

## Responses to Queries on RFP for Staple Crop Value Chains in Nigeria Formative Research

April 2, 2021

Thank you to all interested parties who submitted the following queries. Please see below our responses to all queries received, for the information of all potential applicants which is posted on our website along with the RFP.

### Query #1

*There are contradicting dates on when clarifications can be made. Could you please help clear this up? The first image states that queries made by the 2<sup>nd</sup> of April will be responded to on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April whilst the 2<sup>nd</sup> image states that proposals be handed in on the 9<sup>th</sup> of April which is before the clarifications will be made via an online post.*

#### GAIN Response to Query #1

This was an error on our part. An updated RFP was reposted on the 30<sup>th</sup> March with the following timelines. These should be considered final in case there are other inconsistencies in the RFP. The GAIN team has extended the deadline for proposal submission until the 12<sup>th</sup> of April at 12:00pm (noon) CET.

#### **SUMMARY OF DEADLINES**

- Queries to be submitted by: March 26
- Response will be disseminated on the website by: April 2
- Proposal submission deadline: April 12<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm (noon) CET (updated)
- Response from GAIN on acceptance or rejection of proposal: April 16
- Award of contract: April 30

### Query #2

*The Demand/Behavioral Change, and Food Access sections note maize, cassava and sweet potato but not rice. Could you confirm that rice is excluded from this component.*

#### GAIN Response to Query #2

It should be assumed that for the Demand/Behavioral Change and the Food access sections, rice value chains and actors should be included in these lines of questioning where it relates to the workforce nutrition and business development services. There are different components of the overall programme that will be implemented in different areas and sectors and therefore the questions should adapted as such. Please see this project implementation grid below.

	Project implementation grid				
	Kaduna	Benue	Nasarawa	Oyo	Other
<b>Workforce Nutrition</b>	Maize	Rice	Rice		
<b>Business Support</b>	Maize	Rice/OFSP	Rice	Cassava/OFSP	
<b>Bio-fortification</b>	Maize	OFSP		Cassava/OFSP	

### Query #3

*When discussing “farmer and workers” could you elaborate whether this includes only field-based workers, or whether this includes workers in areas such as sorting, trimming, cleaning / washing and other pre-processing procedures?*

#### GAIN Response to Query #3

For the workforce nutrition component part, the scoping work should include all workers in the value chain for consideration, therefore from farmers to workers in processing factories. Depending on the results, the programme may or not reach all those workers, but that decision will be based on this scoping and design work. It may be that the bidder would suggest an iterative approach to the work for the sake of efficiency. For example, if early findings show that implementing a workforce nutrition programme for processing factory workers is not feasible or not wanted by factory employers, there will not be a need to conduct in depth research on their behaviors. We anticipate that farmers will however be reached as a priority and minimum for the workforce nutrition component.

### Query #4

*To what extent should the focus of the research be on nutrition and dietary habits of the farmers / workers versus their households / families?*

#### GAIN Response to Query #4

The aim is to improve diets of all family members, not just workers, and using worker/farmer structures as the entry point to reach all family members. Therefore the research should focus on the dietary habits of the workers and their families. Often the diets are embedded in family diets and decisions are made at the household level. That said, there may be some workers in value chains whose dietary habits are different than their households (perhaps those that are provided food at workplaces or schools, if that is true). It would be important to note those differences in order to best design the behavior change and food access elements to the workforce nutrition component of the overall programme.

### Query #5

*Would it be possible to please confirm the dates for when all questions are due, when we can expect responses, and when the final proposals are due? The dates in the RFP list responses to the questions on 4/16 when the proposal is due 4/9.*

GAIN Response to Query #5

Please see response to query #1. Dates have been corrected on the updated RFP.

**Query #6**

*Regarding the RFP **RESEARCH PARTNER: ADVANCING NUTRITION IN STAPLE CROP VALUE CHAINS** could you kindly indicate whether there is a budget ceiling for the financial proposal, and whether there are any restrictions on the cost categories?*

GAIN Response to Query #5

There is no budget ceiling for the financial proposal nor are there any restrictions on cost categories. However, it is good to note that proposals will be scored against their total budget and their value for money (see scoring criteria on page 10 of the RFP) so we encourage all bidders to be as efficient with costs as possible.