



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION: INNOVATIONS AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Deadline for receipt of applications: December 1st at midnight - Paris time.

L'Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Cirad, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development are pleased to announce the call for applications for the International Contest. **Challenge Climat Agriculture et Forestry**. The aim of this competition is to support innovators and encourage them to make ideas and techniques reality, in order to address the challenges that the agriculture and forestry sectors need to face due to climate change, and support sustainable development.

CLIMATE CHALLENGE Agriculture and Forestry is well aware of the dynamism of Africa, Asia, South America, the Mediterranean and French overseas departments and territories., and reaffirming its confidence in the future of this part of the world, aims to promote the creativity, investment, expansion and success of innovators who contribute to the development of their society.

To this end, the Competition brings together the most noteworthy local financial, technical and technological, social and agroecological innovations, as well as all the new approaches to inclusive economies, which involve coalitions of actors from different but complementary backgrounds, who all aim to provide a comprehensive solution to climate change.

1. WHY A COMPETITION OF INNOVATIONS IN AREAS OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY?

Climate change poses a new challenge to agriculture and forestry. It constitutes a major threat to world food security, sustainable development and poverty, particularly in Southern countries whose economies and societies still rely very heavily on these sectors.

While agricultural and forestry systems are responsible for a significant share of global greenhouse gas emissions, they are nevertheless an important part of the solution thanks to adaptation and mitigation mechanisms – reducing and/or eliminating a considerable quantity of global emissions.

2. LOCAL INNOVATION, GLOBAL SOLUTION

By innovations, AFD and Cirad mean processes that bring added value to the technical, methodological and operational processes that are implemented and have a potential to create new dynamics. AFD, Cirad and their partners seek to identify them, support them and disseminate them to recipient communities and the relevant actors.

These innovations are those that serve society, the individual, the family farm, economic life; those that strengthen the way of living together and protect land and biodiversity, and reduce exclusion, particularly of women and the most fragile; those that benefit communities and leverage knowledge and technology transfers, while allowing actors to create synergies and a beneficial use of resources.

Whether they be technical, organizational and/or institutional, they will allow actors and family farms to adapt their practices to climate change, while ensuring that their standard of living and quality of life improve.

Climate Challenge provides an opportunity to promote local initiatives and new approaches to inclusive economies, which involve coalitions of actors from different and complementary backgrounds

3. GUIDELINES FOR THE SUBMISSION AND CONTENT OF APPLICATIONS

Climate Challenge is to honor innovative advances in the areas of agriculture and forestry to climate disruption to release new potential in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Mediterranean and in the French overseas departments and territories. **If you are a farmers' organization, an entrepreneur, a funding agency, a university researcher, a local authority or an inventor with an innovation that has the potential to provide a solution to some of the challenges presented by climate change, submit your application now.** Here are some specific guidelines on who can participate and how to apply:

- Are eligible innovations developed on the continents South America (Central America and the Caribbean included), Africa, Asia, in the Mediterranean and Middle East areas, and in French overseas departments and territories.
- To be eligible for the Competition, applications made by project representatives must be submitted via the



online application platform www.challenge-climat.com. Furthermore, proposals must reflect innovative initiatives, which have already been developed and are being implemented, that meet the objectives of mitigation, adaptation or resilience in response to climate change. Projects or innovations that are at the initial stage may, however, be considered. They may be led by all types of institution. Individual innovations are accepted.

- The Secretariat of the Competition reserves the right to return to the project leaders whose file is incomplete or non-compliant to supplement or correct the record if necessary.
 - The description of the innovation must clearly illustrate the social and / or economic results and its impact in terms of sustainable development and tackle climate disruption, and must meet the criteria for evaluation and selection of Challenge Climate.
- Participation to Climate Challenge is free

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

In order to assess the applications, the Selection Committee will compare all the innovations submitted to the competition with the following five criteria:

Criterion 1: IMPACT OF THE INNOVATION IN ADDRESSING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The Innovation concerns the contribution to environmental objectives, but also economic and social objectives, via mitigation, adaptation or resilience processes to address climate change in the agriculture and forestry sectors (water, soil, geomorphology, biodiversity, plant and livestock diseases, productivity, carbon storage, forest degradation, energy efficiency, agroforestry, agroecology, food security, etc.).

The Innovation will be assessed in all areas, and particularly the financial, organizational, institutional, technical and technological aspects of the product or service, as well as the cultural aspects. Projects that promote a transformation or transition, bringing about a change in practices, everyday acts, occupations, approaches, and tools, and opening up a new path for sustainable development, will also be considered as innovative.

Criterion 2: QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE IMPACT

The quantitative impact means the number of people reached the scale of the creation of monetary income, of the creation of social and environmental capital, or other cobenefits.

The qualitative impact will also be taken into account: inclusiveness and accessibility, contribution to poverty reduction, contribution to the reduction of gender-related inequalities. This requires a clear description when the project is submitted.

Criterion 3: FEASIBILITY AND VIABILITY

It concerns the state of the project, its deployment process, its financial balances, its institutional and legal organization, and the sustainability of the social, human and environmental benefits.

Criterion 4: REPLICATION

This refers to the potential for replication, dissemination and massification. It will therefore be necessary to describe the modalities envisaged and put forward the partnerships that have been concluded or are expected.

Criterion 5: UTILITY AND OVERALL COHERENCE

Candidates must be able to demonstrate in what way the proposal provides a practical and tangible solution to one or to joint clearly identified impact(s) related to the phenomenon of climate change.

5. GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The terms & conditions governing the attribution of CLIMATE CHALLENGE Agriculture and Forestry awards are as follows:

- The selection of potential winners involves a rigorous process that aims to ensure the integrity of the process and a high-quality participation at each level. By submitting an application for this award, the applicant fully recognizes this process, as described in Section 5 below, and undertakes to adhere to it. No exceptions will be made for any candidate and non-participation in any level of the process will lead to disqualification for the following levels.
- By accepting to take part in the Climate Challenge, the winners will be invited to play an active role in the promotion of their innovations and of the competition in general. By accepting the award, the winners will also accept to devote time to being an ambassador for the Climate Challenge. Each finalist will be asked to sign a paper confirming their commitment as an Ambassador for the competition. Failure to sign could lead to disqualification from the competition.
- The organization reserves the right to cancel the award at any time if a candidate selected proves to be ineligible, or does not meet the conditions laid down to receive the award. Any false declaration whatsoever will lead to disqualification from the competition.
- All candidates are required to declare who is the author of the innovation, and the non-disclosure of the ownership may lead to disqualification. In cases where the innovation has been developed working together with other people, the names and contact details of all the collaborators must be specified. Here again, the latter must indicate in writing that they accept the candidate shall receive the award should the innovation win one of the three awards.
- The decisions of the Climate Challenge selection jury are final.
- In order to avoid any conflict of interest, the members of the Climate Challenge selection jury, the experts responsible for the technical validation, and people working in the institutions sponsoring the Award, as well as their family members, are not eligible to submit an application.
- The Climate Challenge Secretariat will ensure that intellectual property rights are strictly respected.
- The Competition Secretariat reserves the right to compile and analyze data collected during the competition in pursuit of the objectives of the organization. However, such use shall not lead to the disclosure of personal or confidential information.
- The Competition Secretariat may contact candidates after the competition to offer various options, including business and networking opportunities.

6. SELECTION PROCESS

The innovations and their initiators will be selected by a high-level panel on the basis of the stages and schedule below:

1. **Preselection (from September to December 2014): the preselection will be conducted in accordance with the following three phases:**

First phase: The Competition Secretariat ensures that the applications received comply with the minimum requirements. This process is conducted throughout the opening period for the competition.

Second phase: AFD and Cirad experts assess the applications to ensure that they are considered to be innovations and attribute a score to each application, according to the abovementioned competition selection criteria.

Third phase: The Competition Secretariat verifies the scores attributed during the second phase.

2. **Preparation of a shortlist (December 2014):** A shortlist of the 150 best projects will be established on the basis of the weighted average attributed to each project.
3. **Meeting of the Selection Committee (January 2015):** The Selection Committee jurors will meet to deliberate on the 12 innovations that will be transferred to the final jury.
4. **Face-to-face interviews and award ceremony (February 2015, dates to be confirmed):** The final jury will conduct face-to-face interviews with the finalists invited to the award ceremony. The winners will be selected following the interviews and announced during the award ceremony. The winners of the competition will be announced and will receive their awards during a special ceremony, which will be held at the International Agricultural Show in Paris in 2015. The exact date of the ceremony will be announced in January 2015 and will be published on the competition website and on the other social media channels.

All the applications received will be subject to a rigorous and impartial assessment process comprising several stages, on the basis of the weighted criteria set out above.

7. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The application form fully completed online must be attached to each application, it may otherwise be disqualified. The candidate must answer each mandatory question. The fact of referring to an attachment does not replace the question and will lead to the application being disqualified. Please note that participation in the competition is free. You can submit your application by visiting the Climate Challenge website at the address <http://challenge-climat.com/>. In the top right corner, you will see a blue button ("Send your application") with a link to the application form. Click on this link and it will take you to the applications portal. Please follow the instructions given to submit your application.

For any question concerning the submission of applications, please first consult the website then, if necessary, contact the Competition Secretariat:

Secretariat of the Climate Challenge *Agriculture and Forestry* competition

Email: challengeclimat@gmail.com.



8. CLIMATE CHALLENGE AWARD

The project initiators whose innovations are selected by the Selection Committee in a category will receive an award. The categories identified are as follows:

- *Mitigation in agriculture and livestock farming*
- *Mitigation in the forestry sector*
- *Substitution and processing of agricultural and forestry products*
- *Adaptation and water resources*

The challenge will recognize 12 personalities who have initiated innovations in the agriculture and forestry sectors to address climate change.

The winners will be invited to Paris for 10 days for the Paris International Agricultural Show, in order to promote and publicize their innovations at one of the world's main agricultural events.

On this occasion, they will also be invited to follow the "innovation campus": a series of seminars, interactive events, creative workshops, field visits and professional meetings on the topics of innovation to address climate change, management, communication, marketing, etc., in order to be able to turn the ideas and innovative techniques of their project into reality.

9. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

Applicants will be able to submit their applications online starting on Monday **9 September 2014**.

Applications will be received until **1 December 2014**.

The award ceremony will take place during the International Agricultural Show, which will be held in Paris **from 21 February to 1 March 2015**.

www.challenge-climat.com