

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

THE RURAL WORLD IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

I - Context

Rurality in Latin America and the Caribbean presents a complex and diverse reality that varies significantly among different countries and regions. This diversity is reflected in social and economic conditions, which often face unique challenges in terms of economic development compared to urban areas. In particular, limited infrastructure, greater predisposition to environmental risks, and restricted access to basic services such as education, health, sanitation, and internet contribute to the persistence of poverty and inequality in many rural areas.

Agriculture, livestock farming, and other extractive activities remain crucial. In some countries, these activities are key for employment or as subsistence activities for the rural population, while in others, they are essential for the national product, with more advanced and highly productive activities. The impact of climate change and environmental degradation further exacerbates the difficulties in rural areas of Latin America and the Caribbean. Rural communities are particularly vulnerable to phenomena such as drought, floods, and deforestation, which directly affect their livelihoods. Migration to cities in search of better opportunities has been a common response to these challenges, which, in turn, creates pressure on urban areas and changes the demographic dynamics of the rural sector. At the same time, the loss of young population in rural areas can lead to an aging population and a decrease in productive and innovative capacity. It therefore reinforces a poverty trap in rural areas.

To address the issues of rurality in the region, it is essential to design public policies that promote sustainable and equitable rural development. Among the multiple actors involved, subnational governments stand out as especially important due to their proximity to local problems. Their participation in the formulation and identification of these policies is crucial to ensure that the proposed solutions are adequate and effective.

II – General objective

Through this call for proposals, we seek to fund up to **nine** research projects that contribute to understanding, for the economies of Latin America and the Caribbean, the main issues faced by rural societies and productive sectors, as well as the mechanisms and policies that help address these issues and promote equitable, sustainable and responsible development in rural areas.

III – Topics

A non-exhaustive list of topics which are of interest for the current call is the following:

- Modern definitions and measurements of rural population
- Rural-urban migration, remittances and their socioeconomic effects
- Inequality and poverty in rural communities
- Access to basic services in rural areas
- Infrastructure and connectivity in rural areas
- Women in the rural context
- Fertility and care economy in rural areas
- Early childhood, children and youth in the rural context
- Ethnic-racial diversity in rural societies
- Food security and food sovereignty
- Technology, innovation and structural change in the agricultural sector
- Family or subsistence agriculture
- Disparities in land allocation and access to land
- Rural tourism

- Mining, forestry and fisheries
- Measurement of energy or environmental poverty
- Vulnerability to climate risks and their potential impact on poverty
- Biodiversity and natural resource conservation
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Governance in rural development
- Impact of public policies on rural sustainable development

IV – Budget

A **maximum of nine prizes** will be awarded. Each winning proposal will receive a research grant of **up to USD 15,000** to carry out the project. This grant will be disbursed through a consulting contract signed with any member of the research team or her/their institution. A budget proposal is not required.

Three projects will be selected from those related to **poverty and inequality**, **three** from **risk and climate change and sustainable development**, while the remaining **three** will be selected from those related to rurality.

Papers with the following criteria will be especially valued:

- Those that present evidence for Latin America and the Caribbean. With particular interest in the Caribbean.
- Those that are at the intersection of two or three of the major thematic areas mentioned above.

V – How to apply

To apply, you should fill this [online form](#) before **August 9**, at 23:59 (Buenos Aires time). (Note that you need a google account in order to apply.) You will have to upload the following three pdf documents:

- (i) Research proposal: it should be a **maximum of 1500 words**. We will value a clearly stated research question, the value added with respect to the existing literature, and well-suited models, data, and empirical approaches to address the question. Proposals that surpass the maximum length will not be evaluated. The project must produce novel knowledge. The proposal must describe the stage of the project at the time of submission (initial stage, some advances, very advanced), even though this is not an important determinant in selecting the proposal.
- (ii) Research team: this document should list the team members, including full names, affiliations, rol, and email addresses.
- (iii) CV of the principal investigator(s) (maximum of 2).

We accept multiple submissions by the same research team or researcher. Each proposal will be evaluated independently, and more than one proposal per team may be selected.

VI – Activities, deliverables, and schedule

Winning proposals will have twelve months to complete the project. The time schedule is:

9-ago-2024	Proposal submission deadline .
26-ago-2024	Notification of winning proposals.
Feb-2025	Submission of the first draft of the working paper, including preliminary results.
Feb-2025	Presentation of the work in progress , in a closed-doors academic seminar organized by CAF. This seminar will be held virtually or in person, subject to the organizer's decision. Should it be in person, CAF will cover the expenses for economy-class air-fare and lodging for one author per project.
30-Ago-2025	Final submission , consisting of a completed research paper and a short policy brief highlighting the main results. The paper will be published in the CAF's working paper series, and after that

authors may freely submit their papers to any academic journal. Both the paper and the policy brief should follow a template that will be provided by CAF to each winning team.

VII – Selection committee

The committee in charge of the selection decisions will be composed of Juan Pablo Rud (Royal Holloway-IFS-IZA), Margarita Gafaro (BANREP), Dolores de la Mata (CAF), Juan Odriozola (CAF), Adriana Camacho (CAF), y Ernesto Schargrodsky (CAF).

VIII – Contact

You can find answers to frequently asked questions in this [document](#). If any questions remain, please contact us at investigacion@caf.com.