

# Intent to establish Regional Research Teams in Sub-Saharan Africa

The Agricultural Model Intercomparison and Improvement Project (**AgMIP**; [www.agmip.org](http://www.agmip.org)) is establishing an integrated, transdisciplinary framework for assessing climate impacts on the agricultural sector while building capacity for continuing agricultural assessment and management in developing countries. AgMIP aims to better characterize food security risks associated with climate variability and change, and to help identify effective strategies for adaptation.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, acting through their Department for International Development, is generously providing funds to support AgMIP activities in Sub-Saharan Africa through a competitive Request For Proposals (RFP) from this region. This RFP will be administered by Columbia University in the City of New York, in partnership with the US Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service, and with expert guidance by an international team of climate scientists, crop modelers, economists, and information technology specialists.

AgMIP will support highly collaborative and multi-institutional research teams in Sub Saharan Africa for two years with possible extension subject to performance and fund availability. Funds will support research teams to assemble data and run model simulations in their regions, utilizing a consistent set of climate, crop, and economic scenarios. In addition, the research teams will help build scientific and technical capacity for the agricultural sector from field- to market-levels, and will establish key linkages with local and national institutions so as to engage policy and decision makers. They will utilize established AgMIP Protocols and will regularly engage with the AgMIP Climate, Crop Modeling, Economics, and Information Technology Teams on the AgMIP objectives:

- Improve the scientific and adaptive capacity of major agricultural regions in the developing and developed world;
- Collaborate with regional experts in agronomy, economics, and climate to build a strong basis for applied simulations addressing key regional questions;
- Develop frameworks to identify and prioritize regional adaptation strategies;
- Incorporate crop and agricultural trade model improvements in coordinated assessment of future climate conditions;
- Include multiple models, scenarios, locations, crops and participants to explore uncertainty and the impact of methodological choices;
- Contribute to understanding of land use change and mitigation; and,
- Link to key on-going efforts, including policy or decision-making initiatives.

This announcement is intended to raise awareness about the upcoming RFP. Following administrative clearance, the RFP will be posted at [www.agmip.org](http://www.agmip.org), distributed via AgMIP and other list serves, and sent in response to email expressions of interest. To express interest in the forthcoming RFP, please send an email with 1) **names**, 2) **affiliations**, 3) **expertise areas**, 4) **countries that are likely to be included**, and **'SSA RFP Interest'** as the subject to [agmip@columbia.edu](mailto:agmip@columbia.edu) by November 18, 2011.

For information about AgMIP activities, protocols, teams, and leadership, or to become a member of the AgMIP list serve, please go to [www.agmip.org](http://www.agmip.org).

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