Call for Proposals: Agri-Energy Innovations

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Call for Proposal

Type of project

EnAccess is seeking proposals for solar energy access innovations that can enhance or streamline the integration of solar energy with rural agricultural value chains.

Innovations **must** fulfill these three criteria:

- Address one or more specific sector or cross-sector challenges in and around the agri-energy-food nexus
- Results must be Open Sourced and, by this nature, be customizable
- Have a clear, ambitious, but realistic scope

Available financing

We fund projects with a budget of between $ 10,000 to $20,000.

Selection criteria

In terms of specific selection criteria, we review several factors:
- Demonstrated market need and/or appetite
- Clear projects R&D outcomes
- Logic and data underpinning the project
- Potential for sector-building impact
- Appropriateness of an Open Source solution
- Partner's capacity to deliver
- Quality of the project plan and budget

Who's eligible

Start-ups and established companies, non-profits, individual innovators, investors, and researchers are eligible. Applicants can be based anywhere geographically, but the proposed initiatives must be implemented in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Applicants must also meet the following minimum organization requirements:

- Legally registered entities and proof of legal registration for a commercial entity, start-up, non- profit or research institute
- At least 2 years of running operations
- Applications by collaborating partners coming from the energy and agricultural fields are highly welcome, while one entity will need to be the lead applicant and contractual counterpart with EnAccess.
- Applicants from the global south are highly welcome.

Non-eligible applicants or projects

- Projects or applicants seeking general funding for their operations (even if active in the relevant field)
- Public entities and international development organizations
- Projects only focusing on energy access without a clear agri-nexus component
- Projects only focusing on agriculture without a clear energy-nexus component

Application process

Phase 1: Collection of ideas

Applications, purposefully kept short, are due by **November 15** at 23:59 CET. EnAccess will conduct a pre-screening to determine which applications will move on to Phase 2. You can download the template here.

* Link to application: https://enaccess.typeform.com/application

* Note that you cannot save the application on typeform and come back to it. We recommend you complete the template and submit your application when you have all the project's information. Access the Word version here:

https://enaccess.org/agri-energy-innovations_application/

Phase 2: Community feedback

If shortlisted to continue to Phase 2, applicants might have to provide some clarifications and **must** present their respective project in the Open Source in Energy

Access Discord channel, which will allow energy stakeholders to ask questions and validate the need for such a project. For this phase, it is important to drive insightful exchange around your proposed innovation, as this is proof of the sector's interest in your innovation. This doesn't mean that each contribution or comment needs to be only positive and re-affirming. We actually see much more value in an open exchange and identification of potential improvements or possible follow-ups by the crowd. Even if these improvements could not be covered under the scope of this call, they still can be a good general proof of the need for your proposed solution.

Phase 3: **Final**
Selected applicants (we are currently looking at around five applicants moving to the last phase) will be contacted for further information to run the final assessment.

Phase 4: **Awarding**
The selected winner will be contacted and contracted for the implementation of its proposed project.

Tentative timeline:
- Publication of CfP: September 30, 2024
- Deadline to submit questions related to the CfP: October 25, 2024
- Deadline to submit proposals: November 15, 2024
- Community feedback: December 2024/January 2025
- Final selection: February 2025
- Contract signature: February/March 2025

Questions
Please direct all your questions to info@enaccess.org by latest October 25th 2024. Questions received after October 25th might not be answered. Questions and answers will be published on Discord by November 1st, 2024.

About EnAccess

EnAccess is a non-profit organization with a mission to create a more equitable and dynamic ecosystem to accelerate progress toward universal energy access and allow more actors to participate in the attainment of SDG 7.

EnAccess creates universal building blocks - free-to-use high-quality solutions- that solve challenges for energy access organizations and allow these organizations to focus on their core operations. These building blocks include, but are not limited to, particular hardware or software pieces, concepts and business models, and digital platform approaches. Such building blocks eliminate the need for organizations to spend scarce resources tackling challenges that are not core to their missions or that have already been solved by others. EnAccess' work ensures that the industry efficiently capitalizes on the wisdom of the crowd.

Background

Progress in energy access is often still centered on household-level solutions aimed at individual consumption. These sales-driven models, while beneficial, typically provide energy access to single homes for basic needs, with limited impact on transforming communities. For meaningful change, solutions must focus on Productive Uses of Energy (PUE)—like powering irrigation, milling, refrigeration, other forms of pre-processing or transportation, and logistics —that add economic value and increase incomes, fostering long-term community development. Given the importance of agriculture in Sub-Saharan Africa, integrating holistic agri-energy nexus solutions can drive economic growth and recovery. Fostering these developments will help generate a real, sustainable transformation and development beyond individual household benefits.

EnAccess's open-source approach focuses on investing in key enablers and proactively sharing knowledge to accelerate energy access. At a time when capital is limited, making better use of resources is crucial for addressing inequalities and expanding clean energy access more efficiently. With just five years left to achieve SDG 7, it is essential to support faster progress and more effective capital use, and EnAccess offers a unique model to achieve these goals.

Additional project information

Implementation, reporting and deliverables

Once the final proposals are selected, R&D contracts will be developed in accordance with EnAccess standard contracting procedure and policies. Contracts will include the detailed budget, implementation plan, milestones and deliverables and any reporting requirements. After the R&D contract is signed, the implementation of the project should commence immediately.

For every funded project, we create a shared working folder (e.g. on Dropbox or Google Drive) so that we can follow progress in real-time. Instead of written reports, we check in monthly to discuss the project. These calls are held at a technical level; we want to learn about what's going on, what's going well, what's hard, what you are learning, how things could be better, and how we can help. These conversations are recorded so that we can refer back to them when finalizing the project (Note: We don't publish these recordings). These calls and the deliverables that are provided throughout a project form the basis of our reporting.

The final deliverables along with milestones, will be discussed and agreed before moving the proposal to board for its evaluation.

Permission to share information

By way of applying under this call, the applicant consents to the disclosure of the documents submitted by the applicant to the reviewers within EnAccess and externally who are involved in the assessment and evaluation processes of proposals. If selected for funding, the applicant further consents to the disclosure of the name of the applicant, the name of the team leader, the title, and the content of the proposed project with the only exception of the financial details of the proposal, which will remain non-disclosed to the public at all time, in any announcement of selected projects.