Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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CALL FOR PROPOSALS

« City region food systems »

Introduction and Background

Context

Recent crises like the 2007-2008 food price surge and weather induced disasters, have contributed to the call for a profound change in our food systems. Agriculture is also a major contributor to greenhouse gases, soil degradation, deforestation, water pollution and scarcity. A paradigm change is needed! Thus developing inclusive, sustainable, efficient food systems will be essential to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A fundamental shift is needed to enable systems to promote sustainable, healthy eating with affordable quantity and quality food. This includes how food is produced, transformed and reach the final consumer. A focus on quality rather than solely the quantity of agricultural production can redefine value in agricultural systems, mitigate risk in supply chains and enable diversified diets.

This change has to happen, and consumers' choice will shape entire food systems, from fork to farm. In addition to economical considerations, social and ecological priorities will have to be at the centre of redesigned food systems, including efforts to address structural inequality and meet basic needs, influence new dietary norms and aspirations. Food is more than just a commodity, health of people, of our planet and cultural values of a society depend on it.

Cities have been consumption centres, sinks for resources from not only their hinterland, but all across the globe. In the latter half of the 20th century, the world's urban population tripled in size and, for the first time in human history, more people now live in urban areas than in rural ones. It is expected that, by 2050, two thirds of the world's population will be living in urban areas.

Food systems are one way in which rural spaces and people are linked with urban areas and residents. The concept of city region food systems that includes an urban center, its surroundings and its rural hinterlands is seen has an adequate framework to tackle those issues. The system encompasses a complex network of actors, processes and relationships underpinned by cultural values to do with food production, processing, marketing and consumption that exist in a given geographical region.

City region food systems offer concrete policy and programme opportunities within which these developmental issues can be addressed and through which rural and urban areas, communities and people in a given city region can be directly linked. Improved city region food systems will help achieve better economic, social and environmental conditions in both urban and nearby rural areas.

How our food is produced, where, and how it ends up on our plates – must be rethought. From a production perspective, we need to value circular systems, agroecological approaches, and family farming as a way of life. From a consumption perspective, we need enough safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate and affordable food for everyone and to break out of non-resilient patterns of urban development.

Improving the ecological 'metabolism' of the city will also be driven by closing nutrient and water flows at the local level, having clear land governance systems, and availability of support services. Innovations should create incentives for and support the development of new enterprises that link consumers and producers and offer employment and income opportunities for young men and women in developing countries.

Over the past decades, progress in science, technology and innovation (STI) has led to improvements in living standards with the role of innovation in fostering economic growth and sustainable development becoming increasingly evident. In development cooperation ''innovation'', also is the subject of great attention.

For Developing countries, the question should not (only) be how to attract so-called high-tech activities from abroad but how to unleash the creative potential of actors that are already there, in a broad range of sectors and activities.

Due to the importance and urgency of the challenges, the diffusion phase of innovations is of particular importance. Crowding in, scaling up, and learning and sharing knowledge are leveraging wider impact.

Scaling of technologies appears to attract the focus of development planners, while scaling of conditions for change, such as institutional arrangements, will often prove to be a more strategic investment. It will, however, require different capabilities to connect to institutions change.

Scaling up such approaches will require multi-stakeholder. Local authorities and partners should create incentives for stimulating a number of diverse market players to react to the nascent system level changes instigated during the early innovation process. It results in greater 'breadth' and greater 'depth'.

Learning, sharing knowledge and spreading best practice should help to overcome the tension, which exists between the fact that innovations need to be locally appropriate to be adopted, and that innovations need to be become part of a standard procedure to scale up efficiently.

With this new call for proposals, **SDC is looking for innovations in city region food systems that can reach millions of people living in poverty.**

1. Guiding principles for the project

1.1 Development Goals

Future oriented, innovative and sustainable solutions for new city region food systems that redesign the relationships between rural and urban spaces for more inclusion, sustainability, efficiency and for increased availability of nutritious, healthy and affordable food are reaching millions of poor and disadvantaged people.

1.2 Strategic linkages

The project/initiative shall ultimately contribute to achieve Component 1 of GPFS Strategy 2017-2020: Effective agricultural innovation and extension systems and one of its outcome:

Outcome 1.1.1: International agricultural research in cooperation with national agricultural research and innovation systems delivers knowledge and solutions that are scaled up reach millions of poor small and medium sized farm households. For further details, see GPFS' strategic framework 2017-2020, available on https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/sdc-context-overview/sdc-strategic-documents.

The proposal shall consider the following strategic considerations:

- Innovations in city region food systems shall provide future oriented, practical and sustainable solutions in which the relationships between rural and urban spaces for more inclusion, sustainability, efficiency and for increased availability of nutritious, healthy and available food are redesigned.

- From a production perspective, circular systems, agroecological approaches, and family farming as a way of life are to be valued

- From a consumption perspective, enough safe, nutritious and culturally appropriate food for everyone is needed and non-resilient patterns of urban development be broken out.

- A great deal of attention shall be placed on the promotion of employment and development opportunities for young men and women as well as on enhancing gender equality.

- SDC has a track record of working this area such as transboundary cooperation, Local Economic Development, migration and development and medium towns. SDC has started to reflect and draw lessons from those experiences. First results of this learning journey on urban-rural dynamics initiated by SDC should be considered. https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/news/Documents/2018_03_19_AFS_input_to_SDC_LJ_Rural_Urban_Links.pdf

There are no specific requirements regarding the project set-up except a clear description of it in the proposal.

1.3 Geographic focus

According to SDC's position paper on Rural-Urban link, this project should focus on small and middle-sized towns (market towns) in developing countries (LDC) as entry point and be aligned with other SDC and SECO initiatives. The Project or initiative shall be relevant at local level or its implementation allows for testing, replication, up scaling and/or mainstreaming at global level with tangible results in the next 4 years. Furthermore, a clear link to policy frameworks at regional and global levels is required. The Project or initiative shall be relevant at local level and have a clear link to policy frameworks at national, regional and global levels.

2. Application details

2.1 Who can apply

Any local or international institution or consortium with experience in the above-mentioned field and able to demonstrate a capacity to develop and implement projects of similar volume and complexity may participate.

Consortium of complementary institutions are allowed.

Applicants, which already receive a programme contribution from the SDC, through the Institutional Partnership Division, will not be eligible for proposing a project. The conditions of the federal department of foreign affairs regarding contributions are applicable.

2.2 What kind of project can be funded

Contributions to projects and initiatives together with other donors and/or contributions to ongoing projects are eligible and should underline SDC's added value.

Public/private partnerships and cooperation among multi-stakeholders are highly welcome.

Synergies and complementarities to existing SDC financed programmes are welcome.

The main emphasis of this project will not only be placed on the innovation phase of the process. The mechanism of diffusion and leveraging wider impact (scaling up, crowding in, learning and knowledge) will be as important and has to be part of the project from the beginning.

Issues like impact on poverty, on the environment, on social relationships, on gender the project is aiming at as well as the number of people the adoption of these innovations has the potential to reach are important selection criterions for the evaluation of the offers.

2.3 Duration

The duration of the intervention is limited to maximum 2 phases of 4 years each. The first phase of the project shall last 4 years and the approval of the second phase is subjected to the performance of the first phase.

2.4 Financial Volume of the Project

SDC's contribution will indicatively range between **CHF 800'000 – CHF 1.2 Million per year**.

The amount for the first phase shall range between 3.2 and 4.4 Mio CHF.

The presented budget shall include the full cost of the project and show all cost and all sources of finances.

In the framework of this procedure, SDC might choose 1 proposal for funding.

2.5 Co-funding

A co-funding of the project is requested. For an initial period of 2 years, in kind contribution only is also accepted. The applicant must then be able to propose additional credible sources of funding progressively reaching up to 20-50% of the budget at the end of the first phase (4 years).

2.6 Contractual aspects

By submitting a proposal, the applicant accepts without reservation the enclosed standard contracts: Federal contribution for project; Contribution outside Switzerland, General conditions for contracts concerning federal contributions for projects. See annexed document on the website.

3. Submission procedure

3.1 Contact and information

- All information about this call for proposal is publicly available on SDC's A+FS network website https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security
- Question related to the submission and evaluation procedures shall be submitted by email to the following address gpfscallforproposals@eda.admin.ch until 14 Mai, subject: City Region Food Systems. All questions and relative answers will be anonymously, and openly available on the A+FS website, weekly updated.
- The proposals have to be submitted electronically by 11June 08:00 CET latest to the following email address: gpfscallforproposals@eda.admin.ch, subject: City Region Food Systems
- Validity of offers: 180 days after submission of the proposals.

3.2 Documents to be submitted ("must" criteria)

The following documents have to be sent directly to SDC's Global Programme Food Security per email:

- Cover letter with signatures (1 page)
- Presentation of the applicant and contact partner (max 1 page)
- Technical proposal (max 5 pages)
  - Description of the project/initiative with impact hypothesis and/or theory of change
  - Description of direct and indirect partners and beneficiaries
  - Expected results to be achieved within 4 years and by the end of the support. If applicable of the results achieved so far.
  - Assessment indication opportunities and risks
  - Summary of relevant experience in the domain.
- Financial proposal (max 2 page) Budget specifying personnel, material, travelling (transport, board and lodging), and other costs, not exceeding the maximum Budget indicated in paragraph 2.4
- Annex: Acceptance of the general conditions of Business (see 2.6)

Other annexes or links to further documents are not allowed.
The language of the proposals should be English. Proposals written in French are also accepted.

3.3 Time frame and target dates

- Call opening   19 April 2018
- Deadline submission of questions by email (gpfscallforproposals@eda.admin.ch)   14 Mai 2018
- Deadline for submitting proposal   11 June 2018, 08:00 CET
- Awarding of project and notification to unsuccessful applicants   End August 2018
- Development of a full project proposal to be considered for funding by SDC: from Sept. 2018

In case of high quality offers with similar scoring, SDC reserves the right to invite the concerned organizations for further discussion. Phone or video conferences will be held during the week 34 (20-24 August).

4. Selection of projects; evaluation criteria

4.1 Eligibility check

An evaluation committee setup by SDC, will check whether the proposals meet the formal criteria as described in the chap 3.1 and 3.2. Proposals that do not meet the formal criteria will not be evaluated.
The committee will then evaluate all the eligible proposals according to the criteria described in the chap. 4.2.

4.2 Evaluation

Proposals will be reviewed according to international peer review standard procedures. The following table provides an overview of the evaluated criteria and the corresponding weighting:

EC	Award Criteria	Weighting
	Technical Proposal	
1	Demonstrated thematic expertise/capacity/achieved results and institutional network	20%
2	Relevance of project innovation, possible impact and probability of success	40%
3	Synergy and complementarity of the proposal to SDC Programs and partnerships	10%
4	Gender and youth	10%
	Financial Proposal	
5	Relation of estimated costs to expected outcomes of the project proposal (Cost/Benefit ratio), co financing	20%

Each criterion will be evaluated according to the following score table:

Score	Fulfilment and quality of the criteria	
0	Cannot be established	• Information has no significance.
1	Very bad fulfilment	• Information is insufficient. • Data quality is very poor.
2	Bad fulfilment	• Information relates inadequately to the requirements. • Data quality is poor.
3	Average fulfilment	• Information globally responds inadequately to the requirements. • Data quality is adequate.
4	Good fulfilment	• Information focuses well on requirements • Data quality is good.
5	Very good fulfilment	• Information clearly relates to the achievement of outputs • Data quality is excellent.

5. Preparation and Implementation of the SDC projects

5.1 SDC decision

After the evaluation of all eligible proposals, SDC will officially communicate its decision.

5.2 Full project proposal development

The winning organization or consortium will then develop a detailed full proposal.
The full proposal will be the official document for the 4-years implementation phase and will have to be approved by SDC directorate before signing the contract.