



Innovate
UK

Business
Connect

Competition Brief

Travel Grants for Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK-Brazil- Africa

**This activity is being delivered by the AgriFood
Team within Innovate UK Business Connect.**

**Please contact agripartnership@iukbc.org.uk with
any questions.**

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Travel Grants for Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK-Brazil-Africa

A consortium of a maximum of two partners (a UK and either a Brazilian, Ghanaian or Nigerian partner) can apply for up to £20,000 for travel to build new relationships between organisations to accelerate the testing and development of technologies and/or practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria.

This competition is delivered as part of the Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK-Brazil-Africa. This is funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and delivered by Innovate UK. It is aligned to the UK's Official Development Assistance (ODA) objectives.

Summary

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will work with FCDO to deliver the [Climate Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK-Brazil-Africa](#).

This partnership between the UK, Brazil and Africa brings together innovative people and organisations to promote climate-smart agriculture in Africa.

Travel Grants support travel to build relationships between businesses, or collaborations between public and private organisations in the UK, Brazil, Ghana and/or Nigeria. Successful applicants will receive a grant of up to £20,000 to travel to meet with potential collaborators and develop plans for future innovation projects.

In this competition up to £400,000 of total funding (up to £20,000 per project) is available for Travel Grants.

The aim of the Travel Grants is to explore and build new collaborations between businesses, or between public and private organisations across the UK, Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria to accelerate the testing and development of technologies and practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria.

The Travel Grants are for innovators who do not yet have trilateral partners and need to undertake further explorative discussions to gather necessary information ahead of building a future innovation funding application.

In applying to this competition, you are entering into a competitive process.

This competition closes at 11:00am UK time on the 7 May 2025.

Project Details and Eligibility

Project Size

Your project's total grant funding request must be a maximum of £20,000.

Eligibility

Your project must:

- have a grant funding request of up to £20,000
- start by the 1 August 2025.
- finish by the 31 January 2026.

You must only include eligible project costs in your application.

Under current restrictions, this competition will not fund any procurement, commercial, business development or supply chain activity with any Russian and Belarusian entity as lead, partner or subcontractor. This includes any goods or services originating from a Russian and Belarusian source.

Each partner organisation will be required to answer the [Simplified UKRI due diligence questionnaire](#) and provide an 'Income and Expenditure statement' and a 'Cash Flow statement'.

You will also be required to complete a Minimal Financial Assistance Declaration form for any UK business partners involved in the project.

Lead organisation

To lead a project your organisation must:

- be a UK- registered business of any size, academic institution, research and technology organisation (RTO), charity or not for profit
- collaborate with one other organisation on this project

More information on the different types of organisation can be found in our [Funding rules](#).

Project team

Projects can have a maximum of two partners. The UK-registered lead, and one partner organisation from either Brazil, Ghana or Nigeria.

To collaborate with the lead, your organisation must be one of the following Brazil, Ghana or Nigeria, registered:

- business of any size
- academic institution
- charity
- not for profit
- public sector organisation
- research and technology organisation (RTO)

To be an eligible collaboration, the lead and one other organisation must apply for funding when entering their costs into the application.

Non-funded partners

Your project cannot include partners that do not receive any of this competition's funding.

Subcontractors

Subcontractors are not allowed in this competition.

Number of applications

UK organisations can lead on a maximum of four applications.

Brazilian, Ghanaian and Nigerian partners can be included in up to four applications.

Previous Applications

You cannot use a previously submitted application to apply for this competition.

We will not award you funding if you have:

- failed to exploit a previously funded project
- an overdue independent accountant's report
- failed to comply with grant terms and conditions

Portfolio approach

We want to fund a variety of projects across different themes, sectors, locations, and across a range of company sizes. We call this a portfolio approach.

Subsidy control (and State aid where applicable)

This competition provides funding in line with the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Further information about the Subsidy requirements can be found within the Subsidy Control Act 2022 (legislation.gov.uk)

Innovate UK is unable to award organisations that are considered to be in financial difficulty. We will conduct financial viability and eligibility tests to confirm this is not the case following the application stage.

EU State aid rules now only apply in limited circumstances. Please see our general guidance to check if these rules apply to your organisation.

All organisation will be required to provide at the application stage copies of :

- Latest annual accounts
- Management accounts for the current year
- Predicted cash flow for the period of the project

This is to demonstrate participants ability to deliver the project during the project period.

Successful applicants may be asked for additional information during project set up or a due diligence-focused meeting.

Further Information

If you are unsure about your obligations under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 or the State aid rules, you should take independent legal advice. We are unable to advise on individual eligibility or legal obligations.

You must always make sure that the funding awarded to you is compliant with all current Subsidy Control legislation applicable in the United Kingdom.

This aims to regulate any advantage granted by a public sector body which threatens to or actually distorts competition in the United Kingdom or any other country or countries.

Funding

Up to £400,000 has been allocated to fund projects in this competition. Funding will be in the form of a grant.

UK businesses can get funding for 100% of eligible project costs.

UK research organisations undertaking non-economic activity as part of the project can get funding for eligible project costs of up to:

- 80% of full economic costs (FEC) if you are a Je-S registered institution such as an academic
- 100% of your project costs if you are an RTO, charity, not for profit organisation, public sector organisation or research organisation

Brazilian, Ghanaian or Nigerian organisations can get funding for 100% of eligible project costs.

Funding will be paid to the lead organisation only on completion of the project. The lead partner will be responsible for distributing the funding to any partner organisation in the project.

To receive funding for your activities you will be required to submit evidence of your (and your partners) costs.

Scope

Innovate UK, part of UK Research and Innovation, will work with FCDO to deliver the Climate Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK-Brazil-Africa.

This partnership between the UK, Brazil and Africa brings together innovative people and organisations to promote climate-smart agriculture in Africa.

In this competition up to £400,000 of total funding (up to £20,000 per project) is available for Travel Grants.

The aim of the Travel Grants is to explore and build new collaborations between businesses, or between public and private organisations across the UK, Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria to accelerate the testing and development of technologies and practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria.

The Travel Grants are for innovators who do not yet have partners established in one of the four countries and need to undertake further explorative discussions to gather necessary information ahead of building a future innovation funding application.

Travel Grant applications must show how the travel will be used to strengthen partnerships and increase engagement between research institutions and the private sector across the UK, Brazil and Africa. Two partners should apply for a travel grant, one from the UK and one from another country (Brazil, Ghana or Nigeria) to meet with other potential collaborators in a third country to explore opportunities for future R&D collaboration.

For example, an application could include a UK partner and a Brazilian partner travelling to meet with potential collaborators in Africa (Ghana and/or Nigeria) to explore how an idea or technology could be applied. Alternatively, a UK and a Ghanaian partner could travel to Brazil to understand how a problem shared between Ghana and Brazil is being addressed in Brazil and to meet with potential Brazilian collaborators.

Travel Grants will cover the costs of travel and subsistence of two named partners. This could include covering the costs of:

- in-country visits to exchange ideas with potential partners around a particular innovation or challenge
- demonstrations of innovative solutions to potential in-country partners
- exploring the options and requirements for adaptation of a technology to a new market with in-country partners
- developing project ideas and proof of market or concept work

The individual potential collaborators that the two partner applicants intend to visit do not need to have been confirmed at the time of application to apply for this competition, but a strategy to identify and meet with these should be outlined.

Following the Travel Grant, trilateral consortia may be able to apply for future innovation funding to work on the opportunities with partners identified during their Travel Grant.

Climate-smart agriculture is an approach that helps guide actions to transform food systems towards green and climate resilient practices. It supports reaching internationally agreed goals such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It aims to tackle three main objectives:

1. sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes;
2. adapting and building resilience to climate change;
3. reducing and/or removing greenhouse gas emissions, where possible (FAO, 2024).

Projects must highlight how the technologies/practices they explore within their collaborative project will contribute to these objectives.

Dates

Open date	3 March 2025
Close date	7 May 2025
Projects start	1 August 2025
Projects finish	31 January 2026 (no extensions will be granted)

Unsuccessful projects will not receive specific feedback on their application.

How to apply

Applications are only being received through the Good Grants platform. You will need to set up an account on Good Grants to submit your application.

The project lead should complete and submit the final application.

Before submitting, it is the lead applicant's responsibility to make sure:

- that all the information provided in the application is correct
- your proposal meets the eligibility and scope criteria

You can edit your application once submitted, up until the competition deadline.

What we ask you:

1. Public description (not scored)

Describe your project in detail and in a way that you are happy to see published. Do not include any commercially sensitive information. If we award your project funding, we will publish this description. This could happen before you start your project.

2. Was either organisation involved in a Scoping Project? (not scored)

This question is not scored. It is not a pre-requisite to have been involved in a Scoping Project to apply. The Scoping Projects for Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnerships: UK-Brazil-Africa built trilateral networks and identified opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing to promote Climate-Smart Agriculture and improve the production, accessibility and availability of safe, nutritious food in Ghana and Nigeria. Find out more: <https://iuk-business-connect.org.uk/news/climate-smart-agriculture-partnership-scoping-projects-announced/>

3. How will you use the Travel Grant?

Describe:

- the business need, technological challenge, or market opportunity you look to explore through making new connections
- the specific activities you will undertake to progress innovation collaborations and identify commercial engagement opportunities

4. Who is in your project team and what is their role in the visit?

Explain:

- how the roles, skills and experience of all members of the project team are relevant to the topic area and planned activities of the visit you will be taking

5. What are the expected outcomes and impacts of the Travel Grant?

Explain:

- how the outcomes of this project will 1) build relationships between businesses, or collaborations between public and private organisations and 2) accelerate the potential for collaborative development of new innovations, technologies or practices
- what future activities or opportunities would you plan to engage in as a result of this project, using the connections generated from your visit

6. How much will the project cost and how does it represent value for money?

In terms of your project goals, explain:

- your total project costs
- the grant you are requesting
- the balance of costs between partners
- how your application offers value for money

Accessibility and inclusion

We welcome and encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and are committed to making our application process accessible to everyone. This includes providing support, in the form of reasonable adjustments, for people who have a disability or a long-term condition and face barriers applying to us.

You must contact us as early as possible in the application process. We recommend contacting us at least 15 working days before the competition closing date to ensure we can provide you with the most suitable support possible.

You can contact us by emailing agripartnership@iukbc.org.uk

Data Sharing Privacy Notice

[Please see the privacy Notice for this competition.](#)

Next steps

After your application is received via Good Grants it will be assessed. You will be contacted if your application is either successful or unsuccessful. Unsuccessful projects will not receive specific feedback on their application.

Should your application be successful you will be required to complete and sign a Grant Offer Letter via Good Grants prior to starting your project and complete the due diligence checks. You will also be required to submit a 'New supplier form' to ultimately enable payments to be processed and a redacted copy of your bank details. In order for us to process your claims, you must make sure you have a valid UK bank account.

Your Grant Offer Letter will show the start date for your project, do not start your project before this date. Any costs incurred before your start date cannot be claimed as part of your grant.

The Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK-Brazil-Africa is funded by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and delivered by Innovate UK.

