spaced, using 12-point font and needs to include the items below:

- ***Activity title***
- ***Principal investigator(s)***
- ***Research team and competencies***
- ***Geographic focus***

- **Abstract of activity**
- **Research questions that the activity addresses and its policy relevance**
- **Contributions of a political economy perspective**
- **Methodology**
- **Expected impacts of the research** - a short description of the specific outcomes pursued by the activity and of the actions (outreach, etc.) that will be implemented to ensure achievement of these outcomes
- **Key Partners** (with a description of their roles)
- **Key Deliverables** (including for each: expected year of publication, title, nature/format, geographic focus, who is responsible for/contributing to the deliverable, whether there is gender analysis)
- **Detailed budget**, clearly separating the expenses of each partner and the expected sources of funding, per partner.
- **Details about whether the research will involve human subjects.** This is the case of any research that may involve questionnaires, surveys, health interventions, access to secondary datasets with personal identifying information, and any kind of fieldwork. If yes, please indicate the status of ethical clearance by an Institutional Review Board (IRB). Mention which IRB has been, or will be, solicited for conducting the review. If a national clearance is required (e.g., Tanzania...), please also include the status of that process.

An appendix should also be included with i) bibliography for works cited in the proposal and ii) 2-page CV of all the principal investigators. These appendix items do not count towards the 8-page limit.