

# *Request for International Research Proposals from CALS Graduate Students*

*Proposal Submission Deadline: Dec. 15, 2010*

The Toward Sustainability Foundation (TSF) in Marblehead, MA has once again provided funds to support international graduate student research in Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) during 2011. **Preference for funding will be given to international (non US citizen) graduate students with PhD research situated in developing nations, focused on environmental sustainability, food security, and organic production systems.** Proposals are limited to 10 pages maximum (single spaced, including an itemized budget) and must be written and submitted by the graduate student who will serve as the on-site investigator. **All funded proposals must include someone on the CALS faculty as the designated major advisor and research supervisor**, in order for us to allocate these funds. To be eligible, students must have applied previously or concurrently for financial support from Cornell's Einaudi Center for International Studies. Use of TSF funds is restricted to student living expenses during the international fieldwork, on-site research expenses and supplies, and essential travel for the proposed research or outreach activities.

Successful proposals will be funded at a maximum of \$5,000 for a one-year period beginning Feb. 1, 2011. Multiyear projects may be considered for continued funding if TSF funds are available in future years, but recipients must reapply for funding each calendar year. A concise annual summary of the funded research must be submitted as an MSWord document by e-mail to Ian Merwin ([im13@cornell.edu](mailto:im13@cornell.edu)) **and** Dolores Higareda ([dh29@cornell.edu](mailto:dh29@cornell.edu)) no later than **Feb. 1, 2012**. These project summaries will be posted online for public access, and shared with the sponsors at TSF, and should include appropriate documentation for each project, in a style accessible to non-scientists.

## **Format for Proposals**

**Project Title:** A brief, clear, specific description of the proposed work.

**Principal Investigators and International Cooperators:** Names, titles, and contact addresses for those who will lead and participate in the proposed work at Cornell and internationally.

**Background/Justification:** Describe the importance of the proposed research to local or global environmental sustainability, organic production systems, and food or income security in developing nations. What important problems or opportunities does your research address, what social needs will it fulfill, who are its intended beneficiaries, and how will you measure its outcomes?

**Specific Objectives:** Provide clear, complete, logically arranged statements of the specific objectives and testable hypotheses for your project.

**Approach/Methods:** Briefly describe the overall strategy and research methods that will be used to achieve your objectives, the specific site(s) where your research will be located, and novel or innovative features of your research approach compared with previous work on this topic.

**Intended Outcomes and Impacts:** Describe expected outcomes and ways that your project could improve or sustain environmental and economic conditions, and promote community or national food security in developing regions.

**Budget:** Funding is allowed only for graduate student living expenses in conjunction with international research (away from the Cornell campus), for essential travel to and from their international research site(s), and for incidental research costs or supplies directly related to the proposed activities. Grant awards cannot be used for tuition, academic fees or living stipends while students are in residence at Cornell, and cannot be used for non-student staff salaries. Indirect costs of 10% will be assessed by CALS on all awarded funds, and must be included in the project budget. Current support from students' major advisors, their Graduate Field, or the Einaudi Center for International Studies can be indicated in the Budget section of each proposal as appropriate. Any TSF funds remaining unspent after Feb. 1, 2012 will be recovered for use by other TSF-funded projects.

<b><u>Sample Project Budget from TSF funds</u></b>	
Student living expenses (3 months on site in study area)	\$4,000
Round trip air travel (e.g. New York to Ghana)	800
Total Direct Costs	4,800
<u>Indirect Costs @ 10%</u>	<u>480</u>
<b>Total funds requested from TSF</b>	<b>\$5,280</b>
 <b><u>Examples of Current Support from Other Sources</u></b>	
Tuition and Fees or research support from CALS, the major advisor or Graduate Field sources	\$\$
Previous or concurrent grant(s) from the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies at Cornell	\$\$

**Completed proposals must be received by Dec. 15, 2010** to be considered eligible for funding. Please submit proposals by e-mail in PDF format, to Dolores Higareda (dh29) **and** Ian Merwin (im13). Proposals will be evaluated and prioritized for funding by a panel of Cornell faculty and staff with expertise in International Agriculture. Applicants with successful proposals will be notified in late January, 2011.

For additional information on this request for proposals, please contact Wendy Wirth (607-255-4568; [waw3@cornell.edu](mailto:waw3@cornell.edu)), Dolores Higareda (607-255-1789; [dh29@cornell.edu](mailto:dh29@cornell.edu)), or Ian Merwin (607-255-1777; [im13@cornell.edu](mailto:im13@cornell.edu)).