



Innovate
UK

Business
Connect

Competition Brief

Innovation Awards 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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EDITS:

Edit 1. Text clarification on p.4 regarding 'Eligibility' and the documentation that will be required at project set up.

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Innovation Awards for Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK- Brazil-Africa

A consortium of a minimum of three partners from the UK, Brazil and Ghana, or the UK, Brazil and Nigeria can apply for up to £100,000 for an Innovation Award to accelerate the testing and/or development of technologies and/or practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana or 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.

In this competition up to £1,500,000 of total funding (up to £100,000 per project) is available for Innovation Awards.

The aim of this competition is to support collaborations between organisations in the UK, Brazil and Africa (either Ghana and/or Nigeria) to accelerate the testing and development of technologies and practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana or Nigeria. Projects will include a minimum of 3 partners. Projects must include partners from the UK, Brazil and Ghana, or the UK, Brazil and Nigeria. An additional fourth partner from any of the four countries is allowed.

Projects must demonstrate a compelling business-led motivation, a focus on identifying commercial opportunities and define a clear business-related challenge or evidencing demand for innovation. Projects can be innovative either from a commercial or technical perspective.

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 between £30,000 and £100,000.

Eligibility

Your project must:

- have a total grant funding request of between £30,000 and £100,000
- last for up to 6 months, starting 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' at project set up, should your application be successful.

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

Lead organisation

Applications should be developed collaboratively by a consortium of organisations.

The UK partner will be the Administrative Lead for the project and should submit the application form.

To be the UK Administrative Lead for 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 at least two other organisations in this project
- involve at least one business of any size in this project

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

Project team

Applications must include a registered business (of any size) as one of the partner organisations. Applications must include at least 3 partners, with 1 partner from each geography i.e. UK, Brazil, Africa (Ghana or Nigeria). An additional fourth partner from any geography is allowed. Consortia must include:

- a UK-registered organisation (who is also the Administrative Lead and will submit the application)
- a Brazil-registered organisation

- either a Nigerian or Ghana-registered organisation
- an additional fourth partner organisation from any of the four geographies (UK, Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria) may be included, but is not required.

To collaborate with the UK Administrative 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 Administrative Lead and at least two other organisations from eligible countries must have costs included in 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 be the Administrative Lead on two applications and can be included as a collaborator in a further two 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 organisations will be required to provide at the project set up stage copies of:

- 'Income and Expenditure statement' and a 'Cash Flow statement'.

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 £1,500,000 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 UK Administrative Lead organisation only on completion of the project. The UK Administrative Lead will be responsible for distributing the funding to the other partner organisations 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 £1,500,000 of total funding (up to £100,000 per project) is available for Innovation Awards.

Innovation Awards will support collaborations between organisations in the UK, Brazil and Africa (either Ghana and/or Nigeria) to accelerate the testing and development of technologies and practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana or Nigeria. Projects will include a minimum of 3 partners. Projects must include partners from the UK, Brazil and Ghana, or the UK, Brazil and Nigeria. An additional fourth partner from any of the four countries is allowed.

Projects should focus on exploring an innovation which will promote climate-smart agriculture approaches to address a challenge in food production systems in Ghana or Nigeria. Projects must demonstrate how their specified challenge will be overcome through a defined collaborative research/innovation project. All partners should be fully integrated into the project leadership. There should be equitable involvement in decision-making and setting the direction for the project, your teams approach to achieving this should be clearly defined within your project plan. This should be reflected within the project budget, with justified distribution of resources across partners and with no single partner dominating the resource allocation without clear justification.

Projects must demonstrate a compelling business-led motivation and a focus on identifying commercial opportunities and define a clear business-related challenge or evidencing demand for innovation. Projects can be innovative either from a commercial or technical perspective. Projects could involve, for example, the transfer of a technology or practice from one country to another, the co-development of a new technology or practice, research into a new solution or knowledge-sharing from a research base into commercial organisations.

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 UK Administrative Lead should complete and submit the final application.

Before submitting, it is the Administrative Leads 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 make this description publicly available. This could happen before you start your project.

2. What is the business need, technological challenge, or market opportunity behind your innovation? (this must be associated with addressing a challenge in food production systems in Ghana or Nigeria)

Explain:

- *the business need, technological challenge or market opportunity*
- *the business-led motivation for the project (defining a clear business-related challenge or evidencing demand for innovation)*
- *if you have identified any similar innovation and its current limitations*
- *any work you have already done to respond to this need, for example, if the project focuses on developing an existing capability or building a new one*

3. What approach will you take and where will the focus of the innovation be?

Describe or explain:

- *what your proposed innovation is and what the outcomes of your project will be*
- *how you will respond to the need, challenge or opportunity identified*

- *whether the innovation will focus on developing/testing existing technologies/practices in new areas, the development/testing of new technologies/practices for existing areas, or a totally disruptive approach*
- *how the project approach will support knowledge sharing or technology transfer between partners*
- *how your approach will lead to outputs which will improve the sustainability of food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria*

4. Who is in the project team and what are their roles?

Describe or explain:

- *the roles, skills and experience of all members of the project team that are relevant to the approach you will be taking (the contribution of each country partner is expected to be substantive and all partners should be clearly integrated into the project, demonstrating equitable involvement in decision-making)*
- *the resources, equipment and facilities needed for the project and how you will access them*
- *evidence/justification as to how/why your chosen consortium will work well together*

5. What is the expected impact of the project/its deliverables?

Describe:

- *the positive impact / change you hope to achieve through this collaboration, including potential social, economic or environmental impacts*
- *the potential for accelerating the testing and/or development of technologies and/or practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana or Nigeria*
- *the expected impacts on ALL of the organisations involved in the project (e.g. on future business growth, research goals, research and innovation capacity)*

6. What are the primary risks associated with this project?

Explain:

- *the main risks and uncertainties of the project, including the technical, commercial, managerial, and environmental risks.*
- *how these risks will be mitigated*

7. How will you manage your project effectively?

Explain:

- *the main work packages of your project, indicating the partner assigned to each, the key objectives and outcomes of each work package and the total cost of each*
- *your approach to project management, identifying any major tools and mechanisms you will use to get a successful and innovative project outcome*
- *how the team intend to achieve and sustain equity in their relationship through the project and its management, including clear responsibilities and mechanisms for joint-decision making*
- *your project plan in enough detail to identify any links or dependencies between work packages or milestones*

8. 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 equitable involvement in decision-making and project delivery is supported through the budget allocation of each partner (e.g. inclusion of costs for project decision makers from each partner, justified distribution of resources across partners)*
- *how this represents 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.



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