

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) GCRF Demonstrate Impact Competition Briefing Events March 2020

Q: Agrifood and Energy are not included within the scope of the GCRF Demonstrate Impact Funding. Are there other funding opportunities?

A: Agritech Catalyst, Newton Fund, GCRF Agrifood Africa, Energy Catalyst

Q: Who is the competition eligible for and can you be a single partner in Phase 1?

A: The Lead Admin Partner must be a UK business of any size registered on companies house. You can apply as a single partner in Phase 1. You must have a local partner in Phase 2.

Q: Can academics apply as a single partner in Phase-1?

A: No

Q: An innovation related to access to energy SDG 7 is not eligible. Is this correct?

A: If the primary focus is SD7, it is not eligible.

Q: Is it open to start ups?

A: Yes but you must be registered on Companies House and you must have money in the company bank account to cover 3 months worth of Project Costs because we pay in arrears. The Project Finance team will want to see evidence of sufficient funds to cover the first quarter of activities.

Q: Is it open to financial services businesses.

A: Yes

Q: For the international partners, you mention that organisation will be funded at the same rate as UK companies. can you explain this further.

A: For example, UK SMEs can request grant funding to cover 70% of project costs – it is the same for international SME partners etc. Full % breakdowns per type of organisation are listed here – the same applies to international partners. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/innovate-uk-funding-general-guidance-for-applicants>.

Q: Are community interest companies 'CIC' eligible to be a single lead company?

A: Yes if they are registered on Companies House.

Q: Can the grant be used to develop an innovation which will benefit AGRI industry as well?

A: Yes as long as the primary focus is one of the SDGs in scope.

Q: Are food processing proposals permitted? Or agriculture ideas that also address other SDGs?

A: Food processing innovations may fit under SDG 12 Responsible Production and Consumption. You will need to look at the sub targets to see if your innovation addresses this SDG.

Q: When will the funding program for AgTech be available for people to apply?

A: The next round will open in June / July 2020.

Q: If there are two companies that have identified the same challenges in two developing countries, can they team-up and mention in Phase 1 that the project will do a feasibility study in the counties ? i.e. Lead partner is UK registered and technical partners is UK/from developing country.

A: They can team up. However we will only fund feasibility work in one country per application. It is unlikely we would fund very similar solutions as part of the same cohort of Phase 1 projects as we take a portfolio approach to achieve a balance across technologies, countries and SDGs.

Q: How "technology ready" do the technologies/approach need to be prior to the application and after a Phase 2 project?

A: We expect the technology to be demonstration ready at Phase 1 – ie ready to pilot / prototype without much further need for tech development beyond some adaptation to local context. Phase 1 is about assessing market feasibility and how best to deploy the innovation in Phase 2.

Q: We got declined last time by 2/5 assessors due to not having a partner, can it be reconfirmed that no partner is required in phase 1?

A: Yes it is fine to apply without a partner in Phase 1. You must have a local partner in Phase 2. Having a partner in place may strengthen your application at Phase 1 but it is not mandatory.

Q: Are universities eligible to apply for phase I as single partner or do they need to partner?

A: No – they must partner with a UK business as the admin lead.

Q: Can the focus of the market demand be in Europe or US and the producers an ODA DAC country?

A: Yes as long as the innovation is not already in one of those markets – it has to be pre-market launch. In addition work in Phase 1 and Phase 2 must be delivered in a developing country.

Q: I have an agritech idea for SE Asia. I can't apply for the Agritech Catalyst, because it only focuses on Africa. Please can I apply for this funding?

A: This is unfortunate. You can only apply for Demonstrate Impact if your innovation meets one of the 10 SDGs in scope. It may be that your innovation could fit under SDG 8 or 12 but it would have to specifically address one of the sub targets under these SDGs.

Q: Does phase 1 mean my innovate product must be ready at the end of month 6?

A: The product must be demonstration ready at Phase 1. Phase 1 is to get insights into the market and how to deploy your innovation in Phase 2. We are not funding tech development for 6 months in Phase 1 beyond minor adaptations to local context based on the market feasibility study.

Q: is this the last competition or is there likely to be another one (i.e. a 3rd call)?

A: Currently this is the last scheduled Demonstrate Impact competition but we are hoping to raise funds to do further rounds – This is not yet confirmed.

Q: There is a lot of talk in the Q&A about technology and products. Is this also open to new services, like innovative ways to help youth to find work, or create work for themselves?

A: Yes – it is open to innovative products, services and processes.

Q: Are there restrictions on working with international donor institutions including non-UK ones both as partners and customers?

A: No restrictions