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CFP1 – Call Template

Call for Partnership (CFP) for Gender-Responsive Digital Climate Advisory (DCAS) Assessment Study and Training in WESTERN CENTRAL AND NORTHERN AFRICA REGION

GCA Food Security Program

CFP Ref.: CFP-0022

CLOSING DATE: 30 May 2025

CLOSING TIME: NOT LATER THAN 16:00 hours (04:00 p.m. o'clock), Central European Time (CET)

PROPOSALS RECEIVED AFTER THE CLOSING DATE AND TIME SHALL NOT BE CONSIDERED.



Contents

Key terms and Acronyms	3
1. Background	4
1.1. Introduction to this Call for Partnership (CFP)	4
1.2. Introduction to the Global Center of Adaptation.....	4
2. Project Context	4
3. Sub-Grant Project	5
3.1. Project Outcomes & Outputs	5
4. Training Event Logistics and Timeline	6
4.1. Responsibility	6
4.2. Critical Timeline	7
4.3. Financial Responsibility	7
5. Alignment with GCA Values and Commitment	7
6. Submission Guidelines	7
6.1. How to Apply	7
6.2. Process Overview.....	8
7. Selection Criteria & Evaluation	8
7.1. Selection Criteria	9
7.2. Exclusionary Criteria	11
7.3. Evaluation	11
Annexes.....	12
Annex 1: Sub-Grant Project Document.....	12
Annex 2: Partner Information Document	12
Annex 2a: Budget & Financial Reporting Template	12



Key terms and Acronyms

CSDAT Climate Smart Digital Adaptation Technologies are digitally enabled tools and systems designed to support climate-resilient decision-making, adaptive capacity building, and sustainable development by leveraging data, automation, artificial intelligence, and mobile platforms to address climate-related risks in sectors such as agriculture.

DCAS Digital Climate Information and Advisory Services are tools, platforms, or activities that integrate climate information into agricultural decision-making, helping agricultural producers and other value chain actors to build resilience to climate change impacts that may threaten present and future food security of households in particular and overall agri-food systems.

DAAP: Digital Agriculture Adaptation Profile

PMU: Project Monitoring Unit

PIU: Project Implementation Unit

IFI: International Financial Institutions

MDB: Multilateral Development Bank

TTL: Team Task Leader

1. Background

1.1. Introduction to this Call for Partnership (CFP)

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) invites registered non-profit organizations- including local and international non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, universities, and companies limited by guarantee- to submit proposals for conducting an impact assessment on Climate Smart Digital Adaptation and Training (CSDAT) and its role in gender integration in Africa. This study is being implemented by GCA with financial support from Global Affairs Canada as part of the efforts to promote gender-responsive design and implementation of digitalization to facilitate adaptation of African agriculture to climate change and promote resilience of the food system.

1.2. Introduction to the Global Center of Adaptation

The Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is an international organization that works as a solutions broker to catalyze action and support for adaptation solutions, from the international to the local, in partnership with the public and private sectors, to ensure we learn from each other and work together for a climate-resilient future. Adapting to the impacts of climate change provides a “win-win” for livelihoods, food security, water supply, health, security, and economic growth. The work of GCA elevates the visibility and political importance of climate adaptation and facilitates solutions, such as smarter investments, new technologies, and better planning to become more resilient to climate-related threats. GCA is a rapidly growing organization with offices in Abidjan, Beijing, Dhaka, Groningen, and Rotterdam.

GCA's ambitious 2020-2025 business plan and strategy have three pillars:

- Programs: Food Security; Using Nature for more resilient infrastructure; Water for Urban Growth and Resilience; Climate Finance; Youth Leadership.
- Knowledge: Building adaptation knowledge globally through cutting edge products such as the State and Trends in Adaptation Report and the Adaptation Knowledge Portal.
- Advocacy and Awareness: Formulating policy messages to move the global, regional, and local adaptation agendas forward.

2. Project Context

With financial support from Global Affairs, Canada, GCA will contribute to gender transformation and equity in the scaling up of digital tools to promote climate adaptation technologies and innovations in the design and implementation of agricultural and rural development investment projects across Africa. It will contribute to targeted interventions that empower women farmers through gender-responsive implementation of Climate Smart Digital Adaptation Technologies (CSDAT) by IFIs, and Project Implementation Units, overseeing investment projects, among other stakeholders

This GCA project will generate insights by identifying gender gaps in the implementation of CSDAT-related components of investment projects to contribute to the integration of gender-responsive approaches that prioritize the voices of women farmers, producer associations, and cooperatives in future projects. This will ensure that efforts at promoting climate adaptation not only enhance resilience but also promote equitable opportunities for women in climate-smart agriculture.

3. Sub-Grant Project

The purpose of this call is to seek partnership opportunities for evaluating the gender-responsiveness of CSDAT interventions across Eastern and Southern Africa. The assignment will generate evidence-based insights by conducting research on gender gaps in adaptation, in both ongoing & completed projects where Digital Climate Information and Advisory Services (DCAS) has been implemented and use the findings of the assessment study to develop a training course and organize and conduct hands-on training sessions on Gender-Responsive DCAS training on adaptation of African agriculture. By examining how these technologies address gender disparities and contribute to building inclusive climate resilience, the partnership will provide critical insights into their effectiveness and areas for improvement.

3.1. Project Outcomes & Outputs

Persistent gender gaps in access to, use of, and decision-making over CSDAT stem from entrenched socio-economic, cultural, and structural inequalities. Understanding how these disparities shape differentiated experiences of and responses to climate change is essential for enhancing the design and delivery of CSDAT. This partnership project will contribute to addressing gender disparities in agricultural and rural development in Africa and, promote inclusive climate resilience in agricultural systems. The Gender-Responsive Digital Climate Advisory (DCAS) Assessment Study and Training will strengthen the integration of gender-responsive approaches in climate change adaptation across Eastern and Southern Africa region. The outputs will enhance DCAS integration into IFI investment and their subsequent implementation to ensure greater uptake, inclusive, equitable and impactful climate-smart agricultural interventions.

<p>Output 1</p>	<p>A comprehensive review of the integration of gender responsiveness in the design and implementation of DCAS in selected IFI projects (ongoing and completed) Western, Central and Northern Africa is conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The selection of the IFI projects which should be representative of such activities in these regions (minimum of 3 projects), will be done in consultation with GCA. b) The review should also include Regional DCAS trainings previously conducted by GCA in Western, Central and Northern Africa. c) The partner also needs to consult with stakeholders in the region to identify opportunities, challenges, and lessons learned in the implementation of Gender-responsive DCAS.
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Output 1.1	A report on the review of current state of the integration of gender-responsiveness in the design and implementation of DCAS in IFI-projects and recommendations for improvement is produced.
Output 1.2	Raw data from the studies, including qualitative and quantitative methods used, is compiled and submitted.
Output 2	Validation and dissemination sessions with relevant stakeholders are organized to share findings and gather feedback to revise report.
Output 2.1	A report summarizing the stakeholder consultation, validation and dissemination of the study findings is produced.
Output 3	Training materials developed - based on the study and stakeholder feedback -to support the integration of gender considerations into the design and delivery of DCAS in IFI and related investment projects.
Output 4	Targeted in-person training and knowledge exchange sessions are conducted to strengthen the capacity of forty (40) officials from PMU/PIUs and IFIs and related stakeholders.
Output 4.1	A detailed proceedings report documenting the capacity strengthening sessions is produced.
Output 4.2	A short video capturing key moments and activities from the training event is developed and disseminated.

4. Training Event Logistics and Timeline

4.1. Responsibility

The partner will be responsible for the following:

- Ensure all necessary logistical arrangements are made for training event and a hybrid validation workshop including venue booking, accommodation, transportation, English/French interpretation and catering.
- Prepare logistics guide, including the proposed list of participants for the two training events and a draft agenda, subject to approval by the GCA.
- Prepare a concept note for sharing with potential partners, subject to approval by the GCA.
- Secure the venue and any services required for the two training events.
- Coordinate and facilitate participants' attendance, including travel, visa, accommodation, and per diem.
- Training Delivery: Execute the training events in accordance with the agenda prior approved by GCA, ensuring facilitation is participatory, engaging, and adapted to the regional context.



4.2. Critical Timeline

- The studies and consultations are expected to be completed by **August 2025** at the latest.
- The validation of the findings is expected to be carried out in hybrid (online and in-person) by **September 2025**.
- The training/capacity strengthening session is expected to be carried out in person in a country in Kigali, Rwanda in **November 2025**.

4.3. Financial Responsibility

- The budget to be submitted by the partner should cover the cost of all the activities/events mentioned above, including flight tickets, visa, accommodation, and per diem for all participants.

5. Alignment with GCA Values and Commitment

- Demonstrated support of the core values of GCA and its commitment to climate action and adaptation;
- Active engagement in partnerships and initiatives with, inter alia, United Nations, intergovernmental, national, subnational, industry or sectoral, non-governmental and other related organizations in support of climate, environmental and/or social causes;
- Demonstrated support of the principles of sustainable development, including inclusion and social and environmental corporate responsibility;
- Compliance with recognized environmental and social standards.
- Data collection and analysis are to be carried out in line with ethical standards and data protection rules that need to be documented so that the rights of third parties are not violated, adverse effects are reduced to a minimum, resources are not wasted, and misuse of scientific findings is prevented. This includes the informed consent of respondents is to be sought for participation.

6. Submission Guidelines

6.1. How to Apply

- Only **registered non-profit organizations (e.g., CGIAR centers, INGO, NGO, CBO, Universities, Company Limited by Guarantee)** are eligible to receive a sub-grant from GCA.
- The organizations responding to this call **must meet the minimum eligibility criteria** and demonstrate their capacity to **implement all the technical criteria**.
- Proposals and all supporting documents must be **submitted as a PDF**, no later than, **30 May 2025, 04:00 p.m., Central European Time (CET)** to **subgrants@gca.org**, with copy to Oladimeji.Oladele@gca.org and Mercy.Nyambura@gca.org.
- Proposals **must include**:
 - **Annex 1:** Sub-Grant Project Document (proposal template) addressing the details outlined in this call.



- **Annex 2:** Completed Partner Information Document & minimum required documents.
- **Annex 2a:** Budget and Financial Report Template.
- **Important to note:**
 - All registered non-profit organizations are encouraged to respond to this call and complete the templates in as much detail as possible.
 - Responses to **Annex 1** will be considered even if there is a lack of detail or if the form is incomplete.
 - Responses to **Annex 2** will be considered even if some details are lacking, if justified.
 - The template serves as a tool for interested organizations to showcase their technical expertise and experience in response to the call.
 - Organizations need only meet the minimum eligibility criteria to be considered.
- Proposals received **after the closing** date and time **will not be considered**. Organizations will be notified once a decision about the Sub-Grant is made.
- For all questions or requests for additional information contact Oladimeji.Oladele@gca.org and Mercy.Nyambura@gca.org. The email subject heading should be clearly marked with the following information: **Call for Partnership – Gender-Responsive Digital Climate Advisory (DCAS) Assessment Study and Training in Western, Central and Northern Africa**
 - If an interested organization has concerns about completing the templates, please reach out.
- Proposals and all supporting documents must be drafted **in English**.
- GCA reserves the right to decline disclosure of the specificity of decision derived by GCA mission due to reasons related to confidentiality.
- GCA reserves the right to accept or reject any submissions, and to annul the selection process and reject all submissions at any time, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected implementing partners.

6.2. Process Overview

- After the deadline, all submissions will undergo an evaluation process.
 - The most suitable partner will be selected based on the evaluation outcomes.
- The selected partner will be contacted to conduct a due diligence assessment through in-depth meetings.

7. Selection Criteria & Evaluation

The evaluation's purpose is to assess the organization's eligibility, and the technical expertise of respondents. The evaluation consists of two sets of selection criteria:

(1) Minimum Eligibility Criteria

(2) Technical Expertise

The first section specifies the minimum eligibility criteria that an organization must meet

to qualify for the call. This set of criteria is evaluated on a pass/fail basis. Only organizations that pass this initial assessment will proceed to the next stage.

The technical expertise is evaluated based on the relevance and depth of experience and expertise in relation to the criteria outlined in the call, specifically how well these align with achieving the expected results.

7.1. Selection Criteria

Name	Description	Score
EC	Minimum Eligibility Criteria	Pass/Fail
EC1	Evidence of registered not-for-profit entity status with a legal presence and registration in the project country.	
EC2	Experience in the following: Empiric social science research and impact assessments, agricultural research and development, climate adaptation, gender, climate resilient foundation seed breeding and dissemination, seeds value chain development, digital agriculture and digitalization integration agrifood value chains, soil health and fertility research/mapping, and capacity building for climate resilient seeds system development.	
EC3	Experience in work in locations of interest to GCA (I.e., Africa, South Asia, Small Island Developing States).	
EC4	Established physical working presence (staff and registered office) in at least one of the project countries in Western, Central and Northern Africa.	
EC5	Demonstration of experience of at least ten (10) years in the assessment of similar projects and activities in Africa.	
TC	Technical Expertise	Max Score:
	Relevance of experience and expertise to achieve expected outcomes and outputs.	100
TC1	Relevance of organizational profile and experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Previous experience (at least 10 years) in conducting gender assessment in the areas of developing/breeding and disseminating climate information and agricultural advisory services; and leading digitalization of agricultural research and food systems in Africa. • Previous experience in conducting impact assessments using empiric methods in fields related to this CFP. • Knowledge of design and implementation of IFI projects. • At least 10 years of both institutional and project team experience in the areas of expertise listed above. 	30



TC2	<p>Relevance and strength of methodology and approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality and rigor of the methodological approach to ensure the scope of the project is fulfilled. • Level of innovation, suitability, clarity, structure and sequencing of the proposed methodology in achieving project objectives. The methodology should be methodologically robust, integrating both quantitative and qualitative approaches to ensure comprehensive analysis. • Previous experience applying the approach/methodology in similar projects to achieve related outputs/outcomes. The approach should include a participatory methodology that actively involves stakeholders, particularly women farmers and marginalized communities. • The gender approach should be explicitly outlined, ensuring the methodology integrates gender-responsive/transformational and intersectional perspectives. 	30
TC3	<p>Relevance of proposed activities to achieving expected outcome and outputs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level of detail, clarity and relevance of the proposed activities and work plan to achieve outcome and outputs. • Demonstration of a thorough understanding of the outcome and outputs—and the key tasks and activities required to achieve them. • Demonstrated ability to manage all logistical aspects of capacity building and training events effectively. • Included description of potential capacity building/training modules. • Demonstrated capacity/organizational credibility to convene all relevant stakeholders for capacity workshops and engagements. Experience of working and in convening relevant stakeholders on the ground must be shown. 	20
TC4	<p>Relevance of institutional and project team expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least one gender expert with 10 years of experience in gender impact research, gender-responsive agricultural extension services, preferably in CSDAT (including DCAS) or related services. • At least one social science and methods expert with at least 7 years of experience in impact assessments. • At least one member (preferably more) who is proficient in French language. 	15
TC5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alignment with GCA values and experience of alignment to GCA values & commitments. • Experience with partnerships engagement. 	5
	<p><i>Scoring for Criteria is based on maximum points. Grading for each criterion under technical expertise will be conducted using the following scale:..</i></p> <p><i>0 = not included, 2 = scarcely included, 4 insufficient, 6 good enough, 8 good, 10 excellent to above expectations</i></p>	



7.2. Exclusionary Criteria

GCA will not engage with any entity whose public image is severely compromised by past activity or advocacy in one of the categories below, or in other areas which may be deemed, at any given time, to reflect negatively on GCA.

Name	Description	Score
EXC	Exclusionary Criteria	Pass/Fail
EXC1	Systematic failure to demonstrate support of the core values of GCA and its commitment to climate action and adaptation.	
EXC2	The organization is not involved in illicit behavior, including organized crime, trafficking, corruption, terrorism or violations of internationally agreed sanctions.	
EXC3	A single organization may only be selected for one of the two calls for partnership Ref No: CFP-0021 and Ref No: CFP-0022. Both shall not be awarded to a single organization concurrently.	

7.3. Evaluation

After assessing whether organizations meet the minimum eligibility criteria, the organization with the highest score in the technical evaluation **will be considered** for the sub-grant. The scoring allows GCA to identify the most suitable partner.

A preliminary capacity assessment will be conducted based on the information provided in **Annex 2**. This assessment aims to identify organizational and programmatic risks and **will not impact** the evaluation scoring or partner selection.

The insights gained from this assessment **will inform the comprehensive due diligence assessment that the selected partner will undergo.**



Annexes

Annex 1: Sub-Grant Project Document

To be downloaded from website

Annex 2: Partner Information Document

To be downloaded from website

Annex 2a: Budget & Financial Reporting Template

To be downloaded from website