



Innovate  
UK

Business  
Connect

# Competition Brief

## Scoping Projects 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@iuk.ktn-uk.org](mailto:agripartnership@iuk.ktn-uk.org)  
with any questions.**

**Version 1: 19 August 2024**

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# Scoping Projects for Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK- Brazil- Africa

UK academic institutions or research and technology organisations (RTOs) can apply for up to £30,000 to deliver a Scoping Project to build trilateral networks between innovators and stakeholders in the UK, Brazil and Africa (Ghana and Nigeria). Projects will identify opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing to 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.

In the first competition of this programme up to £300,000 of total funding (up to £30,000 per project) is available for exploratory Scoping Projects.

Scoping Projects will build trilateral networks between the UK, Brazil and Africa (Ghana and Nigeria) and identify opportunities for collaboration and knowledge sharing to promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria.

The connections made through the Scoping Projects will catalyse research and innovation partnerships and projects. Partnerships would be eligible to apply for grant funding through a future Innovation Award competition (expected to be announced in 2025). Scoping Projects will explore opportunities in both Ghana and Nigeria. Ultimately, Innovation Award projects will involve three partners; one partner from the UK, one from Brazil and one from either Ghana or Nigeria.

The trilateral partnerships identified in Scoping Projects will accelerate the development, testing, adoption and scaling of technologies and practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria.

Each Scoping Project will focus on a specific topic area identified as a priority for international collaboration. There will be two core outputs of each Scoping Project, 1) a public facing report and 2) networking activities.

This is the first activity of Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK-Brazil-Africa, which will offer future opportunities for innovation projects in 2025 and beyond.

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

This competition closes at 11:00am UK time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.

**Figure 1.** Funding support available through the Climate-Smart Agriculture Partnership: UK-Brazil-Africa, running from July 2024 to March 2026

 **Scoping Projects**

A series of scoping projects led by UK universities or research and technology organisations to build trilateral networks and identify opportunities for public-private collaboration and knowledge sharing. Further information available August 2024.

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 **Innovation Awards**

A cohort of six-month long trilateral Innovation Awards to build early-stage partnerships to enable technology transfer and development. Further information available early 2025.

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 **Travel Grants**

Travel grants to build connections between potential partners. Further information available early 2025.

## Project Details and Eligibility

### Project Size

Your project's total cost must be between £12,500 and £37,500.

### Eligibility

Your project must:

- have a grant funding request of between £10,000 and £30,000
- start on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024
- end by 28th February 2025 (no extensions will be granted).

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.

### Lead organisation

To lead a project your organisation must:

- Be a UK-based academic institution or research and technology organisation (RTO) ([see here for eligible RTOs](#))

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

### Partners

Partners are allowed in this competition. These must be a UK-based academic institution or research and technology organisation (RTO). Projects can have a maximum of two partners (the lead and a partner organisation).

### Subcontractors

Subcontractors are not allowed in this competition.

### Number of applications

An academic institution or research and technology organisation (RTO) can lead on up to two applications and be a partner in two further 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

## 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](https://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.

## 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

The research organisations undertaking non-economic activity in 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

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](#).

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In the first competition of this programme up to £300,000 of total funding (up to £30,000 per project) is available for exploratory Scoping Projects.

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The trilateral partnerships identified in Scoping Projects will accelerate the development, testing, adoption and scaling of technologies and practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria.

Each Scoping Project will focus on a specific topic area identified as a priority for international collaboration.

There will be two core outputs of each Scoping Project:

1. A public facing report to:

- identify and outline challenges, barriers and technology gaps associated with a specific topic area in both Ghana and Nigeria
- explore and assess the relevant research, innovations, technologies and practices in the UK, Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria to identify expertise and knowledge in the specific topic area
- identify opportunities to collaboratively transfer, develop, commercialise, adopt and scale-out technologies and practices to promote climate-smart agriculture in Ghana and Nigeria.

2. Networking activities to:

- build a diverse network of stakeholders across the UK, Brazil and Ghana and Nigeria to develop productive research and innovation partnerships and relationships
- facilitate the development of consortia for future collaborative projects.

Your proposal must identify how you will:

- Design and deliver activities to build collaborative networks between organisations in the UK, Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria
- Engage key, diverse stakeholders and encourage a range of perspectives
- Identify collaboration opportunities between public and private organisations, and consider the role of business and the private sector to accelerate the development, adoption and scaling of technologies or practices
- Deliver any additional outputs as part of the project which will facilitate networking or knowledge sharing (for example scientific publications, policy briefings etc.).

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

This competition closes at 11:00am UK time on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.

Project activities could include, but are not limited to:

- Online workshops or events to bring potential partners together (given the timelines we expect online workshops/events will be the main mechanism to bring people together)
- Desk-based research
- Stakeholder interviews
- Travel for the project partners to meet with stakeholders. The cost of travel for individuals who are not members of the project partner organisations is not eligible.

A template will be supplied for completion of the public-facing project report which will ultimately be publicly available online. Within your public-facing project output report you will be required to address the following key questions:

- Within the topic area, what are the challenges, barriers and technology gaps impacting the potential for climate-smart agriculture and sustainable food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria?
- Within the topic area, what are the opportunities for novel or transferable technologies or practices to address these challenges?
- Who are the key stakeholders in each country who would be relevant partners for collaborative projects within the topic area?
- How could technologies or practices be applied or developed within this topic area to reduce i) gender and ii) social inequality in climate vulnerable populations?
- What are the barriers preventing transformational change within the topic area?

Project leads will also be required to complete a final report indicating what networking activities were carried out, their outcomes and how these were beneficial to those involved.

You will need to identify which specific topic area you will focus on in your application and how your team's research experience and priorities will enable you to complete this project.

## **Specific Topic Areas**



All projects must focus on exploring knowledge sharing between the UK, Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria and trilateral collaboration to accelerate the development, adoption and scaling of technologies and practices that promote climate-smart agriculture for sustainable food production systems in Ghana and Nigeria.

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).

To support in building trilateral partnerships Scoping Projects must focus on a specific topic area.

The below topic areas are not an exhaustive list of the potential opportunities for collaboration between the partner countries.

They range from those with a single value or supply chain focus, to existing or emerging technology areas or specific food system challenges.

The topic areas were identified through an initial Scoping Report completed in preparation for the programme, this involved stakeholder interviews and a bibliometric analysis. The future focus of the programme will continue to be informed through an Advisory Group including representation from each of the partner countries.

Scoping Project topic areas must be of an appropriate scale to enable cross-sector opportunities to be identified and must allow discrete and manageable networks of stakeholder to be built within the project timeline.

The bullet points below each topic area are indications of what the Scoping Project should look to explore.

You will be required in your application to indicate the topic your project will focus on.

If you have an idea for a topic area which is not listed here, please email [agripartnership@iuk.ktn-uk.org](mailto:agripartnership@iuk.ktn-uk.org) at least 10 working days before the deadline prior to submitting your application. You will receive confirmation if it is acceptable to submit an application in this topic area.

**Agroforestry and integrated or regenerative landscape management**

- Technologies and practices to support the development and monitoring of agroforestry systems (including land regeneration)

**Crop and livestock breeding**

- Development, adoption and scaling of climate-resilient crop varieties or livestock breeds

**Pest and disease management**

- Technologies for identifying, monitoring, predicting, managing and treating pests or diseases of crops and livestock

**Traceability and market access**

- Innovations for improved traceability and market access within international food supply chains

**Sustainable crop production**

- Improving water use efficiency in agriculture and food systems and sustainable crop nutrition (including novel fertilisers and biostimulants)

**Livestock and aquaculture production and nutrition**

- Development of sustainable livestock and aquaculture systems

**Soil fertility and water management**

- Technologies and practices for resilient, healthy, and nutrient-rich soils (including for carbon sequestration and erosion reduction)

**Digital agriculture and precision farming**

- Precision and digital agriculture tools to promote more efficient use of resources and improve data for decision making (including earth observation, forecasting, land monitoring tools)

**Cocoa**

- Sustainable production and processing

**Oil palm**

- Sustainable production and processing

**Cashew**

- Sustainable production and processing

**Renewable energy in agriculture**

- Utilising energy-efficient technologies in agricultural systems

**Climate and biodiversity finance**

- Climate and biodiversity finance to support the adoption of sustainable land management and agriculture practices and technologies

**Neglected or underutilised crops**

- Production, processing, and value chain development for neglected or underutilised crops (e.g. fonio, bambara groundnut)

**Other**

- If you have an idea for a topic area which is not listed here, please email [agripartnership@iuk.ktn-uk.org](mailto:agripartnership@iuk.ktn-uk.org) at least 10 working days before the deadline prior to submitting your application. You will receive confirmation if it is acceptable to submit an application in this topic area.

**Portfolio approach**

We want to fund a variety of projects across different technologies geographies, and topic areas. We call this a portfolio approach.

## Dates

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Open date           | 19 August 2024                                    |
| Close date          | 02 October 2024                                   |
| Applicants notified | 01 November 2024                                  |
| Projects start      | 01 December 2024                                  |
| Projects finish     | 28 February 2025 (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

The application is split into three sections:

1. Project and Team details
2. Application questions
3. Finances.

### Public description

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.

### Approach

What approach will you take to:

- 1) Build a network between the UK, Brazil, Ghana and Nigeria;
- 2) Explore, identify and consolidate opportunities for collaborations;
- 3) Disseminate the outputs and knowledge gathered during the project to relevant stakeholders.

Explain:

-How you will engage key, diverse stakeholders and encourage a range of perspectives, including from commercial partners

-How this project fits with your previous or current research or activities

### Project Team and Roles

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

Explain:

Explain:

- The roles, skills and experience of all members of the project team, and any partners, that are relevant to the approach you will be taking to 1) build a network 2) explore and identify opportunities for collaborations
- The resources, equipment and facilities needed for the project and how you will access them

### Outcomes

What future activities or opportunities would you plan to engage in as a result of this project?

Explain:

- How you expect to use the outputs generated from the project in your future activities.
- How this project fits into the longer-term goals of your organisation(s).

### Project Management

How will you manage your project effectively?

Explain:

- The main work packages of your project, indicating the partner assigned to each
- Your approach to project management, identifying any major tools and mechanisms you will use to get a successful project outcome
- Your project plan in enough detail to identify any links or dependencies between work packages or milestones

### Project Costs

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

In terms of your project goals, explain:

- The justification for the allocation of your project costs between work packages
- How the project represents value for money

You must complete the expected project costs for all partners.

For full details on what costs you can claim see the UKRI [project costs guidance](#). You can also [view our Application Finances video](#).

### **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@iuk.ktn-uk.org](mailto:agripartnership@iuk.ktn-uk.org)

### **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. Your GOL 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.

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.

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

