

Sustainable Energy for Smallholder Farmers Innovation Fund

Local and regional organisations in Uganda, Ethiopia and Kenya may apply for grants to test innovative business cases in Productive Use of Energy (PUE)

The innovation fund is part of the IKEA Foundation funded project 'Sustainable Energy for Smallholder Farmers in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda' (SEFFA) implemented by GIZ, SNV and RVO. The SEFFA project takes a market-based approach and aims at increasing the availability of PUE technologies and services as well as demonstrating the economic rationale of such investments for smallholder farmers.

The SEFFA Innovation Fund aims to accelerate PUE business cases that are at a concept stage. The fund will provide small grants on a competitive basis to support local, innovative PUE business models which have the potential to be scaled and are related to the following PUE technologies:

- Solar irrigation for horticulture and livestock
- Solar drying for horticulture
- Solar cooling for horticulture and dairy
- Renewable energy community hub

2. Eligible applicants

Eligible applicants are local or regional (East African) organisations including NGOs, private sector, knowledge organisations, etc. – youth groups and women led ventures are especially encouraged to apply.

Organisations need to be legally registered in the targeted countries, with an active country presence (e.g. an office, ongoing activities in country), and at least one year of experience with renewable energy for agriculture or related areas. Organisations that already work with or are looking to work with the SEFFA project can also participate in the competition. Each application can only target one of the three countries. Organisations may apply with partners, but with a sole primary applicant. Co-funding and own financial contributions in the project formulation are encouraged but not compulsory. A maximum of one submission will be considered per applicant.

3. Types of innovations and focus

Submissions have to be **innovative**, meaning different from business as usual and additional to existing markets, products and services. The innovations may be technology related, but may also be related to processes such as business models, new forms of cooperation, innovative finance.

The innovations have to contribute to SEFFA objective of improving the productivity and livelihoods of smallholder farmers in the **dairy and horticultural value chains**. The

innovations have to support the following renewable energy services and small-scale PUE technologies: solar irrigation, solar cooling and solar drying.

The competition focuses on innovations that are defined in a concrete concept, beyond the stage of a simple idea. The problem and solution should be identified. The solution may need real-world testing to assess the technical, organisation and financial viability and may need adaptation. The solution may already have been tested in another context and found effective. Practical and applied research projects may qualify when there is a tangible outcome and clear potential impact for beneficiaries, i.e. smallholder farmers or other actors along the dairy and horticulture value chain.

4. Financial and advisory support

The Innovation Fund will select around four successful applicants per country for grants of EUR 22.500 per applicant to implement the proposed pilot project. Implementation may take up to 12 months.

During implementation, the grantees will be monitored by and receive technical support in the form of advisory services from the GIZ or SNV country team. The support also serves to stimulate learning and disseminating lessons, communication, link the innovation and other SEFFA activities and identifying opportunities for scaling up.

5. Application process

The innovation fund assesses applications on a competitive basis. First, applicants are invited to submit a concept note (template will be provided) for an open call for innovations. Following that, selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal.

5.1 Concept Note

Applicants are required to submit a **concept note** of around two pages in line with the template provided. Applicants may submit a short slide deck with pictures and/or data representations like graphs (max. 5 slides) in addition to their submission. All submitted concept notes which meet the application requirements will be reviewed by a Selection Panel based on the criteria below. The panel will select concept notes, these applicants will be notified and invited to participate in the next stage of the competition.

5.2 Full Proposal

Applicants that have been invited to participate in the proposal stage may submit a full proposal in a fixed format (max. 10 pages). The format will be made available. It includes a description of the business case, the expected impact, an operational plan, learning plan and full estimated budget. In preparation of the proposal, applicants are encouraged to contact the GIZ and/or SNV team in country to inquire how (stronger) connections between the SEFFA project and their innovation can be created. The proposals will be reviewed by the Selection Panel based on the criteria below. The Panel may collect further information on the application from the broader EnDev community, from applicants, as well as request advice from (external) experts.

	Uganda	Kenya	Ethiopia
Call for Concept Notes submission deadline	7 March 12:00 EAT	21 March 12:00 EAT	11 April 12:00 EAT
Invitations to submit proposals	4 April	25 April	2 May
Call for proposal submission deadline (upon invitation)	25 April	16 May	23 May
Decision	Early May	May	Early June
Due diligence check of the applying organisation to verify its ability to implement the proposed project	May – June	June – July	July – August
Expected implementation time	June 2022 – June 2023	July 2022 – July 2023	August 2022 – August 2023

Disclaimer: in case of an overwhelming interest for the fund, it may happen that the indicative evaluation periods are not always respected.

6. Assessment of applications

Applications are assessed based on the following criteria:

Criterion	Weight
<p>1. Impact and scalability</p> <p>The impact created should serve the SEFFA project and feed into the project's expected results: 1) increased access to PUE technologies and energy services for smallholder farmers through viable business cases, 2) capacitated local actors to ensure the operation of PUE technologies, and 3) businesses mainstreaming PUE technology to provide sustainable energy services to smallholder farmers and their livelihoods (more information here).</p> <p>In a wider sense this also covers the potential to accelerate impact towards achieving SDG7, the number of beneficiaries, the scalability, feasibility and potential to become financially viable and scalable without further grants.</p>	25
<p>2. Degree of innovation</p> <p>How new, original and creative the proposal is and whether it is set-up to test and assess the innovation.</p>	25
<p>3. Team and partnerships</p> <p>The organisation and the team's experience with the area of innovation, roles and responsibilities and (time) commitment. Innovative and sustainable partnerships that add value.</p>	15
<p>4. Alignment with SEFFA</p>	25

The extent to which the proposed innovative solution aligns with the activities in country and the broader SEFFA activities. Consult the Note on the Thematic Focus to ensure alignment with SEFFA.	
<p>5. Youth and women involvement</p> <p>To promote the active involvement of youth and women points will be awarded to applicants by youth (i.e. below 35 years), women-led or women's organisations or applicants that partner with youth and/or women.</p>	10

7. Start your application with the SEFFA Innovation Team

Further information, **Application Forms**, a **Note on the Thematic Focus**, and frequently asked questions are available on the EnDev website [here](#).

For further questions please attend one of the following country-specific **webinars**. Register for a webinar by sending an email to seffa-innovation@giz.de

- Uganda: Thursday 24 February 2022 at 15:00-16:00 EAT
- Kenya: Tuesday 15 March 2022 at 15:00-16:00 EAT
- Ethiopia: Thursday 31 March 2022 at 15:00-16:00 EAT