Call for Proposals: 2015 CARE-Cornell Collaboration Project Development Grants, Impact through Innovation Fund
Deadline: Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Cornell University’s David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future (ACSF) and CARE USA are pleased to accept Project Development Grant (PDG) proposals through the Impact through Innovation Fund (IIF). This fund was created in 2011 to stimulate collaborative research efforts to build and support sustainable, productive, equitable, and resilient food systems in rural communities around the world. The IIF provides an opportunity for CARE development professionals and Cornell researchers to work together to design, implement and/or evaluate new technologies and practices that will improve the food and nutrition security, well-being, and resilience of poor rural individuals, households, and communities.

Recognizing that there are typically substantial gaps between practitioner experience and academic theory, the Project Development Grants provide seed funding of up to a total of $10,000 to be used over the summer of 2015 to enable Cornell and CARE staff interested in similar issues to meet, explore potential collaborations, and generate proposals for follow-on funding. While we will entertain a broad range of potential projects, all proposals must clearly and convincingly demonstrate how they are advancing a shared CARE and Cornell vision of more productive, equitable, and resilient food systems with an emphasis on the role and participation of small-scale food producers, especially women. While all proposals will be considered, priority may be given to projects focusing on one of the following countries: Mozambique, Peru, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Zambia, Niger, India, Malawi, Bangladesh, Benin, Ghana, or Mali.

The PDG grants are intended to support travel and other costs directly related to the establishment of successful cooperative relationships and collaborative project design. Grants funds are not intended to cover staff salary. It is intended that the grants will yield promising proposals for regular IIF grants or other opportunities for funding. (We expect to distribute a CFP for IIF grants in Fall 2015 to provide up to $100,000 for Cornell/CARE joint research initiatives). We will prioritize projects that demonstrate a high likelihood to generate value for small-scale food producers and lead to high-quality future scholarly research.

Eligibility: The IIF supports collaborative projects between Cornell research teams and CARE development professionals. Successful PDG proposals will include two principal investigators: one from Cornell University and one from a CARE program or country office. Multiple co-investigators are allowed, but one person from each organization should be designated as the lead and the point of
contact. At CARE, principle investigators must be full-time employees of the organization in a management position. At Cornell, all principal investigators must meet the university’s principal investigator eligibility criteria; see http://www.research.cornell.edu/VPR/Policies/PI-policy.html. Cornell tenure-track faculty, principal research scientists, and senior scientists meet these criteria. Other Cornell employees or students may participate but may not serve as principal investigators unless the office of the Vice Provost for Research provides a waiver.

Make sure your project is linked to the purpose and mission of both CARE USA (http://www.care.org) and the ACSF (http://www.sustainablefuture.cornell.edu/index.php). For more information about the CARE-Cornell Collaboration, the Project Development Grants, and the Impact for Innovation Fund, including examples of previously funded projects, see http://www.acsf.cornell.edu/grants/iif/index.php. Prospective applicants are encouraged to discuss their ideas with the CARE and/or ACSF IIF co-directors in advance of submitting a proposal: contact Cornell Prof. Wendy Wolford at www43@cornell.edu or Tonya Rawe, Senior Advisor for Policy & Research, CARE Food & Nutrition Security Unit, at trawe@care.org. This discussion is intended to help strengthen proposals by identifying potential partnerships and refining innovative and impactful ideas.

**Tips for developing a successful CARE-Cornell collaborative project:** Based on the experience of prior collaboration teams, we have developed a Lessons Learned document. We recommend that you review this document (available upon request from acsf-iif@cornell.edu, Wendy, or Tonya) for suggestions on how to collaborate successfully across organizations. We recommend that you identify and contact the appropriate Cornell researchers and CARE development professionals in your region of interest. Set up phone or video meetings to discuss project plans. Write proposals together so that both PIs contribute to project planning. Outline the expectations and roles of the various team members.

**Responsibilities:** Proposers awarded IIF PDG funds will be requested to:

1. Submit a detailed budget and written plan of action once travel plans have been finalized.
2. After the meeting, submit a written report (max. 2 pages) detailing activities engaged in during the meeting and potential plans for future collaborations, including any concerns about such collaboration. Provide a 1-paragraph project summary and 3+ high-quality photos of the collaborating group in an appendix. The pictures and text may be used on the ACSF and CARE websites.

**Proposals are due by April 14, 2015** to acsf-iif@cornell.edu. Proposals should be submitted as a single PDF file including: a cover page with the project title, the names and full contact information of the PIs from CARE and Cornell, and a list of all other participants, followed by: 1) a 2-page project description outlining the potential for collaboration between researchers at Cornell and CARE; 2) the deliverables expected from the meeting; 3) a budget for up to $10,000; and 4) the CVs of both PIs.

ACSF and CARE leadership will evaluate all proposals and assess the ability of proposed projects to complement the goals of the CARE-Cornell Collaboration. Awards decisions will be announced by Wednesday, April 22, 2015.