

Accelerating inclusive green growth through agri-based digital innovation in West Africa (AGriDI)

Call for Proposals

Frequently Asked Questions

26 May 2021

1. How many proposals will be funded for each grant category?

Up to four (4) grants are available in each category over the life of the AGriDI project. The actual number of proposals to be funded in this first round will depend on the quality of submissions received.

2. Can a not-for-profit organisation apply for grants in any of the categories?

A not-for-profit organisation may apply for grants provided it identifies itself among any one of the entities listed under the respective categories in the detailed call document and meets the following eligibility requirements:

- i. Be a legal entity established at least since 2017 in one of the eligible countries in the ECOWAS region of West Africa;*
- ii. Have directly implemented research and innovation projects with the following characteristics;*
 - at least two grants for research and innovation activities, for an amount of over EUR 75,000 each during the last two years (2018-2020) and*
 - be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the activities being proposed for funding.*
- iii. Be directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the proposal including joint activities with beneficiaries.*

Eligible entities include; academic or research institutions/organisations; university spin-offs; VET suppliers; organisations representing indigenous and local communities; agencies and associations working for gender equality in research and innovation; national science, technology and innovation agencies; non-governmental organisations; innovation support organisations (i.e. tech hubs, innovation labs and technology transfer offices); incubators and start-ups; and, other similar organisations with specific experience in the priority fields of this call.

3. A not-for-profit organisation is registered as a subsidiary in one of the ECOWAS countries with the parent entity based outside of Africa. Is the subsidiary eligible for the grants?

To be eligible for financial support, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- i. *Be a legal entity established at least since 2017 in one of the eligible countries in the ECOWAS region of West Africa.*
- ii. *Have directly implemented research and innovation projects with the following characteristics;*
 - *at least two grants for research and innovation activities, for an amount of over EUR 75,000 each during the last two years (2018-2020) and*
 - *be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the activities being proposed for funding.*
- iii. *Be directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the proposal including joint activities with beneficiaries.*

4. Can a start-up enterprise apply for a grant in category 2?

A start-up enterprise can apply in category 2 provided it meets the following eligibility requirements:

- i. *Be a legal entity established at least since 2017 in one of the eligible countries in the ECOWAS region of West Africa;*
- ii. *Have directly implemented research and innovation projects with the following characteristics.*
 - *at least two grants for research and innovation activities, for an amount of over EUR 75,000 each during the last two years (2018-2020) and*
 - *be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the activities being proposed for funding.*
- iii. *Be directly responsible for the preparation, management and implementation of the proposal including joint activities with beneficiaries.*

5. Can a department at the University of Abomey Calavi participate in a proposal as an applicant or collaborator?

The University of Abomey Calavi is an AGriDI consortium member.

This particular competitive call for proposals under the AGriDI project is for third parties. In this context, eligible third parties are neither AGriDI consortium members, nor affiliates, nor associates or contractors.

6. Should an applicant involve a local and/or regional collaborator in a proposal?

Local or regional collaborators may be listed in a proposal provided their contribution, role and value-added in the project is clearly described.

7. If an applicant meets some of the eligibility requirements, can a collaborator supplement them?

An applicant is required to meet all the eligibility requirements.

8. What advice would you give potential applicants in grant category 2 especially SMEs without requisite experience of implementing at least two research and innovation grants worth over EUR 75,000?

SMEs that do not meet the eligibility criteria are advised to identify eligible entities they might collaborate with. Business support organisations are examples of such entities including but not limited to business incubators, accelerators, among others.

9. Can an applicant submit evidence of previously implementing a single grant of EUR 150,000 in place of the required two grants of EUR 75,000 each?

An applicant should submit evidence of previously implementing a minimum of two (2) grants worth over EUR 75,000 each. For example, if an entity has previously implemented a grant of EUR 150,000 within the period 2018-2020, they should also submit additional evidence of implementing a second grant of over EUR 75,000 to meet this eligibility requirement.

10. Is the applicant expected to have all the technical expertise during project execution?

The applicant must be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the activities being funded. The roles of the applicant and any collaborators should be clearly described in the proposal. Successful AGRIDI applicants will benefit from technical support during project execution.

11. What type of documentation should be submitted as evidence for implementing previous research and innovation grants?

Examples of documentation may include but is not limited to, copies of a formal notice of grant award, grant agreement and/or audit report.

12. Are there examples of activities or items that can be funded by the grants?

Non-exhaustive examples of activities have been listed and included under each grant category in the detailed call document.

13. Are applicants expected to develop new or build on existing digital solutions?

Applicants may propose to either develop new digital solutions or build on existing ones that may be used to address agricultural bottlenecks described under grant category one. In addition, existing digital solutions may also be applied to enhance market linkages under grant category two.

14. Where can we find the detailed call and application documents?

The detailed call and application documents can be accessed in English and French at: <https://www.rsif-paset.org/funding-opportunity/agridi-grants-for-digital-innovations-in-west-africa/>



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