



# FEED THE FUTURE

The U.S. Government's Global Hunger & Food Security Initiative

## Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Crop Improvement Informational Webinar



Welcome and introductions by Monifa Morgan-Bell, program assistant

*March 19, 2020*



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UNIVERSITY

**KANSAS STATE**  
UNIVERSITY



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



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## An Introduction to the Innovation Lab for Crop Improvement

**Stephen Kresovich, Cornell and Clemson Universities**

*March 19, 2020*



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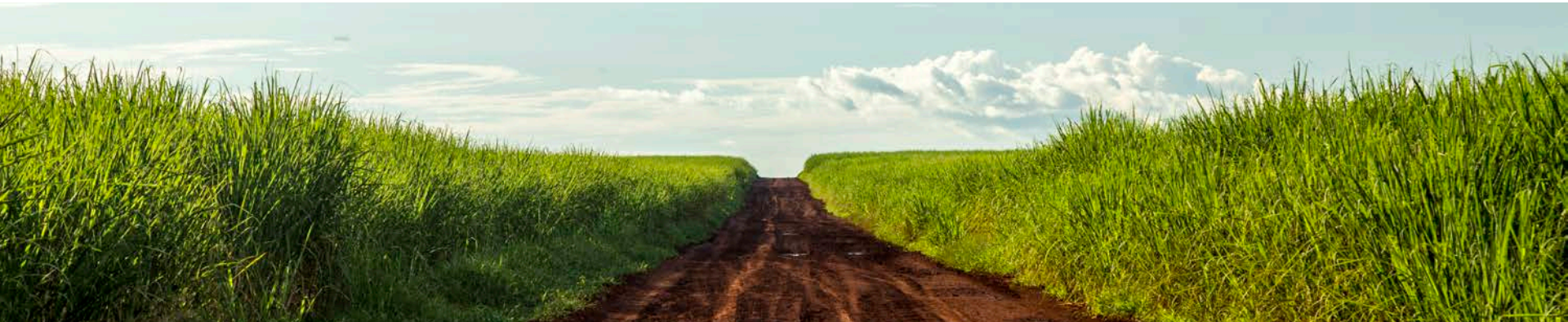


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## ILCI VISION

*Serve as a **support system** for NARIs in target regions to identify, develop, pilot and transfer appropriate tools, technologies, and methods, equipping them to deliver increased genetic gain and new varieties for key product profiles that advance economic growth, resilience, and nutritional development goals of the GFSS.*



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## TARGET CROPS



Roots



Tubers



Banana



Legumes



Sorghum



Millets



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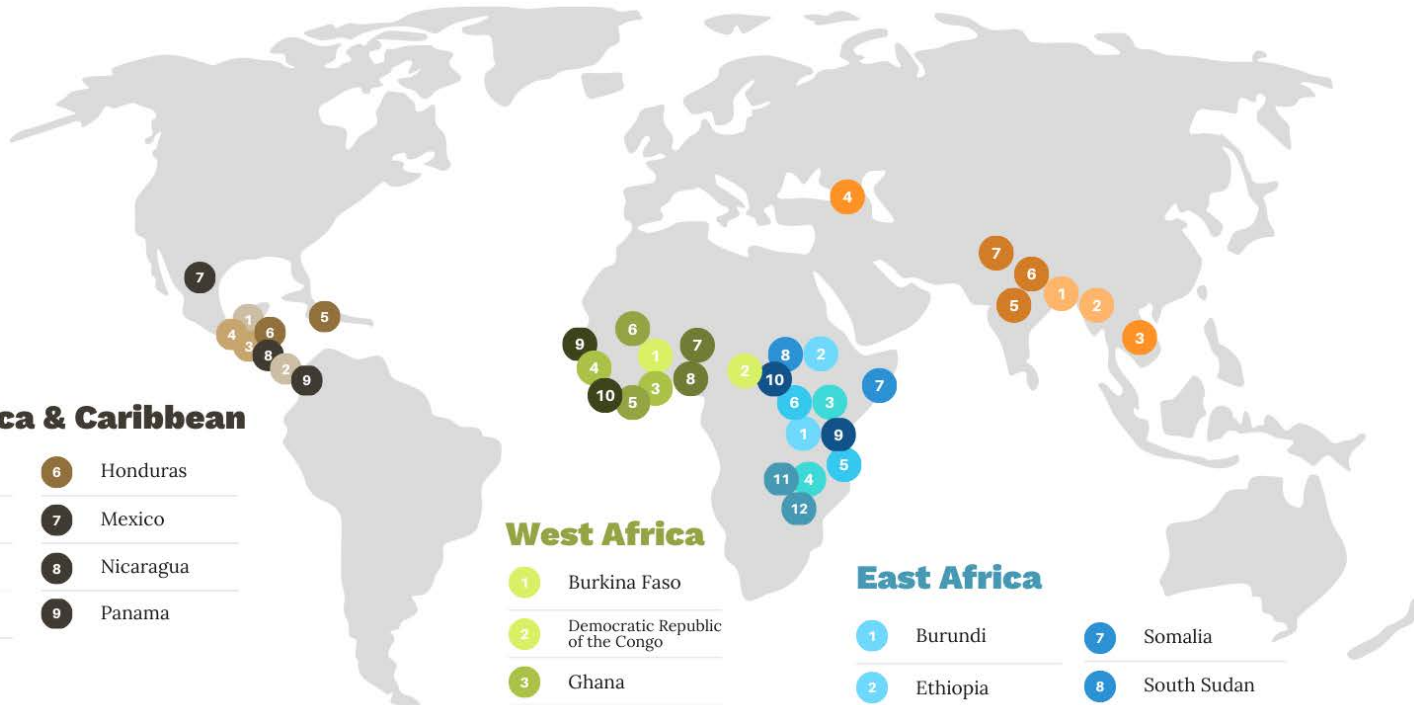


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## Latin America & Caribbean

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1 Belize      | 6 Honduras  |
| 2 Costa Rica  | 7 Mexico    |
| 3 El Salvador | 8 Nicaragua |
| 4 Guatemala   | 9 Panama    |
| 5 Haiti       |             |

## West Africa

- |                                    |
|------------------------------------|
| 1 Burkina Faso                     |
| 2 Democratic Republic of the Congo |
| 3 Ghana                            |
| 4 Guinea                           |
| 5 Liberia                          |
| 6 Mali                             |
| 7 Niger                            |
| 8 Nigeria                          |
| 9 Senegal                          |
| 10 Sierra Leone                    |

## East Africa

- |              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1 Burundi    | 7 Somalia     |
| 2 Ethiopia   | 8 South Sudan |
| 3 Kenya      | 9 Tanzania    |
| 4 Malawi     | 10 Uganda     |
| 5 Mozambique | 11 Zambia     |
| 6 Rwanda     | 12 Zimbabwe   |

## Asia

- |              |
|--------------|
| 1 Bangladesh |
| 2 Burma      |
| 3 Cambodia   |
| 4 Georgia    |
| 5 India      |
| 6 Nepal      |
| 7 Tajikistan |

**Feed the Future  
Innovation Lab for  
Crop Improvement**  
**38 eligible countries**



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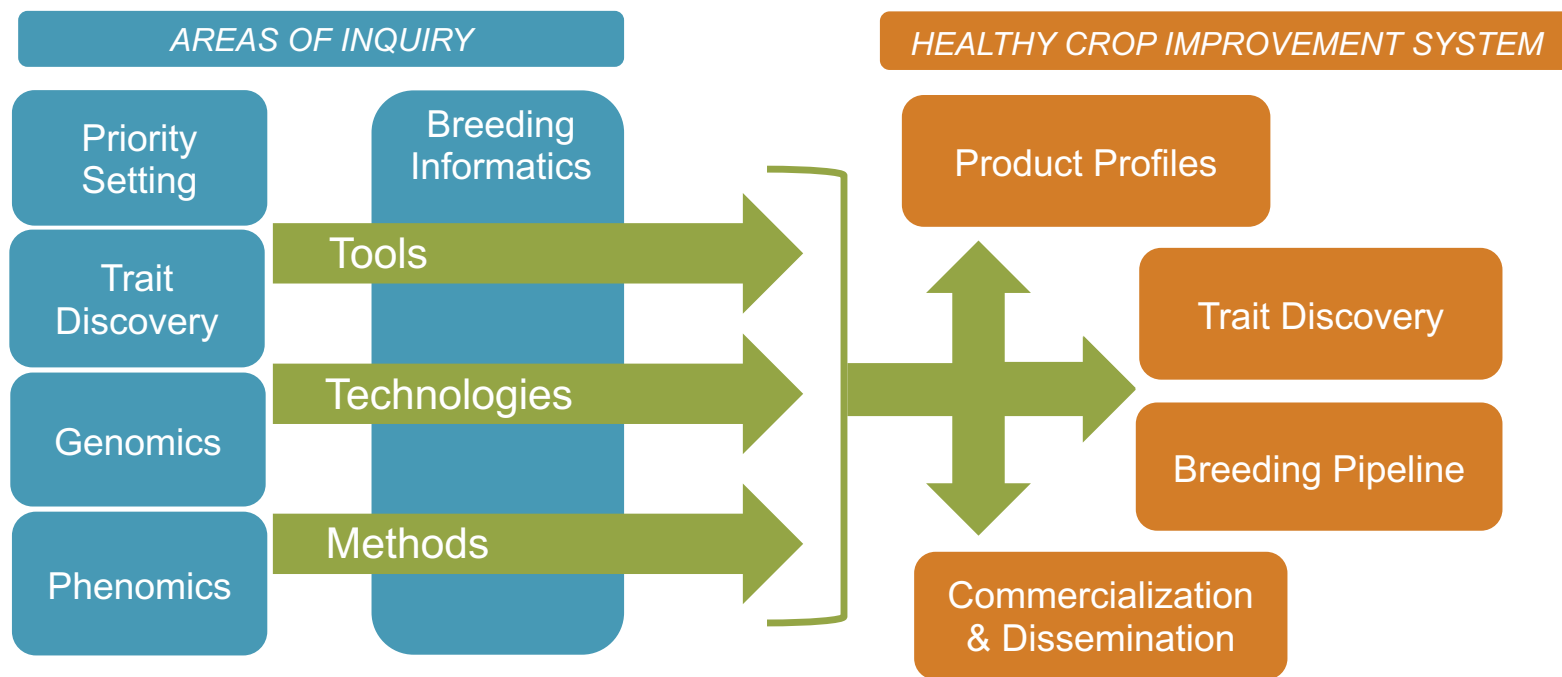
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## AREAS OF INQUIRY



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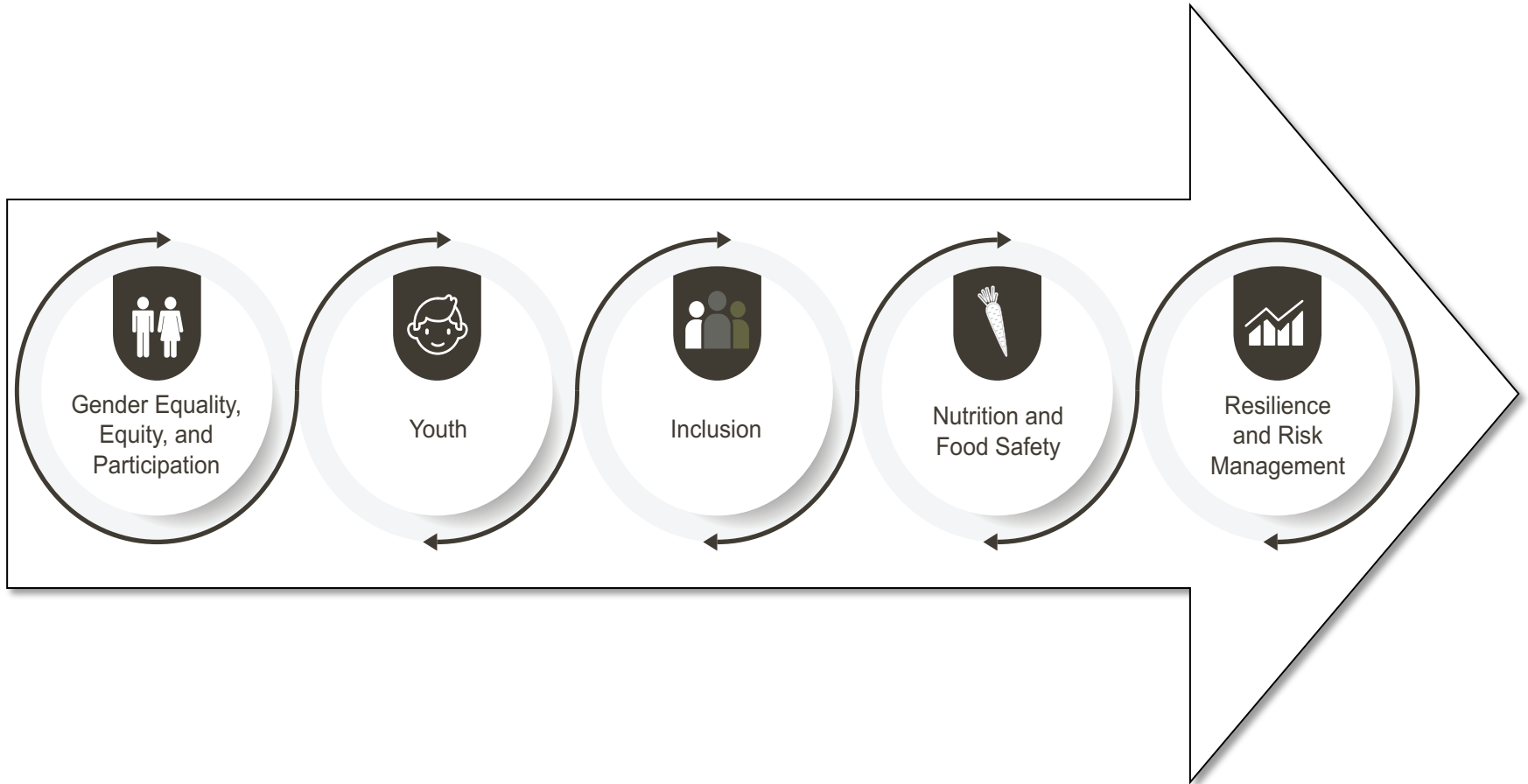
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## CROSS-CUTTING THEMES



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## Center of Innovation Request for Applications: An Overview



Hale Ann Tufan, Cornell University



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## CENTER OF INNOVATION (COI) VISION

ILCI centers around empowering NARIs to pave their own path towards sustainable, climate smart, equitable and effective crop improvement programs

We believe NARIs should be driving the “modernization” agenda around crop improvement to fit their impact pathways and resource base

The RFA process for Col's will be one of **co-creation** and visioning

Change around five areas of inquiry to be addressed in a justified, prioritized, and coordinated fashion



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## ELIGIBILITY

- Must be led by NARS institutions in one of 38 eligible countries
- Proposals for projects of **up to 3 years** in duration
- Applications must clearly define all the product profiles for target crops the RFA will impact (RTBs, legumes excluding peanut and soybean, sorghum and millets)
- Must articulate a development goal and clearly indicate how becoming a Col will increase benefits for women, youth, climate resilience and nutrition
- Budget **up to \$1M** total with a tentative start date of October 1, 2020. *Limited budgets with shorter timelines also acceptable*



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## NARS INSTITUTIONS

“NARS are defined, in a given country, as encompassing all institutions public or private devoting full time or partially their activities to agricultural research and committed to a national research agenda. Generally, the following categories of such institutions are identified as follows:

- I. institutions whose mandate is to carry out research only, such as the NARS institution (National Agricultural Research System Institute);
- II. higher education institutions devoting their activities to teaching and research: they are the faculties of agriculture and related disciplines and the faculties of social sciences and economics of the universities;
- III. technical departments of some ministries, development agencies that carry out some adaptive research programs; and
- IV. NGOs and the private sector.”

**Applicant NARS institution must be actively involved in crop improvement research with demonstrated variety development and mechanism for dissemination**



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## PRIORITY

- Proposal demonstrating track record/vision for integration of tools, technologies and methods (TTMs) in crop improvement leading varietal release
- Linkages to US institutions, especially with co- PIs from US minority-serving institutions (MSIs)
- Applications led by women and early career researchers
- Partnerships with other NARS institutions and CGIAR centers
- Proposals submitted by interdisciplinary groups of PIs
- Clear indication of how becoming a CoI will increase benefits from crop improvement for women, youth, nutrition and resilience.



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## CAPACITY BUILDING PLANS

- Capacity building plans articulated at the individual and institutional level
- Graduate student training plan in place for both long-term (e.g., degree granting) and short-term (e.g., technical workshops)
- Strategy to ensure equal opportunities for trainees
- ILCI will offer training opportunities on TTMs, as well as hypothesis driven breeding research, sabbatical visits for early career researchers, and institutional training for gender and youth responsive research methods.



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## CROSS CUTTING THEMES

- Product profiles selected must seek to address:
  - Gender and youth-based constraints
  - Show potential for economic inclusion for women and youth
  - Include traits to address malnutrition and increase resilience
- Applicants must designate a team member with the relevant background and expertise in gender and youth inclusion, nutrition and/or resilience
- Applicants must allocate funding for research to demonstrate how developing, testing and adopting TTMs can have positive impacts on gender and youth inclusion, nutrition and/or resilience







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## PROCESS

Written  
questions  
and  
webinar

Letter of  
intent

Co-creation

Final  
proposal  
submission

Granting



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## TIMELINE

**ISSUE DATE:** March 1, 2020

**WEBINAR:** March 19, 2020

**DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS:** March 23, 2020

**DEADLINE FOR LETTER OF INTENT:** April 10, 2020

**CO-CREATION PHASE:** April 24 - June 14, 2020

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF FINAL PROPOSAL:** July 5, 2020

**DATE TO ANNOUNCE SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS:** July 19, 2020



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## LETTER OF INTENT

1. Specification of the product profile(s) that will be targeted by this investment
2. Articulation of the impact envisioned from release of varieties meeting the(se) product profile(s)
3. Brief analysis of domains of crop improvement innovation that are currently weak and a barrier to achieving the above impact.
4. Clear plans for including gender, youth, resilience and nutrition into proposed work
5. Brief articulation of capacity and training needs
6. Identification of potential future partner programs in the region, as well as international partners
7. Supplementary material: letter of commitment from NARS institution leadership to support the ILCI engagement, including a binding statement articulating amount of in-kind and financial contributions to ILCI engagement.

**3 pages maximum** (excluding cover page and supplementary materials)







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## SUBMISSION

### Funding Opportunities

**Request for Letters of Intent: Creation and Operation of Centers of Innovation for Crop Improvement (East Africa, West Africa, South Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean)**

*April 10th, 2020*

The vision of ILCI is that national breeding programs drive genetic gain for the development of improved varieties for key product profiles that underpin economic growth, resilience and nutrition development goals. To reach this vision ILCI is requesting for proposals (RFPs). This RFP has two components: Letter of Intent (LoI) and Full Proposal. This call is for LoIs only.

Note: Please follow the solicitation guidelines carefully, including adherence to page limits. Letter of Intent not following the guidelines and/or not responsive to the interests of the sponsor may be rejected from this competition without review. PIs submitting applications for this competition are responsible for ensuring they meet the eligibility requirements of the funder.

[Learn more and apply...](#)

<https://ilci.piestar-rfx.com/opportunities>



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## CO-CREATION

- Co-creation phase with ILCI, to review and refine proposal development
- Evaluation of capacity, enabling environment and resource availability for proposal
- Applicant will be responsible for documenting and acting on points raised during co-creation process



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## EVALUATION

- Who: ILCI management team, cross-cutting and MLE specialists, ILCI advisory committee, external experts
- Criteria:
  - Vision for impact
  - Relevance
  - Cross-cutting issues
  - Capacity building
  - Feasibility



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## WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU!



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## QUESTIONS

Q: *Can one Lol cover multiple crops?*

A: Yes, in fact impact across more than one mandate crop would be advantageous

Q: *Can Lol focus on non-mandate crops?*

A: No, must focus on RTBs, legumes excluding soybean and peanut, sorghum and millets

Q: *Does PI need to be a breeder?*

A: No, as long a PI is from a NARI in an eligible country, the PI can be from any discipline. However institution must be actively involved in crop improvement research with demonstrated variety development and release mechanisms





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## MORE QUESTIONS?



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[www.feedthefuture.gov](http://www.feedthefuture.gov)



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