



Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

Accelerator for the AgriTech4Egypt: Technological Innovation in AgriFood Sector in Egypt (AID 13162)

1. Introduction

The Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT (a CGIAR Center) (herein “the Alliance”) is launching this Expression of Interest (EOI) to identify a qualified Egypt-based accelerator partner to design and deliver a series of three (3) high-impact innovation challenges for agri-tech solutions under the AgriTech4Egypt: Technological Innovation in AgriFood Sector in Egypt project (AID 13162).

This is a three (3)-year project led by the [Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT](#) (a [CGIAR Center](#)), funded by the [Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation \(MAECI\)](#), and supported by the [Italian Agency for Development Cooperation \(AICS\)](#). It is endorsed by the [Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation](#), and the [Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research](#), and implemented in collaboration with the [Academy of Scientific Research and Technology \(ASRT\)](#), and [Agricultural Research Centre \(ARC\)](#). The project will be carried out through an accelerator or service provider selected via a competitive process and will be supported by a wide network of local, regional, and international partners, including actors of Sistema Italia.

This call targets accelerators with strong local presence, relevant regional experience, a proven track record in similar initiatives, and in-house agritech expertise. The selected partner will be responsible for sourcing and supporting high-potential teams and delivering structured programming—including bootcamps, acceleration phases, and Demo Days—that advances the development, validation, scaling, and adoption of tech-driven, market-oriented innovations. The accelerator will provide tailored mentorship and technical guidance, while facilitating connections to investors, research institutions, and industry players to ensure solutions are scalable and effectively adopted across the agri-food system. This EOI constitutes the first step in the procurement process, and shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit detailed Technical and Financial Proposals.

2. Background

Egypt’s agriculture sector remains a cornerstone of the economy, contributing about 15% of GDP in 2025 and employing roughly 5.7 million people (around 19.3% of total employment). It is central to food security, rural livelihoods, and income generation, with livestock alone accounting for about 40% of agricultural value and serving as a key asset for smallholder farmers. However, the sector faces mounting pressures, including rapid population growth, water scarcity, land degradation, and increasing reliance on food imports—challenges further intensified by climate change through desertification and resource inefficiencies. Addressing these issues requires science-based innovation and stronger agritech entrepreneurship. Climate-smart practices and accessible technologies—such as precision irrigation, AI-driven monitoring systems, and sustainable waste solutions—can significantly improve productivity and resilience. Egypt’s growing innovation ecosystem, supported by progressive government policies and rising investment in agritech startups, provides a strong foundation for this transition.



The Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) is part of CGIAR, a global research partnership for a food-secure future.
Bioversity International is the operational name of the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI).

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Within this context, the AgriTech4Egypt project aims to accelerate the development and scaling of climate-smart, market-oriented agricultural solutions by strengthening linkages between research, entrepreneurship, and the private sector. The initiative aligns with national strategies such as Egypt Vision 2030 and the National Climate Strategy 2050, while contributing to broader regional and international development frameworks.

3. Objective of the Assignment

The objective of this assignment is to engage a qualified Egypt-based accelerator to design and deliver **a series of high-impact three (3) innovation challenges for agri-tech solutions** under the AgriTech4Egypt project, starting in 2026. The project will support a total of **105 local and international startups and innovation teams** (entrepreneurs, researchers, and scientists), with 35 teams selected each year. Each cohort will include: 25 early-stage innovations (pre-seed or pre-commercial) selected to participate in the bootcamps, accelerator programs, and Demo Days; and 10 growth-stage innovations selected to participate in Demo Days and the concluding Networking Event in Year 3.

The selected accelerator will act as the primary operational partner, alongside the Alliance, responsible for the end-to-end design and implementation of a comprehensive support program that strengthens the translation of research into scalable agritech innovations. The program will support the development, validation, and scaling of agritech ventures while reinforcing strong linkages across Egypt's innovation ecosystem and aligning with national priorities and frameworks, including the Egypt Startup Charter and broader efforts to expand entrepreneurship, financing, and job creation in the sector.

In this capacity, the accelerator will be expected to:

- **Design, develop, and deliver a comprehensive support program:** Develop and implement a coherent support program with a clear structure, tailored curriculum, and effective delivery methods aligned with the needs of agritech ventures and the broader innovation ecosystem;
- **Provide mentorship and technical support:** Mobilize experienced mentors and technical experts to deliver targeted guidance, strategic advisory services, and hands-on support, with a strong emphasis on bridging scientific research, applied innovation, and market adoption;
- **Facilitate partnerships and ecosystem linkages:** Connect selected innovations with key stakeholders (i.e., private sector actors, agribusinesses, banks, investors, VCs, government entities, research institutions/universities, and farmer organizations) to enable research translation, commercial collaboration, and access to funding opportunities;
- **Promote innovation and scalability:** Support the development of market-driven, scalable business models with strong growth potential beyond the project lifecycle, contributing to national priorities for startup expansion and job creation;
- **Enhance media visibility and outreach:** Deliver communications, storytelling, and media support to increase the visibility, dissemination, and uptake of program results and participating startups/innovation teams across the agritech and innovation ecosystem;
- **Ensure financial efficiency:** Develop a transparent, cost-effective financial proposal aligned with program objectives and expected outcomes.



The assignments described above are indicative and non-exhaustive. Bidders are encouraged to propose refinements and/or alternative approaches that credibly achieve the project objectives and deliverables.

The Alliance reserves the right to modify the scope of work based on the project progression and evolving implementation needs.

4. Expected Deliverables

The selected accelerator will be responsible for delivering a comprehensive set of outputs aligned with the three (3)-year implementation of the AgriTech4Egypt project. The project includes three (3) annual innovation challenges, one per year over three (3) years, with all deliverables required to be practical, implementation-focused, and ensure effective cohort delivery.

Year 1

In Year 1, the accelerator will develop the foundational program design and implement the first innovation challenge. This includes a detailed program framework covering the acceleration structure, curriculum, outreach and selection process, and operational plan. The accelerator will also deliver the full first cohort, including the bootcamp, acceleration phase, and Demo Day. The year will conclude with a performance report summarizing results, outputs, and key lessons learned.

Year 2

In Year 2, the accelerator will implement the second innovation challenge, building on lessons learned from the first cycle. The focus will be on refining program delivery, while providing structured mentorship and technical support to participating innovation teams. The accelerator will also facilitate stakeholder engagement and ensure ongoing monitoring through periodic progress updates and performance reporting.

Year 3

In Year 3, the accelerator will deliver the final innovation challenge and focus on ensuring the program's sustainability and long-term impact. This will include continued post-program support for startups across all cohorts, as well as efforts to strengthen partnerships and investment linkages within the ecosystem. The year will conclude with a consolidated final report outlining overall results, impact, key performance metrics, lessons learned, and recommendations for future programming.

Across all years, the accelerator will support the development of annual Technical and Financial reports for submission to the donor.

5. Qualifications

The accelerator must comply with the following to be considered eligible:

- **Local presence and regional experience:** The accelerator must be a legal entity registered in Egypt, with demonstrable experience in implementing accelerator programs within the MENA region. A well-established presence and active engagement within Egypt's innovation ecosystem is essential;



- **Technical evaluation capability:** The accelerator must have in-house technical expertise capable of effectively evaluating agritech solutions to ensure high-quality program delivery and outcomes;
- **Expertise in agritech innovation support:** A proven track record in fostering agritech startups and innovation teams is required, specifically through delivering tailored, business-oriented training, mentorship, and facilitating market access opportunities;
- **Interdisciplinary and sectoral knowledge:** The ability to provide interdisciplinary insights and to convene, inform, and advocate for systemic change across the agri-food sector, climate action initiatives, and natural resource management within Egypt is critical;
- **Contextual understanding:** Deep knowledge of Egypt’s agricultural landscape, including its unique development challenges and opportunities, will be a significant advantage;
- **Financial viability and cost-efficiency:** The proposal must demonstrate a justified budget, transparent cost breakdowns, and an efficient use of resources.

6. Schedule and Dates

The following schedule includes key milestones and their associated completion dates and is provided primarily for planning purposes. The Alliance may modify the project timeline at its discretion.

Dates	Milestones
23 April 2026	Request the Expression of Interest
10 May 2026	Response due from bidders
10-14 May 2026	Review and shortlisting
14 May 2026	Shortlisted accelerators invited to submit a Technical and Financial Proposal
14 June 2026	Deadline for submission of proposals
July 2026	Accelerator Selected/Award of Contract

7. Instructions on the Preparation and Submission of the EOI

7.1 Submission Requirements

The Request for EOI submission should contain information on the following:

- a) Cover letter
- b) Organizational profile, including:
 - The accelerator’s presence in Egypt and the Middle East and North Africa region;
 - Track record of delivering agritech innovation challenges and accelerator programs, including demonstrated experience supporting agritech entrepreneurs through structured programs and cohorts, with measurable outcomes and a spotlight on selected startups and innovation teams;
 - Qualifications and experience of personnel, including CVs of proposed team members and mentors with in-house agritech and business expertise;
 - Partnerships and ecosystem engagement, including links with investors, agribusinesses, research institutions, and public sector actors



c) Legal documentation confirming registration and operational presence in Egypt.

7.2 Assessment Criteria

In this stage, the EoI will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Demonstrated capacity to deliver high-quality innovation challenges in Egypt
- Proven track record in supporting agritech startups and innovation teams
- Strength of technical, sectoral, and mentorship expertise
- Strong local network and grounding in the Egyptian ecosystem

7.3 Selection Process

Based on the submitted EOIs, the Alliance will establish a shortlist of qualified accelerators/service providers. **Only shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit detailed Technical and Financial Proposals, based on a detailed Terms of Reference.**

The Alliance reserves the right to accept or reject any application, and to annul the selection process at any stage without incurring any liability to applicants.

7.4 Submission Instructions

Please submit a cover letter expressing your interest, with all required documentation (see section 7.1) via email to innovations@cgiar.org no later than **10 May 2026**.

Only electronically submitted applications will be considered.

For any questions, please contact the same email.