

**Call for Expressions of Interest
for USAID agricultural development projects to join a
community of practice and to pilot new indicators to develop a
project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI)
as part of the Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project, Phase 2**

Led by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI)

The growing importance of women's empowerment as an explicit or implicit objective in many agricultural development projects calls for a measure of women's empowerment that agricultural development projects can use to diagnose key areas of women's (and men's) disempowerment, design appropriate strategies to address deficiencies, and monitor project outcomes related to women's empowerment.¹ The [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) (WEAI)², a new survey-based index designed to measure empowerment in five domains in agriculture (production, resources, income, community leadership, time use) based on interviews of a primary male and a primary female adult in the same household, has been used to monitor progress in the Feed the Future Initiative of the US Government, but this population-based instrument requires adaptation to be suitable for individual projects.

With this call, we are inviting agricultural development projects to participate in piloting and validating a **project-level Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (pro-WEAI)**, and to become part of a Community of Practice on measuring women's empowerment in agricultural development projects. This effort has the potential to have broader applicability beyond agricultural projects. Project teams joining this effort would benefit from:

- technical support;
- strengthening of their M&E system and team;
- real-time data on how one's project is performing vis-à-vis women's empowerment outcomes;
- real-time analysis and advice for strengthening or realigning project activities for women's empowerment, if needed.

The project level instrument will be designed and tested in a second round of the [Gender, Agriculture, and Assets Project](#) (GAAP), with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and supplemented by financial and technical input from USAID and the CGIAR Program on [Agriculture for Nutrition and Health](#) (A4NH). This second round, called GAAP2, will run for five years (2015-2020) and will build on the experience of the Gender, Agriculture and Assets Project (GAAP, 2010-2014), which worked with a set of agricultural development projects to incorporate gender into their M&E frameworks and evaluate their impacts on men's and women's assets.

¹ Please note that in this document, the terms activity and project are used interchangeably, not using USAID-specific definitions for those terms (see USAID's ADS 200 for those USAID-specific definitions). Both USAID activities and projects may apply.

² The [Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index](#) (WEAI) was developed by USAID, IFPRI, and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI). For more information, see <https://www.ifpri.org/topic/weai-resource-center>

GAAP2 expands the focus of GAAP1 to examine not only assets, but also other aspects of women's empowerment, and will specifically include activities to work with projects **to develop and test tools to measure women's empowerment** within agricultural development projects and to enable projects **to use these tools to design, modify, and assess their activities** to empower women.

GAAP2 will be led by Drs. Agnes Quisumbing, Ruth Meinzen-Dick, and Nancy Johnson of IFPRI, will involve researchers and practitioners such as Drs. Cheryl Doss of Yale University and Deborah Rubin of Cultural Practice, LLC, and will include quantitative and qualitative expertise from economics, nutrition, sociology, and demography.

Although much of the focus will be on developing a quantitative measure of pro-WEAI, all projects will employ both qualitative and quantitative techniques to understand and measure aspects of women's empowerment, and how they are affected by agricultural projects.

Call for Expressions of Interest

Objective

To develop and test tools to measure women's empowerment within agricultural development projects and to enable projects to use these tools to design, modify, and assess their activities to empower women.

The portfolio

We are looking for a portfolio of agricultural development projects with different:

- project objectives (income, food security, nutrition/health),
- commodity foci (crops, livestock) and
- approaches (value chains, production for home consumption) (see Table 1 below).

To the greatest extent possible, these projects will be located in South Asia or Africa south of the Sahara in one of the following countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and/or India (Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh).

Ideally, projects will have an objective (explicit or implicit) of empowering women.

Table 1: GAAP2 Portfolio

	Nutrition/Health Objective	Value Chain/Income Objective
Crop focus		
Livestock (inc. dairy) focus		

Funding Available

10 projects, funded at two levels: six projects up to \$100,000 and four projects up to \$75,000.

Who Can Apply

Agricultural development organizations and/or their M&E partners from both developed and developing countries are invited to apply. Projects will be selected based on the extent to which they meet the minimum criteria and contribute to a balanced overall portfolio. Criteria include:

- Fit in one of the project categories from the typology: either a crop project or a livestock/dairy project with a value chain/income, improved nutrition/health or food security objective.
- Be located in South Asia or Africa south of the Sahara in one of the following countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Ethiopia, Uganda, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and/or India (Bihar, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh).
- Have a rigorous M&E plan (including a clear theory of change (TOC) and a plan to use both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. The existence of a well-designed impact evaluation plan is a plus. Projects must be able to integrate the pro-WEAI pilot into their M&E frameworks and plans and those should be included in an addendum to existing M&E plans.
- Eagerness to collaborate with the GAAP2 team and be an active participant in a community of practice regarding pro-WEAI; willingness to co-finance pro-WEAI activities from own project funds or to offer other in-kind support.

- Fit the GAAP2 schedule in terms of data collection (two rounds of data collection – one to collect the baseline for the pro-WEAI by first or second quarter of 2016 and the second, generally 12-24 months afterwards).

Process

If you are interested in applying, please submit a concept note (see concept note template below). The concept notes will be reviewed by the GAAP team and external experts. A smaller set of projects will be invited to submit full proposals. All projects invited to submit full proposals must demonstrate that they meet the selection criteria. Which projects are ultimately selected will depend on their potential to contribute to the overall portfolio. Successful projects will be invited to attend an inception workshop, to be held in Addis Ababa, in early 2016 (date TBD).

All projects that submit a concept note will be invited to join the GAAP2-pro-WEAI community of practice, a virtual, facilitated learning community. Participation in the community of practice is free but does not involve any financial support from GAAP2. Those projects that are only interested in joining the community of practice should submit the Cover Sheet and Case for Support (only questions 1-4) but do not need to submit a Timeline or Estimated Budget.

Deadlines

For USAID partners: Friday, October 2nd, 2015 – concept memo templates due to IFPRI

Submission instructions

- Combine all documents (coversheet; case for support; budget; and timeline) into one PDF document, with cover sheet as first page
- The entire submission, including cover page, but excluding annexes, should not exceed three pages. Please do not use font size smaller than 11. Margins must be at least 1 inch.
- List your organization's name and the page number on each page of the submission
- E-mail submission to the GAAP2 team at: IFPRI-GAAP@cgiar.org

Submission deadline: **Friday, October 2, 2015 for USAID partners**

Concept note template

I. Cover sheet

Name of project	
Geographic location(s)	
Organization implementing the project	
Main funders of project	
Name of main contact person for the project (first and last)	
Organization of contact person	
Title of contact person	
Division/Department of contact person	
Email address of contact person	
Telephone number of contact person	
Mailing address of contact person	
Organization in charge of M&E (if different from prime implementer)	
Name of M&E lead	
Email address of M&E lead	
Name of gender lead (and name of organization if different from implementer applying)	
Email address of gender lead	

Submission details:

Date submitted	
Submitted by contact name (first and last)	
Submitted by contact title	
Submitted by contact email address	
Submitted by telephone number	
How did you hear about the funding opportunity?	

II. Case for Support

Please write a short case for your project, including the following:

1. Title of the project
2. Project scope and objectives (commodity focus, main objectives (food security, income, nutrition, women's empowerment, etc.))
3. Description of project and intervention (geographic location, target groups and target number of beneficiaries to be reached, approach, overall total estimated cost for activity)
4. Brief description of monitoring and evaluation plans, including methods and resources (details to be provided in requested annex)
5. Reasons your project would be suitable for piloting new indicators for measuring women's empowerment
6. Collaborative approaches and partnership mechanisms.
7. Attach a copy of your monitoring and evaluation plans, including methods and resources (human and financial). This does not count towards the 3 page limit

III. Timeline and Estimated Budget

Projects participating in GAAP2 are expected to be part of the initiative for a minimum of three years, so that baseline and endline data can be collected and analysed. For projects selected to be in the portfolio, GAAP2 will provide 6 grants at \$100,000 each and 4 grants at \$75,000 each. This is expected to be a top-up to existing M&E or impact assessment budgets to enable piloting of women's empowerment indicators within current M&E plans. The difference in funding levels reflects the possibility that some organizations will require a smaller top-up to their evaluation budgets. In your estimated budget, please include the existing amount budgeted for M&E or impact evaluation from existing project funds or other donors.

Please include the following:

1. Timeline for the data collection in the project's M&E plan, including times of baseline and endline data collection
2. Direct costs of the research - staff (salary and salary-related costs), consumables, travel, equipment, etc.
3. Associated indirect costs.