

Agrinnovation Fund in ASEAN

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions



1. How specific does the proposal of the innovation need to be?

The proposal should be as specific as you can be within the word limit, stating that the innovative ideas support either mango value chain in Son La or litchee value chain in Bac Giang. Pre-selected applicants will have the opportunity to develop their idea into a project concept together with respective public partners in each country—Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam, and GIZ who implement the Fund.

2. Should the proposal be a specific focused single innovation, or can it encompass a number of initiatives?

This is up to you. It could be one overall innovation with different sub-initiatives. But make sure to connect the sub-initiatives to create a wholesome innovation. If you think one of your innovation stands out on its own, you can also focus on that.

3. Can an internationally owned company apply?

Yes, however, internationally owned firms need to show that they have local ties to producer organisations etc. in the country where the Fund is being implemented.

4. Can an application be submitted by two or more organisations and can they distribute their matching contribution across the partners?

Yes, an application can be developed by multiple partners, however, it is advised for one of the partners to submit the application to avoid duplication. Moreover, it is generally recommended to limit the number of partners to a maximum of two active partners that are contributing and receiving the support per proposal. This is to avoid the project becoming more complex as more partners are involved.

5. Can one organisation hand in two different applications?

Yes, you can hand in more than one application if you feel equally strong about both of your ideas. However, it is recommended to consider whether you can combine both ideas into one project to make it even stronger.

6. What does “not a cash disbursement-based fund” mean?

Partners will not receive the fund in cash. There will be no transfer of funds between the Fund and the selected partner. Instead the Fund’s contribution will be in-kind, meaning the Fund will cover the cost for consultancy, capacity building, materials, technology and technical assistance (further detail see no. 8). These will be procured by the Fund in accordance with GIZ guidelines and will usually involve quotations from multiple suppliers.

7. What does “matching contribution” mean?

Selected partner and the Fund will jointly develop the project and contribute equally to the project using their own resources. The monetary value of the partner contribution needs to be at least 50% of the total value of the joint project. For example, if you are applying for 20,000 EUR, you will also have to

contribute worth at least 20,000 EUR. You do not have to apply for the maximum amount that the Fund offer, it can be also less.

8. What are eligible activities and costs that will be covered by the Fund?

Since the Fund will cover the cost for consultancy, capacity building, materials, technology and technical assistance, most common contributions include:

- Costs of service providers providing specific services on the indicated activities
- Costs of seminars, workshops, and other facilities emanating from the project
- Costs of research and dissemination of information, printing etc.
- Direct travel expenses in relation to e.g. improved planting material, development and dissemination or training delivery
- Machinery and equipment needed as pilot for a disruptive innovation, (the ownership of this equipment needs to be transferred to farmers, farmers groups, NGOs or Civil Society Organisations after the project ends and cannot remain with the applicant)
- Expenses in relation to pilot test of the improved planting material or inputs or execution models
- Capacity development measures (technical, organisational, managerial) for supported value chain actors and supporters

9. Can staff costs be reimbursed?

No, the Fund's contribution does not cover/reimburse staff cost of the selected partners. Because all contributions are in-kind, there will be no transfer of funds between the selected partner and the Fund.

10. The matching contribution from the selected partner can be in-kind. Does that mean that the partner's contribution can be working time?

Yes, working time (staff cost) devoted to the project activities is one of the most common forms of contribution from the selected partner. Others can include travel cost, cost for organising trainings/events, equipment and more.

11. Regarding the budget, what is the timeline within which the fund would be provided and need to be matched internally?

The project duration is to be proposed by the applicants, selected project should start implementation around April/May 2021 and end by December 2022. The actual duration of each project may vary with maximum up to 19 months for implementation. The project duration is also the timeframe within which the selected partners have to provide their contribution.

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