



# i4Ag Fund for the Promotion of Innovation in Agriculture



Implemented by  
**giz** Deutsche Gesellschaft  
für Internationale  
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

# GENERAL

## Our goal

Promotion of gender-sensitive & user-centered innovations in the agricultural and food sector

\* Fund for the Promotions of Innovation in Agriculture  
Commissioned by Federal Ministry for Economic  
Cooperation and Development (BMZ)  
Implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für  
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)  
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## i4Ag operates within 5 topic areas

> Mechanization



> Digitalization



> Energy



> Agricultural Research & Extension



> Private Sector



### Fund Duration

01/2021 – 09/2026

### Funding regions

BMZ Partner countries



## Users

Who profits from the innovation?

- small-scale farmers
- small and medium-sized enterprises
- food processing companies
- women
- youth







# Innovations



## Must-haves

- relevance to at least one of the five topic areas
- impacts in at least two of the following:
  - food security
  - employment and income generation
  - climate resilience and natural resource protection
- implementation in at least two [partner countries](#) of BMZ
- public-benefit oriented approach



## Can be

- digital, technical, organizational, administrative and/or financial innovation
- products, processes, services and/or business models
- brand new or tried and tested in a new context



# AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH & EXTENSION

## Innovations

- Innovations that have already been tested in a specific environment and / or on a limited scale but are not yet utilized by our target group
- Limited funding for testing and verifying innovative ideas (*proof-of-concept*)

## Thematic areas

- Agroecology, integrated pest management and post-harvest protection
- Climate-resilient and water-saving production methods that help to preserve soil fertility and protect against erosion
- Innovative, participatory and gender-oriented approaches to agricultural extension

## Sources of innovations

- Scouting
- Special calls & competitions



Portfolio managers:

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# PROJECT EXAMPLE

## Academy for International Agricultural Research (ACINAR)



**Duration**  
01/2021 - 07/2025  
**Countries**  
global

**Doctoral scholarship program in  
development-oriented agricultural  
research**



### Core problem

- Reduced number of young scientists with a solid training in international, development-oriented and applied research, which enter into the CGIAR++ system.
- Few funding mechanisms which allow an integration of PhD students from German universities into CGIAR++ research.
- Reduced contribution of the German scientific community to research projects and design of the CGIAR++ research agenda.

### Objective and impacts

- Scientific collaboration between the German agricultural research and international development-oriented agricultural research are strengthened through cooperation on key research topics.
- Research results with high relevance to solving challenges “on the ground” are applied in practice.

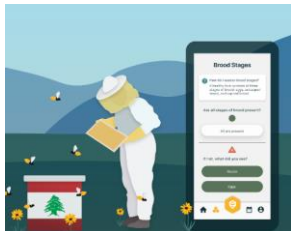
## Selected Tridems in 2021 (examples of a diverse and interdisciplinary portfolio of PhD topics)



German University	CGIAR*	Topics of selected PhD projects
University of Hohenheim	IITA	<b>Integrated soil fertility management</b> , farm performance and household welfare: Evidence from smallholder farmers in <b>Mozambique</b> ♂
Humboldt University of Berlin	ICRAF	<i>Developing an assessment framework along the <b>Agroforestry-Food Security Nexus</b>: Sustainable dryland strategies for people-centered land restoration in <b>Tanzania</b></i> ♀
Karlsruhe Institute for Technology	ILRI	<b>Water pans</b> as multifunctional components of <b>climate-smart landscapes</b> in <b>semiarid regions</b> ♂
University of Bonn	IRRI	<i>The long-term effect of <b>rice lateral root types</b> on drought recovery and yield</i> ♀
Humboldt University of Berlin	CIP	<b>Agroecology as a strategy for rural reconstruction and resilience-building</b> in the aftermath of shocks and crises: pathways towards reaching “building back better” on the <b>Peruvian and Colombian Andes</b> in context of post-conflict and covid-19 ♂
University of Hohenheim	CIMMYT	Remotely sensed spectral indices as <b>indicator of climate resilience</b> in <b>wheat breeding</b> context
University of Hannover	ICRAF	<i>Drivers of change: Understanding the process of complex <b>technology adoption</b> in <b>Sub Saharan Africa</b></i> ♀
University of Bonn	ICRAF	<b>Transitioning to tree-based farming systems: Exploring barriers to agroforestry uptake among smallholder farmers in Northwest <b>Vietnam</b></b> ♀
University of Gießen	ILRI	Development of a fluorescent RBL reporter system for diagnosis of porcine cysticercosis ♂

# PROJECT EXAMPLE

## Innovation Challenge 2021 “Advisory for Agroecology”



**Duration**  
2021 – 2022  
**Volume**  
600.000 €  
**Countries**  
global



### Objective and impacts

- Call for consortia consisting of research, extension services, and private sector, awarded with up to 150,000 € for the implementation of an Innovation Partnership
- Identify and promote innovative concepts in rural advisory for scaling-up agroecological approaches

### Ideas to be proofed:

- Digital app to improve advisory and bee health monitoring
- Digitally empowered youth as agroecological change agents
- Crowd-sourced biodiversity monitoring and e-commerce
- Scaling-up smallholders' innovations for agroecology
- Agroecological advisory through farmer producer companies
- A board game to inform agroecological practices

## 6 Semi-finalists for proof-of-concept



# Innovation-Pipeline



Development of 2  
**Innovation Platforms**



**Digital Assistant for Cold Chains**  
(Nigeria, India)



**Machinery Rings for  
Smallscale Farming**  
(Kenya, Senegal)



**Innovation Challenge 2021**  
Agricultural Extension (Advisory on Agroecology)  
(Global)



Scaling of **Digital Extension services with a  
Focus on Women**  
(Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Uganda,  
India, Nepal)

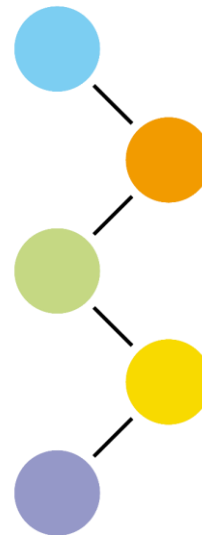


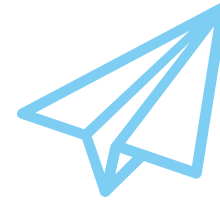
**INNOVATION  
4 AGRICULTURE**

## CONCLUSION

### i4Ag's offer

- Impact orientation & flexibility
- Targeted support to the identification and scaling of innovations
- Innovations with varying maturity-levels
- Possibility to also pilot risky innovations
- Special attention to agroecology & climate-resilience, participatory and inclusive advisory
- Ownership & at-eye-level partnerships
- Focus on youth & women





## Kontakt

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**i4Ag-Website**

[i4Ag-giz.de](http://i4Ag-giz.de)

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i4Ag

INTEGRATED  
4.0 AGRICULTURE

# REQUIREMENTS FOR

## How i4Ag defines innovation



i4Ag  
INNOVATION  
FOR AGRI-FOOD

'Innovation' refers to those processes by which individuals, companies, and/or organizations in the agri-food industry change prevailing routines or introduce new routines.



# APPLICATION PROCESS

## From idea to funding



Expression of Interest



Proposal



Individual measure

