CALL FOR -RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSALS
UNDER THE SUPPORT TO REGIONAL MULTI-ACTOR RESEARCH NETWORK
(RMRN) PROJECT

SELECTION CRITERIA

Proposals will undergo a rigorous internal evaluation conducted jointly by FARA and RUFORUM. To be considered for selection, applicants must meet the following eligibility and quality criteria:

Applicants must:
- Be a member of the PANAP Network or RMRN Consortium Member institution
- Belong to one of the following categories: students, early-career researchers, academic staff, farmer organizations, NGOs, or research institutes working in agroecology or related fields
- Based in Africa (either through citizenship or institutional affiliation in an African country).

Technical and Institutional Criteria
Proposals must:
- Of very good quality (Background, clarity of the problem statement, the quality of research questions, clarity of methodology)
- Directly address core agroecology principles, including but not limited to biodiversity, soil health, recycling, synergies, resilience and co-creation of knowledge).
- Align with African agricultural and food system priorities.
- Demonstrate the applicant's capacity to conduct applied research or community-based projects (evidenced by coursework, past projects, publications, or farmer engagement).
- Confirm access to research sites, farmer networks, or target communities where the study will be implemented.
- have potential impacts (society, environment)
- Ensure compliance with research ethics standards, particularly when engaging farmers, indigenous communities, or traditional knowledge systems.
- Demonstrate consideration of gender, youth, and social inclusion in the study design and implementation.

Financial and Administrative Capacity
Applicants must:
- Have institutional financial management procedures consistent with international best practices.
- Demonstrate the capacity and experience to manage project funds efficiently and report on grant utilization in accordance with the RMRN General Conditions as stipulated in Annex II of the Grant Agreement CRIS NDICI AFRICA/2023/447-700.

Selection and Evaluation Process

1. Eligibility screening

Once proposals are received, they undergo an administrative and eligibility screening by the RUFORUM Secretariat. At this stage, the Secretariat verifies the completeness of submitted documents, confirms the eligibility of the applicants and checks compliance with formatting and submission guidelines. The Secretariat also ensures that the proposal aligns with the thematic priorities of the call. Proposals that fail to meet these requirements are not advanced to the technical review stage.

2. Technical review

Proposals that pass the initial screening proceed to the technical or scientific peer review stage. Here, the peer review will be RUFORUM, FARA and JRC. They will form Technical Committee (TC) to evaluate all proposals using predefined criteria indicated below. Each reviewer assigns numerical scores, provides written comments, and makes recommendations regarding funding, revision, or rejection. All reviewers will provide feedback on all the proposals. The Secretariat will ensure that all reviews are received on time; sort them in accordance with the results of the reviewers and submit them together with reviews to the RMRN Steering Committee with their recommendation. The SC will make the final selection for no objection by the EC before to be awarded grants.

The Technical Committee (TC) in performing the review will:

a. Nominated the chairman and developed timelines for the assignment.
b. Each reviewer will review the proposal score and provide review comments.
c. Each proposal will be assessed by all three (3) evaluators.
d. RUFORUM Secretariat will organize a meeting for the team to deliberate on the proposals that were recommended for award of grants.
e. RUFORUM Secretariat will produce a synthesized report for each proposal highlighting the strengths, weaknesses, observations, and the basis for recommendation.

The proposals will be evaluated using a scorecard approach based on six (6) key criteria:

No.	Selection Criterion	Key Proposal Focus	Possible Score
1	**Relevance to Core Agroecology Principles**	Directly address core agroecology principles, including but not limited to biodiversity, soil health, recycling, synergies, resilience and co-creation of knowledge).	5
2	**Quality of the research proposal**	Problem statement (Score 10), conceptual framework (score 10), objectives (score 5), Research questions/hypothesis (score 5) methodology (research design (score 15), data analysis (score 5), assess to research sites and stakeholder network 5).	**55**
3	**Applicant Capacity for Applied or Community-Based Research**	Demonstrate the applicant's capacity to conduct applied research or community-based projects (evidenced by coursework, past projects, publications, or farmer engagement).	**10**
4	**Feasibility of the study within the time frame (8 months) and adequacy of the budget**	Extent to which a proposed study can realistically be completed within the specified project period, given its objectives, methodology, resources, and potential risks. The budget should not exceed the threshold	**10**
5	**Research Impact**	Contribution of the research beyond academic knowledge (research benefits to society, economy, policy, culture, the environment, and institutions).	**10**
6	**Gender, Youth & Social Inclusion Integration, research ethics**	Ensure compliance with research ethics standards, particularly when engaging farmers, indigenous communities, or traditional knowledge systems. Demonstrate consideration of gender, youth, and social inclusion in the study design and implementation. Potential Social capital in Partnership with RMRNs	**10**

Project Steering Committee

The PSC comprehensively discussed the methodology and outcome of the process for evaluation and selection of the Research grant. The PSC will recommend the selected Researchers to the EC project Officer

Note: Final selection is subject to approval by the EC/INTPA Project Manager. Successful applicants will be required to sign a formal grant contract prior to project commencement.

Milestone	Date
Call Launch	27th February 2026
Information Sharing Session with PANAP Network, RMRNs	11th March 2026
Application Deadline	30th March 2026
Evaluation Period	By 20th April 2026
Contract Signing	10th May 2026
Onboarding	15th May 2026