



## CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

### 1. Objective of this Call for Proposals

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, with headquarters in Eschborn and Bonn, Germany, is the organizer of the Innovation Challenge 2021 “Advisory for Agroecology”.

The Innovation Challenge 21 “Advisory for Agroecology” is a Call for Proposals open to formal or informal consortia, whether already established or in preparation and as further specified in item 2 below (hereinafter collectively “**Consortia**”), between

- (i) one or more International Institutions (as defined in item 2 below) as the main applicant,
- (ii) one or more Local Institutions (as defined in item 2 below) in the Implementation Country (as defined in item 3), and
- (iii) one or more Private Companies (as defined in item 2 below),

which apply via Email to [innovationchallenge2021@giz.de](mailto:innovationchallenge2021@giz.de) using the application form (available at: [www.advisory-for-agroecology.de](http://www.advisory-for-agroecology.de)) at the latest by 31 May 2021.

#### 1.1 Aim

The aim is to identify and promote new and innovative concepts, ideas, and tools in agricultural advisory in order to scale agroecological approaches more effectively and sustainably.

- Agricultural advisory (in the context of this call) is understood as the provision of services to empower smallholder farmers and better integrate them in systems of agricultural innovation (e.g., the provision of knowledge for improved agricultural practices and productivity, promoting environmentally sustainable production techniques and pest management practices, etc.).
- Agroecological approaches (in the context of this call) are understood as farm, crop and pest management practices to solve agricultural problems and issues thereby contributing to increase farmers income and livelihoods.
- A particular focus will be placed on leveraging the potential of women as key actors for agroecological change and digital tools for more participatory and integrative advisory services.

#### 1.2 Funding

The selected Consortia will be awarded funding based on a grant agreement as specified in item 4 below to be concluded between GIZ and the respective International Institution as the main applicant of the respective Consortium.

#### 1.3 Expected Impacts

The beneficiaries of the project are smallholder farmers in one or more Implementation Countries.

The expected short and long-term impacts of the Innovation Challenge are:

- (i) Innovative agricultural advisory concepts and tools are developed by Consortium Members under regional conditions and with broad farmer participation;
- (ii) Establishment of a long-lasting Innovation Partnership among Consortium Members to provide successfully agricultural advisory scaling agroecological approaches using the developed concepts and tools.



## 2. Who can apply?

Consortia – or consortia in preparation – meeting the following criteria are eligible for participation in the Call for Proposals.

Criteria for Consortia:

- Each Consortium must consist of at least three “**Consortium Members**” as specified below:
  - At least one of the Consortium Members must be an International Institution,
  - At least one of the Consortium Members must be a Local Institution, and
  - At least one of the Consortium Members must be a Private Company.
- The Consortium Members have signed a letter of intent with respect to the participation in this Call for Proposals.

Criteria to qualify as “**International Institution**”

- Any research institute, association, foundation, organization or NGO with its major part of activities in at least three Implementation Countries (as defined in item 3),
- with professional experience in agroecological approaches and / or agricultural advisory,
- with staff and resources available to carry out project activities in at least one Implementation Country as agreed between the Consortium Members, and
- with financial and administrative capacities for administering project activities and funds (according to GIZ requirements: see item 4).

Criteria to qualify as “**Local Institution**”

- Any national research institute, association, foundation, farmers’ cooperative, extension agency or NGO with its head office and major part of activities exclusively in the Implementation Country (as defined in item 3),
- with professional experience in agroecological approaches and / or agricultural advisory, and
- with staff and resources available to carry out project activities in the Implementation Country as agreed between the Consortium Members.

Criteria to qualify as “**Private Company**”

- Any commercial company, entity or other for-profit organisation, and
- with staff and resources available to carry out project activities as agreed between the Consortium Members.

## 3. Geographic focus

Project concepts must indicate in which country the activities shall be implemented. “**Implementation Countries**” must be among the following countries:

**Africa:** Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Kenya, Mali, Mauretania, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia

**Asia:** Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

**Latin Amerika:** Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador, México, and Peru.

**Europe:** Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldavia, Serbia, and Ukraine.

## 4. Contract, budget and duration

GIZ will offer a grant agreement to the International Institution as main applicant of the Consortia selected pursuant to the Selection Criteria set out in item 5 below. The International Institution will be responsible for project coordination and financial accounting. Project activities of the Local Institution can be financially funded through sub-grants provided by the International Institution.



The Private Company shall not receive any financial or in-kind contribution from GIZ, nor any sub-grant from the International Institution in the context of the project implementation.

The International Institution and Local Institution of the selected Consortia will be subject to a business screening conducted by GIZ.

The maximum possible financial support by GIZ to each selected Consortium will be 150,000 Euros for a 1.5 years project phase, consisting of a five-months' proof of concept phase and a one-year implementation phase:

- The financial support by GIZ to **six** selected Consortia will be 50,000 Euros respectively for a five-months' proof of concept phase. The proof of concept phase will ideally start in September 2021 and will continue until January 2022.
- The financial support by GIZ to **three** finally selected Consortia (from the above-mentioned six selected Consortia) will be 100,000 Euros respectively for a one-year implementation phase. The implementation phase will ideally start in April 2022 and will continue until March 2023.

## 5. Selection Criteria

### *General criteria*

- Each Consortium is only allowed to submit one project proposal.
- Consortium Members are not allowed to participate in multiple Consortia.
- The project activities would not take place without the GIZ funding (subsidiarity).
- Activities which are already financed or supported by GIZ are not eligible for funding.
- Purchases of materials and small equipment can be foreseen within the budget, but their total amount shall not exceed 20% of the overall budget. At the end of the project phase, these purchases need to be handed over to local partners and beneficiaries (for example associations, cooperatives etc.).

### *Criteria for project concepts*

Only proposals which include all requested information and documents will be considered for evaluation.

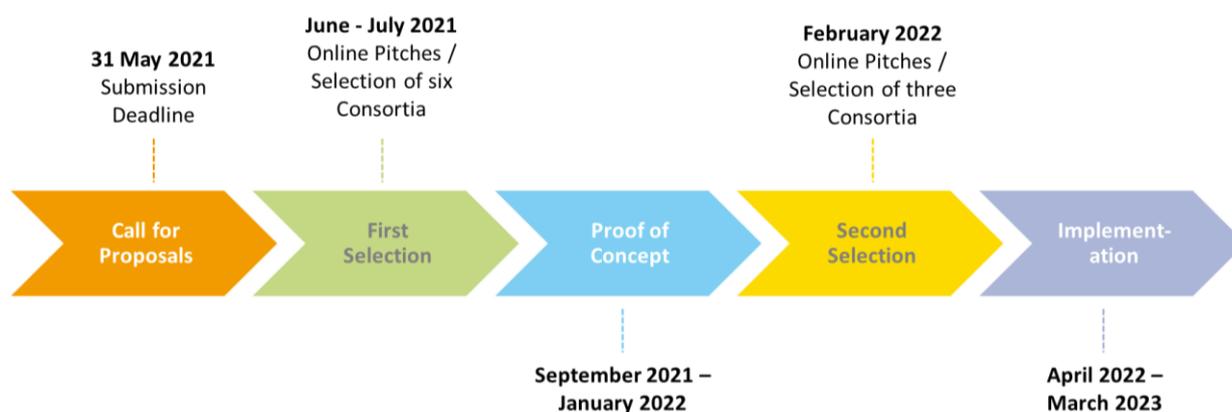
The following criteria will be used during the Preselection (selection of twelve Consortia), the First Selection (selection of six Consortia from the above-mentioned twelve Consortia) and the Second Selection (selection of three Consortia from the above-mentioned six Consortia) respectively:

- Relevance for solving agricultural problems in the Implementation Country,
- Level of novelty and innovation,
- Broad advisory approach,
- Feasibility of the advisory concept,
- Number and complexity of agroecological approaches addressed,
- Agroecological approaches to be scaled and integrated into agricultural advisory (in the context of this call) must have been already proved effectively under the specific agricultural context of the Implementation Country,
- Level of intended impact on farm level and livelihoods, as well as probability of achievement,
- Clear and detailed methodological approach (outputs, activities, and indicators),
- Expected sustainability of the agricultural advisory after the end of the project,
- Potential for scaling up the agricultural advisory on agroecological approaches,
- Consideration of gendered aspects and contribution to gender equality,
- Detailed strategy for the implementation of the proof of concept phase, and
- Description of risks and mitigation strategy.



## 6. Process / Timeline

The Innovation Challenge 2021 “Advisory for Agroecology” entails a multi-phased selection and funding process.



### Call for Proposals:

Consortia or Consortia in preparation meeting the Criteria for Participation (as defined in item 2) are encouraged to express their interest and submit a project proposal to [innovationchallenge2021@giz.de](mailto:innovationchallenge2021@giz.de) using the application form (available at: [www.advisory-for-agroecology.de](http://www.advisory-for-agroecology.de)). All applications must be submitted in English.

### Preselection and First Selection:

- **Preselection:** A selection jury consisting of GIZ staff and international agricultural advisory experts from academia and practice will shortlist project proposals of twelve Consortia according to the predefined Selection Criteria (as defined in item 5). The twelve preselected Consortia will be informed via Email by 18 June 2021.
- **Online pitches:** Between 28 June and 02 July 2021, the twelve preselected Consortia will have the opportunity to present their concepts and ideas in the form of a 15 minutes online pitch to the selection jury. Based on the presentation and the project proposal, six Consortia (from the above-mentioned twelve preselected Consortia) will be selected for conducting a five-months proof of concept phase. The six selected Consortia will be informed via Email by 07 July 2021.

### Proof of Concept Phase

From September 2021 to January 2022, the six selected Consortia will receive funding for a five-months proof of concept phase. During the proof of concept phase the six selected Consortia will further develop the advisory concept and tools, for example, conduct pre- / feasibility studies, explore their partner network, implement pilots with farmers groups and develop prototypes, etc. according to their proposed implementation strategy in the project proposal.

### Second Selection:

- **Resubmission of refined project proposals:** By the end of January 2022, the six Consortia have to resubmit a refined project proposal, based on the results of the proof of concept phase. For this purpose, a new application form will be provided to the six selected Consortia by September 2021.



- *Online pitches:* In February 2022, the six Consortia have to present their results and refined project proposal in the form of a 20 minutes online pitch to the selection jury. Based on the presentation and the refined project proposal, the selection jury will select three Consortia (from the above-mentioned six selected Consortia) according to the predefined Selection Criteria (as defined in item 5). The selected three Consortia will be awarded 100,000 Euros for a one-year implementation phase. The three finally selected Consortia will be informed via Email by end of February 2022.

#### Implementation Phase

From April 2022 to March 2023, the three finally selected Consortia will receive one-year funding for the implementation of the refined project proposal. Results of the implementation phase have to be documented and submitted in the form of a project report to GIZ by the end of March 2023. The format and content of the project report will be provided to the three selected Consortia by end of February 2022.

#### 7. Additional terms and conditions

- The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, with headquarters in Eschborn and Bonn, Germany, is the organizer of the Innovation Challenge 21 “Advisory for Agroecology”.
- GIZ reserves the right to exclude participants who provide false or incomplete information, use unauthorized aids or who otherwise violate the conditions of participation from participating in the Innovation Challenge 21 “Advisory for Agroecology” without giving reasons. In such a case, it is also possible that financial contribution by GIZ may be subsequently withdrawn.
- If a selected Consortium does not take advantage of the financial contribution, GIZ reserves the right to decide at its own discretion what to do with the financial contribution.
- GIZ reserves the right to react transparently to unforeseen circumstances by changing or cancelling the Call for Proposals, especially in the event of manipulation or if the execution of the Call for Proposals is endangered.
- Should any clause of these terms and conditions be invalid, the validity of the remaining terms and conditions shall remain unaffected.
- Recourse to the courts is not permitted.

#### 8. Data protection

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH attaches great importance to responsible and transparent management of personal data. GIZ processes personal data exclusively in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the German Federal Data Protection Act (Bundesdatenschutzgesetz, BDSG).

For more information see: [www.giz.de/en/html/data\\_protection.html](http://www.giz.de/en/html/data_protection.html)

By participating in the Innovation Challenge 2021 “Advisory for Agroecology” all participating Consortia Members acknowledge the Data Protection Statement in accordance with the GDPR (available at: [www.advisory-for-agroecology.de](http://www.advisory-for-agroecology.de)).