***PILOT*** *PROPOSAL NARRATIVE TEMPLATE*

***Instructions:*** *Your ATAI proposal narrative should not exceed five single-spaced pages in Calibri size 11 black font. Address all of the prompts below in your narrative to ensure reviewers can clearly see and score you on your plan along each of the following dimensions. Aspects that do not count toward the five-page limit include: (1) the proposal cover page template you should add to this narrative template, (2)* ***the lengthy, green italicized guidance in this template (including this text, and provided below, which should be deleted from your narrative before submitting****), (3) the final section below with sub-headers for your abstract and timeline of activities, and (4) a reference list. Please refer to the detailed submission instructions in the “Application Checklist” section of the RFP before submitting your package of materials. Direct any questions that remain unclear to our staff team at* *atai@povertyactionlab.org**.*

**Proposal Title: \_\_\_\_**

**Problem Statement & Motivation**

*To motivate the research, clearly state the development challenge, including available evidence of the problem in this particular context. This should be policy-oriented and distinct from the project’s contribution to the academic literature.*

* *Describe the magnitude(s) and type(s) of inefficiencies and/or welfare problems this research seeks to address. Provide rationale and any available evidence.*
* *Discuss how the problem is important in relation to the transformation of rural economies. Discuss the potential contribution to ATAI’s renewed thematic framework laid out in ATAI’s Framing paper.*

## Unique Contribution to the Literature

* *Succinctly outline the research questions you seek to address. What knowledge gap are you addressing, and how will it advance the field? Pilot proposals should include a very brief review of relevant literature.*
* *Explain the project’s potential to provide a unique scientific contribution if fully-developed, and the value in particular of conducting this scoping work prior to a full-scale randomized evaluation. Be sure to clearly articulate the distinction between the pilot research and any follow-on research you anticipate that could constitute a full-scale RCT.*

**Overview of Pilot Research**

***Please acknowledge any COVID-19 related uncertainty.***

* *What activities will this grant fund? What data, tools, and methods do you expect to use to address your pilot research question(s)?*
* *Describe the intervention that you plan to test, or the strategy you will use to identify barriers to adoption.*
* *Establish a plausible link between the proposed approach under consideration, and the hypothesized channel for impact. Describe the theory of change that motivates your investigation. Clearly explain how farmers or other relevant actors along agricultural value chains are expected to behave and interact.*

Target Population and Gender Dynamics

*What population does the intervention attempt to impact?*

* *Does this approach target a specific region or demographic group, or people involved in a specific sector?*
* *If targeting smallholder farmers, classify whether they are subsistence, pre-commercial, or commercial in their agricultural practices. If reaching more than one “type” of farmer, discuss how the approach may impact these groups differently.*
* *How, if at all, will the intervention—or broader implications of the research—improve the lives of marginalized persons (low-income and/or socially excluded groups)? Discuss how you will take care to work ethically with any vulnerable groups.*
* ***How might this project address social, financial, or other barriers faced specifically by women and girls? In what specific ways does this project investigate related outcomes for women and girls****? How will you further the evidence base on this dimension?*

***If you consider this outside the scope of your research, please provide a compelling justification****.* ***Note that you will be explicitly scored on this criterion.***

## Anticipated Research Outcome

*How would results from this pilot inform a future RCT, or others’ research or practice?*

* *Describe, specifically, what researchers and practitioners can be expected to learn from this pilot study. Will the study demonstrate profitability of a technology? Will it pilot an intervention? Will it provide qualitative data to inform intervention design?*
* *How could the findings meet the need of policymakers or development practitioners in developing countries?*
* *Outline a specific plan for how you will share your findings and outputs (e.g. data). How will the implementing partners and other stakeholders become aware of the findings and benefit from the data and other such outputs (e.g. descriptive statistics) generated from this pilot study?*
* *In what specific ways will the pilot prepare researchers for a full research project?*

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## In-Country Partner(s)

*Who are your partners? Describe the current relationship between your research team and any local implementing partner(s), as well as the role and level of engagement of each for this project.* ***Please acknowledge any COVID-19 related uncertainty.*** *Your letter(s) of support should support this description.*

* *Mention other partners you may consider or target as the project develops. Discuss the role and level of engagement of each for this project.*
* *Is there indication that partners or other involved stakeholders would be interested in interim outputs or final results?*
* *How will the implementing partners and other stakeholders learn from your findings? Outline a specific plan for how you will share the findings you generate, beyond the usual meetings and presentations of final results.*
* *If there is scope, clearly describe any capacity building outcomes anticipated for in-country partner(s), and how these will be delivered. This could be learning-by-doing and apprenticeship of developing country collaborators, or support for the training of local post-graduate students, through hands-on participation in evaluation design and analysis.*

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## Mitigating Risks

*What risks do you anticipate during the course of the research, and how will you mitigate them?*

*-------the following sections do not count toward the five-page limit--------*

## Abstract

*In 3-5 sentences, describe your research question and the context of your evaluation. This may be directly added or adapted to post on ATAI’s website if the project receives funding. The abstract should include (i) a basic problem statement, (ii) the approach being evaluated, and (iii) what questions the research will answer.*

## Timeline

*In a simple table, chart, or bulleted list, include a timeline that outlines key project activities.* ***Please acknowledge any COVID-19 related uncertainty.*** *Note: the earliest start date for ATAI-funded project activities is June 1, 2020.*