



Dear colleagues,

Sida is very proud to announce the **Water and Energy for Food (WE4F) Call for Innovations in the South and Southeast Asia (SSEA) region**, together with our partners USAID, BMZ/GIZ in collaboration with the EU Commission, and MFA-Netherlands!

What is at stake?

The SSEA region has seen remarkable economic growth in the past two decades, leading to a projected decrease of 13 million undernourished people between 2015 and 2024. However, this progress is not uniformly spread over the region; as of 2015, around 60 million people remained malnourished and poverty rates in several countries exceeded 40 percent. Meanwhile, food production often involves traditional or intensive energy and water uses that exacerbate climate change, depletion of natural resources and biodiversity loss. In order to address these issues, enterprises have already developed a bevy of approaches and technologies for climate-friendly, water- and energy-efficient agricultural processes. These innovators, however, often have insufficient entrepreneurial capacities to successfully and sustainably scale up developed prototypes, access catalytic investment, integrate gender, poverty and environmental considerations into their operations, or engage with policy and regulation environments. Through support for innovations, WE4F expects to target poor women and men smallholder farmers and others working in all parts of the agriculture value chain.

Who can apply?

WE4F is looking for innovators (private, for-profit companies or teams or groups within non-profits or universities which maintain their own budget and are responsible for generating revenue) working on local, sustainable, and innovative solutions for pressing challenges in the water, energy, and agriculture sectors in the following countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, East Timor, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. In addition to hard criteria including sales, operational standards, sound management, transparency and accountability, WE4F places a focus on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and strict environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria when assessing an innovator's eligibility. WE4F will

give preference to women-owned/women-led organizations and developing country entrepreneurs.

Why join WE4F?

The SSEA Regional Innovation Hub for WE4F is designed to support innovators in the region in growing their businesses. By tackling matters related to business growth, technical aspects, environmental and social impact, policy and legal barriers and access to finance together with experts, innovators will receive tailored and intense support to help sustainably scaling their enterprises. Through this competition, WE4F anticipates disbursing **\$4 million USD** in award funding in the form of technical assistance and grants, and provide access to regional and global networking and investment matchmaking opportunities. Individual awards for innovators are expected to range from **\$25,000 USD to \$500,000 USD**, depending on the type of funding requested. Each award will be funded based on milestones and an implementation plan that are mutually agreed upon. Grant-funded activities must be completed within one to three years.

When to apply?

Concept Notes shall be submitted no sooner than November 03, 2020 and no later than **December 15, 2020 at 5:00 PM GMT+7** via the Online Application Platform accessed at https://innovations.smapply.io/prog/we4f_sse_asia_rih_call_for_innovations_2020/ (where you can also find more detailed information about the call). Questions shall be submitted in writing no later than November 16, 2020 at 5:00 PM GMT+7. The questions shall be submitted to WE4FAsiaBids@tetrattech.com.

Please share this Call for Innovations widely in your channels and networks!

Greetings and many thanks for your kind collaboration,

Pia, Carmen, Helena & Wanja