

## Evaluation of Call for Proposals – Blue Gold Innovation Fund

### Steps in the evaluation process

The evaluation process consists of a total of three steps, to be repeated for each submission of Concept and/or Proposal:

1. A formal assessment on all Concepts and Proposals, using the completeness and on-time criteria
2. An assessment on all Concepts and Proposals, using the threshold criteria
3. A detailed assessment of Concepts and Proposals, using specific criteria for both application types.

### Who evaluates

Evaluations will be done by the Evaluation Committee. This committee includes:

- Innovation Fund Manager
- Strengthening Value Chains representative from TA team
- Agriculture Expert from TA team
- Representative from DAE
- Representative from research institute / other org. experienced in ICT for agriculture projects (e.g. experienced in evaluating G4AW calls)

### Who makes the final decision

The final decision will be made by a special Steering Committee, which will discuss all shortlisted Concepts and/or Proposals in an internal meeting(s), and decide which application will be selected to move towards the next stage.

This Steering Committee consists of:

- Team Leader of the Blue Gold Program
- Innovation Fund Manager
- Strengthening Value Chains representative from TA team

The final decision will be discussed with the representative of EKN, before being communicated externally.

## Overview of Important Dates

<b>10<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b>	Application round for concept notes opens
<b>10<sup>th</sup> of August 2017</b>	<b>Deadline</b> for submission concept notes
<b>August - September 2017</b>	<b>Evaluation &amp; Short-listing</b> Evaluation of concept notes Short-listing of applicants for submission of project proposals
<b>1<sup>st</sup> October 2017</b>	<b>Application round</b> for project proposals opens for short-listed applicants
<b>1<sup>st</sup> of December 2017</b>	<b>Deadline</b> for submission project proposals
<b>December 2017 - January 2018</b>	<b>Evaluation &amp; Short-listing</b> Evaluation of project proposals Short-listing applicants for project proposals implementation
<b>1<sup>st</sup> February 2018</b>	Start of project implementation
<b>1<sup>st</sup> September 2019</b>	End of project implementation

# Description Assessment Process BG IF

## 1. Formal Assessment

1. Completeness: have all required documents been received?
2. On Time: Have the documents been received before the deadline?
  - Concept notes: 10<sup>th</sup> August 2017
  - Project proposals: 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017, 16.00 hours BST

## 2. Threshold criteria

There are 4 threshold criteria in concept phase and another 5 threshold criteria in the proposal phase ([see page 4](#)) to be answered with 'yes' or 'no'. The evaluation committee will assess the threshold criteria for both the received Concept and Proposals.

## 3. Detailed Assessment

The quality of the application (including annexes) is assessed on the basis of all appraisal criteria listed below and the extent of compliance to these criteria. The appraisal criteria are different for Concepts and Proposals.

### Concepts

There are 5 appraisal criteria for Concepts ([see page 5](#)). Each criterion has an indicated weighing factor. Applicants can score extra points (5 points) by contributing to the Concept budget in cash or in-kind. The Concept weighing maximum is a total of 105 points. The evaluation committee will decide on the scoring per Concept, and decide on the maximum number of Concepts to be short-listed based on the total score (minimum 70+ points) and the best fit for the Blue Gold Program.

### Proposals

There are 13 appraisal criteria for Proposals ([see page 6](#)). The quality of the Proposal (including annexes) is assessed on the basis of all appraisal criteria listed below and the extent of compliance to these criteria. Each criterion will be scored between 0-5 points:

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 0 | = very weak / absent |
| 1 | = weak               |
| 2 | = moderate           |
| 3 | = average            |
| 4 | = above average      |
| 5 | = strong             |

The Proposal weighing maximum is a total of 65 points. The evaluation committee will decide on the scoring per Proposal, and decide on the Proposals to be short-listed for implementation based on the total score.

## Threshold criteria

With the submission of the Concept Note & Project Proposal the subsidy application will be reviewed according to the threshold criteria. Score a 'YES' when the criterion is met, score a 'NO' when the criterion is unmet. When a 'NO' is scored the application will be rejected and no further review will take place.

Any 'NO' score needs to explain why the specific threshold criterion is unmet.

To be assessed in concept stage:

1. The concept is aimed towards providing solutions for Improved Information in Agriculture (and there is a clear reference made to this Call for Proposal – Funding Window 1)
2. The concept potentially contributes to Blue Gold Program objectives of improved employment and income opportunities for low-income groups through improvements in the performance of the agriculture and/or water management sector.
3. The concept potentially has relevance for the beneficiaries in the Blue Gold Program area, and/or for the implementing organisations Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE).
4. The proposed project is not already being sponsored through other mechanisms/funds in Bangladesh.

To be assessed in the proposal stage:

5. All parties in the partnership consortium are in possession of a legal entity. This is proven by relevant documentation.
6. The lead applicant is in satisfactory financial health (in terms of being a “going concern” as defined by the Innovation Fund), and be able to show at least 2 years of unqualified audited accounts.
7. The requested amount of subsidy is not higher than €133,000
8. The project ends on/before 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 (=max. duration is 18 months)
9. The project does not create unfair competition or otherwise distort markets.
10. The project involves a product, service, system or procedure that is innovative, and is unlikely to be addressed by the public / private sector without the support of the Innovation Fund – for example because of sector inertia or perceived risk/opportunity cost.
11. The project is also unlikely to be supported by other commercial sources of finance.

## Appraisal Criteria for Concepts

<p><b>Appraisal criteria for Concepts</b></p>	<p>Concepts are first screened for eligibility by the independent Fund Management Committee. Only Concepts for eligible projects will be appraised on the extent to which they satisfy the below mentioned criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The concept is innovative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it concerns an approach and / or technology that has not yet been implemented in the Blue Gold Program area (15 points)</li> <li>- where possible, it showcases the technology of the Dutch private sector (5 points)</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. The concept enhances the identification of the information needs of farmers and increases the accessibility and/or distribution of information to farmers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It presents a technology/approach has a true added value when it comes down to information needs; it ensembles knowledge which is really lacking among farmers (10 points)</li> <li>- It present or analyses information in a way easy to understand by farmers (10 points)</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. The concept shows potential for improving the performance of agriculture in the Blue Gold Program area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is a clear link demonstrated between information that can be collected with the innovation and the actual potential impact on the production system (10 points)</li> <li>- It makes uses of a technology/approach easily accessible by a large number of farmers and has a large distribution reach (10 points)</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. The concept is sustainable and has potential for upscaling: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It demonstrates a sustained impact and shows how results will last beyond the lifetime of the project funding (10 points)</li> <li>- It shows potential for financial sustainability and/or commercial viability (5 points)</li> <li>- The concept shows potential for replication outside the BGP area (5 points)</li> </ul> </li> <li>5. Further investigation on the applying organization(s) demonstrates that there is reasonable evidence they have sufficient experience and track record regarding the concept they are offering (20 points)</li> </ol> <p>Applicants can score extra points (5 points) by contributing to the Concept budget in cash or in-kind.</p> <p>The Concept weighing maximum is a total of 105 points.</p> <p>The evaluation committee will decide on the maximum number of Concepts to be short-listed. It's up to the evaluation committee to make a selection based on the best fit for the Blue Gold Program.</p>
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## Appraisal Criteria for Proposals

<p><b>Appraisal criteria for Proposals</b></p>	<p>Proposals are first screened for eligibility by the independent Fund Management Committee. Only Proposals for eligible projects will be appraised on the extent to which they satisfy the below mentioned criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have relevance for the beneficiaries in the Blue Gold Program area, and for the implementing organisations Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) and/or Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE)</li> <li>• contributes to the objectives and the sustainability of the Blue Gold Program</li> <li>• contributes to improved employment and income opportunities for low-income groups in the Blue Gold program area</li> <li>• involves a product, service, system or procedure that is innovative, and is unlikely to be addressed by the public / private sector without the support of the Innovation Fund – for example because of sector inertia or perceived risk/opportunity cost</li> <li>• results in improvements in the performance of the agriculture and/or water management sector</li> <li>• demonstrates a sustained impact and show how results will last beyond the lifetime of the project funding</li> <li>• the project is unlikely to be supported by other commercial sources of finance.</li> <li>• does not create unfair competition or otherwise distort markets</li> <li>• utilises the funding provided by the Innovation Fund within 18 months, other than in exceptional circumstances</li> <li>• have the prospect of upscaling the innovation in order to have significance for the development of Bangladesh</li> <li>• where possible, show case the technology of the Dutch private sector</li> <li>• have the prospect of establishing a sustainable support base for the innovation concerned (viability of the business case, transfer of knowledge, establishment of a maintenance and support structure)</li> <li>• the project will measure impact against targets, and have a method of forecasting and setting targets – for example, the number of women reached by the project.</li> <li>• Organization has sufficient track record in the service they are offering demonstrated by project references.</li> </ul> <p>The evaluation committee will decide on the maximum number of Proposals to be short-listed for investment. It's up to the evaluation committee to make a selection based on the best fit for the Blue Gold Program.</p>
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