

Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme

APPLY BEFORE 15 MARCH 2023



An SDG Acceleration Programme by:



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Frequently Asked Questions

Who are we?

WFP has long implemented projects with the wider humanitarian community, supporting partners with logistics, engineering, digital identity management, cash-based transfers and emergency telecommunications. Through its **SDG Acceleration Programmes**, the WFP Innovation Accelerator builds on that history of implementing innovative projects with external partners, driving progress towards Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The SDG Accelerator programmes combine expertise at the nexus of humanitarian and development work, with deep understanding of innovation and venture building frameworks in resource-limited settings, all of which is enhanced by the WFP Innovation Accelerator's global outreach and access to relevant entrepreneurial ecosystems in strategic regions. Since starting activities in 2018, the Innovation Accelerator has delivered over 20 SDG partner programmes and supported more than 190 ventures on their path to scale. Partners involved in these projects, among others, include the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, UNHRD, WHO, UNFPA, the Emergency Telecommunications Cluster, the German Development Agency (GIZ), the Austrian Development Agency and Creating Hope in Conflict: A Humanitarian Grand Challenge.

Our calls for applications are an opportunity for us to source the most promising and daring solutions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), from startups, NGOs, academic institutions or government agencies.

What is the Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme (AICR)?

The Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme (AICR) aims to support high-impact solutions and agro entrepreneurs addressing resource efficient farming in LMICs. The programme will select early stage ventures and solution providers who will receive financial, technical, and methodological support from the WFP Innovation

Accelerator, and other partners. With the collaboration of talented individuals globally, we will be able to drive climate resilience and the protection of natural resources, food security, improved income and employment.

What's in it for me?

By submitting your solution, you might be selected to attend a WFP Innovation Bootcamp. Dates for the bootcamp vary from one programme to the other, please check the programme's site to confirm dates. In addition, your solution may be considered for a WFP Sprint Programme, with equity-free funding, and access to our support and insight.

What is the WFP Innovation Bootcamp?

WFP Innovation Bootcamps help selected teams dive into challenges, ideate solutions and refine project plans over four days. Bootcamps introduce participants to innovation techniques such as human-centred design and the lean start-up method in order to create viable business models and solutions for WFP and its beneficiaries. Each Innovation Bootcamp ends with the WFP Pitch Event—an opportunity for teams to share their solutions with an audience of investors and industry leaders who can help scale their ideas.

However, participation in Bootcamp does not guarantee any individual or team a place in the WFP Sprint Programme. To be eligible for the WFP Sprint Programme, all teams must submit a separate application, after completing the Bootcamp.

What is the WFP Sprint Programme?

Our Sprint Programme is an intensive 6 to 9 month acceleration programme that helps projects and start-ups reach proof of concept, develop prototypes ready for implementation and/or scale. Projects in this programme will receive guidance and space to bring their idea to life from the Munich-based Accelerator, and access to WFP's global network of partners and resources.

Selected teams may also receive up to US\$ 150,000 per Sprint.

Am I eligible to participate? Who can submit applications?

We welcome applications from any for-profit registered legal entity including startups, academic institutions or social enterprises, stationed anywhere in the world, that fulfill the programme's eligibility criteria, which can be found [here](#).

For the *Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme (AICR)* we are looking for solutions operating in target geographies: Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Cameroon, Togo, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Malawi, Madagascar.

Do I need to have a team?

Yes, your project should have a dedicated team that will manage its overall execution. If your application to the WFP Sprint Programme is successful. Please refer to the programme's site to check other eligibility criteria.

What do I need to apply?

Your startup, or institution must be incorporated or recognized as a legal entity, and operating as a non-profit or for profit, at the time of application.

The Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme's priority topics are listed here. Selected ventures will be able to further develop their solutions toward scale during the 6- to 9-month WFP Sprint Programme.

What are the types of innovations do we support?

This Programme supports innovations that are at an early-stage and building value for social impact and can demonstrate that they:

- Are at least at a Minimum Viable Product (MVP) stage. Proof of concept is preferred.
- Have conducted pilot(s) or already established feasibility.
- Have a product or service with a verified potential of commercial value and impact.

These solutions would be focused on one or more of the following priority topics:

- Space-efficient Innovations
- Soil-Saving Innovations
- Water-Saving Innovations
- Renewable Energy Solutions

What are the types of innovations that you support?

You can find examples of projects that we selected and accelerated on our [website](#).

What are the selection criteria?

- **Impact & Scalability:** Applicants should have a defined vision, an identified target group, and be able to demonstrate the potential to solve the posed challenge(s).
- **Team:** Applicants should be able to demonstrate they have a diverse, non-discriminatory, gender-balanced organization with demonstrated leadership and entrepreneurial mindset.
- **Novelty:** Applicants should be able to show how their solution and business model are innovative while being technically suitable, and viable.
- **Traction:** Applicants should be able to present evidence of feasibility and adoption by the target group.
- **Business Model:** Applicants should demonstrate the viability of their business model, how they intend to achieve a sustainable business, pricing, and financial model.

How will the winners be selected?

Applications will be scored according to the list of criteria above. Final decisions on successful applicants are made by the WFP Innovation Accelerator, with the support of

an Innovation Committee consisting of WFP representatives along with the programme's sponsors and subject matter experts.

What will we not fund?

- Proposals not presenting clear innovation; innovative ideas that repeat conventional approaches without novel application.
- Proposals for which proof of concept cannot be demonstrated, even at a small scale (from an operational perspective)
- Proposals for which impact is not quantified and proved.
- Proposals that do not clearly consider the current context of available financial systems and infrastructure in relevant geographies.

How do I submit my application?

To submit your solution, visit our [programme website](#) and fill out the [Application form](#).

Please be sure to check your eligibility and that you have answered all required questions to the best of your ability. You will not be able to go back and edit it once the application has been submitted. Answering these questions will take you around 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Will my idea be published?

No, all applications are confidential. Applicants will be contacted before any submitted information is shared externally.

Can I apply more than once?

Yes, you are welcome to submit as many applications as you want, as long as they are independent solutions or problems.

What is the closing date?

The Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience Programme (AICR) is accepting applications till **15 March 2023 11:59PM (CET)**.

If my application is unsuccessful, am I able to receive feedback?

Due to the highly competitive application process and the high number of applications, not all applications are successful. We place priority on ideas or concepts that are deemed to have high potential to solve the challenges in question in this call. We value all applications. However, we are only able to contact shortlisted applicants.

For all other enquiries, please contact global.innovation@wfp.org.

About the WFP Innovation Accelerator

The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales high-impact innovations to disrupt hunger. Based in Munich, Germany, we provide WFP employees, entrepreneurs and startups with funding, hands-on support and access to WFP's global operations. Through the Innovation Accelerator, WFP is leveraging unprecedented advances in digital innovation—such as mobile technology, artificial intelligence, big data and blockchain—and new business models to transform the way we serve vulnerable communities across the world. In five years, the WFP Innovation Accelerator has supported more than 90 projects in 46 countries, with 14 innovations scaling up to achieve significant impact. These projects have impacted 3.7 million lives in 2020 alone, and will continue to do so, in support of WFP's humanitarian field operations.

Find out more about us: wfp.org/enablers and innovation.wfp.org. Subscribe to our [e-newsletter](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#), and watch our videos on [YouTube](#).