



Coffee Innovation Fund

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. Pre-selected applicants will have the opportunity to develop their idea into a project concept together with GIZ.

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. Then you should just make sure to connect the sub-initiatives to create a wholesome innovation. If you think one of your innovations really stands out on its own, you can also focus on that.

3. Can an internationally owned company apply?

Yes. Even though, from experience the majority of the CIF applicants are local firms, internationally owned firms can apply as well. They just need to show that they have local ties to producer organisations etc.

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

Yes, an application can be submitted by multiple partners. However, be aware that the project becomes more complex as more partners are involved. Therefore, the number of partners should be as small as possible but as large as necessary. Generally, we would recommend a max. of two active partners that are contributing and receiving support.

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, we recommend considering whether you can combine both ideas into one project to make it even stronger.

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

Selected partners will not receive the up to 50,000 EUR in cash. There will be no transfer of funds between GIZ and the selected partner. Instead GIZ’s contribution will be in-kind, meaning GIZ will pay for the services/ materials (see 8.). These services/materials will be procured by GIZ in accordance with GIZ guidelines. Under the Fund the selected partner and GIZ will develop a joint project and the partner as well as GIZ contribute equally to the project using their own resources.

7. What does “matching contribution” mean?

Under the Fund the selected partner and GIZ will develop a joint project and the partner as well as GIZ contribute equally to the project using their own resources. The monetary value of the partners contribution needs to be at least 50% of the total value of the joint project. So, if you are applying for the full 50,000 EUR (received in services/materials procured by GIZ), you will also have to contribute services and material worth at least 50,000 EUR. You do not have to apply for the maximum amount of 50,000 EUR, it can also be less.

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

Most common contributions include:

- Costs of external technical staff to provide specific services on the indicated activities
- Travel and subsistence costs of the above-mentioned technical staff, where such travels are relevant for the execution of the project 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 Organizations)
- Expenses in relation to pilot test of the improved planting material or inputs or execution models
- Development of new or improved business service (e.g. certification, embedded services), support to the establishment of inclusive business partnerships or costs related to support the creation of business linkages
- Capacity development measures (technical, organizational, managerial) for supported value chain actors and supporters

9. Can staff costs be reimbursed?

No, GIZ’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 GIZ and the selected partner.

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) is one of the most common forms of contribution from the selected applicants. Others can include travel cost, cost for organizing 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?

Selected projects should start implementation around April 2021 and end April 2022. This project duration is also the timeframe within which the partner companies have to provide their contribution.

If your question has not been answered here please send a message to coffeeinnovation@giz.de.

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