

This is NOT a notice of funding opportunity or solicitation. This is a description of a potential activity that CFDA might implement in the future and is provided for informational purposes only. Issuance of this notice does not constitute an award or commitment on the part of CFDA, nor does it commit CFDA to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of a future application.

Notice of Future Funding Opportunity

Background: Under the soon to be launched Nature-Based Solutions for Agricultural Resilience Window (NBS4Ag), the United State Agency for International Development (USAID) Climate Finance for Development Accelerator (CFDA) anticipates requesting grant applications from private-sector partners that seek to pilot or scale innovative models for financing both sustainable agriculture and biodiversity conservation. Agriculture in the emerging and frontier markets where USAID works is under extreme threat from climate-related weather events and major adaptation efforts are needed. At the same time, agriculture is a major contributor to greenhouse gas emissions and biodiversity habitat loss. Yet there is a major financing gap that must be closed to support the transformation to climate- and nature-positive agricultural landscape systems. To help close this gap, the NBS4Ag Window envisions sourcing high quality, private-sector led finance models for climate- and nature-positive agriculture and agricultural landscapes – supporting sustainable production while addressing climate change and improving biodiversity and ecosystem services. These partnerships are expected to focus on whole-of-farm approaches to mixed-use farming and regenerative agriculture; zero deforestation production and reduced degradation of lands, soil, and native vegetation; reduced use of chemical pesticides, fertilizer, and practices harmful to biodiversity, water quality, and soil quality; and other nature-based, climate smart solutions and/or landscape-level approaches that protect and promote biodiversity as well as food security.

Geographic scope: The Window will consider concepts that focus on [countries where USAID works](#)¹, with priority given to U.S. Government Feed the Future countries and USAID biodiversity conservation priority countries and regions. Relevant countries can be [accessed here](#). Concepts can be at the global, regional, multi-country, or single country levels.

Procurement Mechanism, Format, and Outreach Channel: CFDA anticipates requesting grant applications and budgets via an open call for applications. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up with CFDA's [Climate Finance Investment Network \(CFIN\)](#) to receive the solicitation and supplemental documents upon release.

Estimated Size and Number of Subcontracts/Grants: CFDA anticipates issuing three grant awards valued up to USD \$500,000 each. Exceptionally impactful, scalable, and innovative concepts will be considered for funding up to USD \$1 million. CFDA is not permitted to award a U.S.-based partner a grant valued over \$500,000 under any circumstances.

Estimated Release Date and Response Timeframe: CFDA anticipates releasing a call for applications o/a September 20, 2024 with a deadline of o/a October 20, 2024. CFDA anticipates selecting finalists to participate in a co-creation process o/a November 15, 2024 and selecting an initial set of successful applicants o/a January 10, 2025.

Anticipated Purpose and Leverage: The NBS4Ag Window intends to pilot or scale a set of promising private-sector led models for financing nature- and climate-positive agriculture and agricultural landscapes. CFDA envisions partnering (1) directly with corporate partners whose agricultural supply chains extend to markets where USAID works; (2) indirectly with corporate partners through intermediaries that are supporting the financing or implementation of aligned projects or technologies; or (3) with investment partners with innovative models for financing projects or companies applying nature- and climate-positive agricultural practices and approaches.

The awardees are expected to support nature-based solutions to build resilience in agriculture and food systems as well as reduce deforestation and degradation of critical landscapes and native vegetation, such as regenerative agriculture, climate- and water-smart agriculture, and landscape-level approaches for conservation. While regenerative agriculture practices generally tend to support biodiversity, priority will be given to concepts that go deeper on conservation outcomes, for example, integrating regenerative agriculture with efforts to actively conserve high-value ecosystems and promote land restoration.

Through these awards, CFDA will seek a minimum 5:1 leverage ratio, where awardees will be expected to either invest or raise at least \$5 of capital for every dollar contributed by USAID. CFDA expects to award milestones-based, fixed amount award grants to the winning applicants.

Evaluation Criteria: CFDA anticipates using the following to evaluate the technical merits of NBS4Ag concepts: (1) expected impact for both biodiversity and sustainable agricultural outcomes; (2) corporate or other private sector commitment to co-finance the concept, (3) track record of the partner and team, (4) additionality of USAID support, (5) feasibility of concept, (6) engagement of local communities, gender equity, and inclusive of vulnerable populations, and (7) approach to measuring and monitoring climate and biodiversity impacts, including impact targets. The final call for applications will provide the definitive set of evaluation criteria.

Feedback and Questions: Interested applicants are encouraged to share feedback on the proposed concept, indicate interest in this opportunity, or ask questions ahead of the solicitation release via [this Airtable form](#).

¹ Investments into the People's Republic of China (PRC), Islamic Republic of Iran, and Republic of Cuba-based or -backed projects or companies are not allowed under this opportunity.