



Call for Applications for Grant (CAG) 2024

Thematic Focus: Innovation for sustainable agri-food systems

Support youth-led and high-impact innovations for sustainable agri-food systems

Terms of Reference

Announced date:

11:00am 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 support the next generation of leaders in agriculture, helping them to develop innovative solutions for agri-food systems. The program should aim to support young people to innovate and accelerate their high-impact ideas, solutions, technology innovations and agribusiness startups to deliver sustainable agri-food systems.

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

Across agri-food systems, young people are pivotal to driving change—transformative and sustainable agriculture, bringing ideas, talents, technology innovations and tech-driven solutions. On the other hand, the agri-food sector provides broad spectrum of opportunities for improving youth employment and livelihoods.

This year’s CAG is specifically designed to receive proposals from nonprofits to support youth-led and high-impact innovations for sustainable agri-food systems. Grant proposals from eligible nonprofits must target youthful innovators (including startups), young farmers and small and medium-sized enterprises owned by younger persons who are working to develop agri-food systems.

The objectives to be achieved by nonprofits through this grant seek to:

1. Support **youth-led and high-impact innovations for sustainable food systems**, helping to create new viable opportunities for young farmers and youth startups and support ideas, innovations and solutions that fulfil sustainable agri-food systems ambitions.
2. Address the main challenges faced by youth in agri-food sector and **contributes to healthy and sustainable agri-food systems**.
3. Facilitate a support system for the community of next-generation agricultural leaders **to learn, upskill, invent and scale** their agricultural innovations and business enterprises.
4. Create dignified **green job opportunities** for young people across the agricultural value chains.
5. Revolutionize **perception and limited attractiveness of the agri-food systems** for young people.

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

Grant Application

Working with nonprofit to support the next-generation leaders in agriculture is fundamental to this call for grant proposals. The grant seeks to work with nonprofit to respond to some of the factors limiting youth involvement and participation in the agri-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 and sustainable agri-food systems. The agricultural sector has enormous potential to create social impact and enhanced climate resilience.

To advance youth engagement in the agri-food systems, the Foundation acknowledges the significance of ensuring youth have access to enabling support and resources to translate ideas into real-time innovative solutions applicable to various agriculture ecosystems. The Foundation welcomes grant proposals from nonprofit organizations to create and facilitate programs to support the next generation of leaders in agriculture helping them to develop innovative solutions for agri-food systems. Programs must target at least one of these areas:

- i. **Digital agriculture.** The upcoming innovation program 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 program 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 program is expected to emphasize on innovative solutions that focus on enhancing next-generation leaders and value chain actors' skills, knowledge and resources to develop the agri-food systems and strengthen knowledge resources for the agriculture talent pipeline.
- iv. **Market efficiency.** The innovation program 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 program is expected to emphasize solutions focusing on renewable energy integration that drives sustainable practices and greener energy solutions in the agri-food systems. Innovation program under the energy for food systems category can cover primary food production, processing, among others.
- vi. **Food innovations.** The innovation program 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 programs on innovation 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 agri-food systems and youth ecosystems. The nonprofit must submit a grant proposal on implementing a youth-focused program to support the next generation of leaders in agriculture, helping them to develop innovative solutions for agri-food systems. Program implementation must target next-generation leaders within the age bracket of 18-40 years, including young innovators (including startups), young farmers, youth leaders, small and medium-sized enterprises owned by younger persons.

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 program.

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 support during the program implementation.

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; 11:00am 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.