



Call for Applications for Grant (CAG) 2024

Thematic Focus: Agri-tech and innovation challenge for sustainable food systems

Investing in youth-led and high-impact innovations for sustainable food systems

Terms of Reference

Announced date:

8:00am EST, 1st October 2024

The application portal will be open.

End of application:

5:00pm EST, 29th November 2024

The application portal will be closed.

1. Background

The AGCO Agriculture Foundation (the “Foundation”) was established by AGCO Corporation in 2018 as a private, not-for-profit Foundation with the mission to initiate impactful programs to support food security and sustainable agricultural development in communities.

Working with nonprofit organizations around the world, the Foundation is dedicated to transforming lives in farming communities through funding support to implement holistic, action-oriented, and youth-focused programs that aim to ensure food and nutrition security, empower the next-generation of agricultural leaders, and contribute to sustainable food systems transformation and community development.

The Foundation relies on the annual endowment from AGCO Corporation to implement its strategic programs. The Foundation is headquartered in Vaduz, Liechtenstein, and its operational activities are carried out in Stoneleigh, United Kingdom. More information is available on its website (<https://www.agcofoundation.org/>).

2. Purpose and Objective of the Call for Applications for Grant (CAG)

The Foundation requests grant applications from nonprofit organizations to design and establish an agri-tech and innovation challenge for sustainable food systems for the next generation. The program aims to invest in and empower young people to innovate and accelerate their high-impact ideas, solutions, innovations and agribusiness startups to deliver sustainable food systems transformation and economic prosperity for all.

Global food systems face complex challenges and, therefore, urgently need transformation. This requires ambitious action, innovative solutions, tech-driven ideas, investment and upskilling to achieve sustainable food systems and a future world without hunger.

Across food systems, young people are pivotal to driving change—transformative and sustainable food systems, bringing ideas, talents, innovations and tech-driven solutions. On the other hand, the agri-food sector holds significant promise for young people and offers a broad spectrum of opportunities to improve youth employment and economic livelihoods.

In alignment with the strategic direction to empower next-gen for sustainable food systems, the Foundation recognizes the importance of investing in the future and ideas of next-gen to build a vibrant, innovative and sustainable agri-food future.

This year’s CAG is specifically designed to receive proposals from nonprofits that can develop and establish agri-tech and innovation challenge for sustainable food systems to

invest in youth innovators and startups, young farmers and youth-owned small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) who are championing future-fit solutions and innovations to sustainably feed the world and create economic prosperity for all.

The objectives to be achieved through this grant seek to:

1. Establish **agri-tech and innovation challenge for sustainable food systems** to create new viable opportunities for youth startups and farmers and support next-gen ideas, innovations, solutions and products that fulfil sustainable food systems ambitions.
2. Address the main challenges faced by youth in agri-food sector and **contributes to healthy, sustainable and profitable food systems** for all.
3. Facilitate a support system for the community of next-gen agricultural leaders **to learn, upskill, invent and scale** their innovations and business enterprises.
4. Create dignified **green jobs and economic opportunities** for young people across the agricultural value chains.
5. Revolutionize **next-gen perception and limited attractiveness of the food systems**.

The selected nonprofit organizations shall propose activities and mechanisms to achieve the objectives of this grant.

Grant Application

The Foundation's strategic direction to invest in and empower the next-gen in food systems is fundamental to this call for grant proposals. The grant seeks to respond to some of the factors limiting youth involvement and participation in the food systems and ultimately contributes to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

The Foundation strongly believes in young people's ideas and innovations and their pivotal role in ensuring healthy, sustainable and profitable food systems for all. Food systems transformation have enormous potential to create social impact, economic opportunities and enhanced climate resilience.

To advance youth engagement in the food systems, the Foundation acknowledges the significance of having access to growth capital support and resources (especially productive resources) to translate ideas into real-time innovative solutions and businesses.

This call for grant proposals aims to establish and implement an agri-tech and innovation challenge for sustainable food systems to empower and invest in innovative solutions and startups for young people passionate about making bold changes in the agriculture sector.

The Foundation welcomes grant proposals from nonprofit organizations to co-create, establish and implement the agri-tech and innovation challenge for sustainable food systems that target at least one of these areas:

- i. **Digital agriculture.** The upcoming innovation challenge will focus on pioneering solutions aimed at transforming the future of agriculture. The goal is to ensure sustainable and healthy food systems while boosting productivity, cutting costs and reducing environmental impact.
- ii. **Climate resilience.** The innovation challenge is expected to promote climate resilience and smart agriculture solutions and practices, helping to ensure sustainability across the food value chains.
- iii. **Capacity development.** The innovation challenge is expected to emphasize on innovative solutions that focus on enhancing next-gen and value chain actors' skills, knowledge and resources to transform food systems and strengthen knowledge resources for the agriculture talent pipeline.
- iv. **Market efficiency.** The innovation challenge under this category must focus on agricultural market transformation ideas and technologies that can be game changers in promoting market efficiency for agricultural commodities and strengthening market stability at all levels of the food chain.
- v. **Energy for food systems.** The innovation challenge is expected to emphasize solutions focusing on renewable energy integration that drives sustainable practices and greener energy solutions in food systems. Innovation under the energy for food systems category can cover primary food production, processing, logistics and storage, among others.
- vi. **Food innovations.** The innovation challenge is expected to focus on dynamic and innovative solutions that add value or produce high-quality, nutritious and healthy food to meet consumers' demands, dietary needs and reduce environmental impact.

Across these priority areas, proposing nonprofits must also consider integrating learning opportunities, such as short-term bootcamps and accelerator programs, into the proposed agri-tech and innovation challenge for sustainable food systems to ensure participating youths have the much-needed entrepreneurial training, professional network and technical knowledge of the agri-food sector.

Targeted Audience

The grant application is open to nonprofit organizations that demonstrate a clear alignment with the Foundation programs and have a proven track record of implementing projects and programs around food systems and youth ecosystems. The nonprofit must submit a grant proposal on implementing a youth-focused innovation challenge, targeting next-gen within the age bracket of 18-40 years, including young farmers, youth leaders, youth-owned SMEs and startup leaders.

Grant Funds and Expected Duration

The Foundation will provide a maximum of **US\$400,000 to US\$450,000** each for one or more projects selected for this grant cycle to carry out the planned activities. The grant proposal must be designed for a **three-year** project duration.

The Foundation will disburse the grant funds in three instalments over the project duration. Proposing nonprofits should consider this arrangement when developing the budget breakdown.

The Foundation reserves the right to decline grant requests that are not within the indicated amount or program thematic. Proposing nonprofit organizations must ensure the grant proposal budget adheres to the Foundation's funding guideline - **70%** of grant funds go directly towards the program's activities, while **30%** are for administrative support. Following the funding guideline highlighted above is mandatory, as our reviewers will pay keen attention to it.

Eligibility Requirements

The Foundation welcomes grant proposals from nonprofit organizations registered and recognized as charitable, nonprofit, or non-governmental organizations under the law. As part of the application process, the proposing entity must provide a certificate/proof of nonprofit status. Where required, as part of the review and approval process, the Foundation may contact the proposing entity for clarification and request further documentation.

Notably, the Foundation **does not** award grants to activities or programs to benefit:

- Individual for profit organizations (hospitals, hospice programs, etc.).
- Political, faith-based/religious-based, labour or fraternal organizations.
- Individuals and their personal fundraising efforts.
- Groups seeking education, travel or conventions.

- Sporting leagues, youth or adult sports teams, clubs, golf tournaments or similar one-off events.
- Sales related, marketing, or customer requested fundraising campaigns.
- Schools, school districts, individual students, alumni associations, school or parent organizations and activities.
- Organizations, individuals and their fundraising efforts for conferences, summits and webinars.

Proposing nonprofit organizations may partner with other institutions if deemed appropriate for program implementation. The Foundation does not dictate the choice of partners the proposing nonprofit identified and selected in the program design and implementation. The selected nonprofits will be responsible for subcontracting any of the collaborating partners onboarded for the project.

Submitted grant proposals must align with the goal of this grant application, helping the Foundation strengthen its programs to strengthen youth ecosystems and empower young people in agriculture. The Foundation may prioritize grant proposals seeking to establish a new program but also consider grant proposals that seek to build on an existing agricultural innovation challenge.

Country List

The proposing nonprofit organizations can submit grant proposals to be implemented in any of the countries below:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Zambia.

Supporting Document to Submit

As part of the selection process, nonprofit organizations must complete all the mandatory questions in the grant application form through our Community Investment software partner, Benevity and, in addition, must submit the following documents required as part of the grant proposal package:

1. Project proposal in English (Word Doc format) - (max. 3,000 words).
2. Budget breakdown in spreadsheet.
3. Proof of nonprofit status.

These additional documents should be uploaded directly on the portal under the application form's specific section. The review team will only consider the listed supporting documents in the selection process. Other unsolicited documents, such as annual reports, do not count towards the grant decision and will not be reviewed.

Grant Selection Criteria

The evaluation team, which includes the Foundation team and other identified experts from our corporation, will assess the grant proposals. The Foundation Chair and Board members will make the final approval on the selected grant proposals for funding. The selection of grant proposals from nonprofits will be based on specific evaluation criteria, including technical and financial criteria. Please note also that the award of the grant funds is subject to the Board's approval and a successful contractual agreement between the Foundation and the selected nonprofit organizations.

On the technical side, the evaluation team will closely review the quality and innovativeness of the grant proposals in alignment with this grant call's strategic goals and purpose to empower and invest in young people for sustainable food systems. Emphasis will be given to the mechanisms around the design, activities and implementation of the innovation challenge fund, the number of outreaches in the proposed countries of implementation and the outcomes and key performance indicators to be achieved through the project.

The financial criteria will be evaluated based on the grant proposal to adhere to the funding plan of 70% vs. 30% (project direct cost vs. administrative cost), ensuring that the project activities and the participating youths receive appropriate funding prizes and support during the innovation challenge program.

Other criteria to be evaluated will include the project implementation plan, locations, key project activities and the nonprofit's capacity to successfully implement the project and manage any potential risks to the program.

Please note that due to the expected high volume of grant applications, the Foundation retains the right *not to* provide individual feedback to unsuccessful grant applications.

Grant Timeline

The grant application cycle will be implemented in one phase, and all supporting documents must be submitted with the grant application form. Proposing nonprofits are advised to submit their grant proposals within this timeframe.

Timeline	
Announce and Open Call for Applications for Grant	1st October; 8:00am EST
Attend to Enquiries Related to the Grant	1st October – 28th November
Close Grant Application Portal	29th November; 5:00pm EST
Notify selected grant applications	February 2025

Proposing nonprofits should start the grant application process on the Foundation’s website - <https://www.agcofoundation.org/grants> by reviewing all grant application packages, including the FAQs. Only the applications submitted through the Foundation Benevity online portal will be considered. Please note that emailed or mailed proposals will not be accepted.

Enquiries

If you have any questions or need any assistance directly related to this grant, reach out to us via the Foundation’s email: AGCOagriFoundation@agcocorp.com.