NIFA’s strategy for global engagement centers on developing carefully considered partnerships that can advance U.S. research, education and extension in agriculturally-related fields. The Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) program is part of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Global Development Lab effort to bring together diverse partners to discover, test and scale breakthrough solutions to critical challenges in international development.

PEER is a competitive grants program that invites scientists in developing countries to apply to USAID for funds to support research and capacity-building activities that will be conducted in partnership with U.S. Government (USG)-funded scientists. PEER is currently accepting pre-proposals with a deadline of Friday, January 12, 2018. In order for a PEER pre-proposal to be considered eligible for review, the NIFA-supported partner’s award must remain active for at least 12 months after the expected start date of the PEER project (which may start no earlier than September 1, 2018) to ensure that both sides have resources available to support their collaboration. As a currently-active NIFA grantee, you have the opportunity to collaborate with developing country scientists on research projects in the following focus areas:

**Multiple Countries/Open Call**

Research proposals submitted under the Open Call can address a variety of topics, including: biodiversity, agriculture, environment, climate change, clean energy, disaster mitigation, food security, water/sanitation, urbanization, democracy and governance, and education.

**Regional or Country-Specific Calls**

- Cambodia/ Investigator Development Awards: Multiple Sectors
- Indonesia/ Multiple Sectors and Biodiversity
- Laos/ Nutrition and Disabilities Capacity Strengthening
- Peru/ Impacts of Extractive Industries on Indigenous Peoples in the Peruvian Amazon
- Haiti/ Education
- Middle East and North Africa/ Refugee Host Communities Health
- Tunisia/ Multiple Sectors
- Zambia/Technological and Social Alternatives to Charcoal Use and Production

If you know of a scientist in one of the eligible developing countries, you may want to contact them and discuss the possibility of developing a pre-proposal. If you are interested in being contacted by developing country researchers to potentially serve as a partner on a research proposal, please send an email to Patty Fulton (pfulton@nifa.usda.gov). Developing country scientists will be directed to NIFA’s
CRIS database, http://cris.csrees.usda.gov/, to locate currently-active NIFA research projects that directly align with both their interests and the mission of the PEER proposal call.