

## **Call for proposals: The use of artificial intelligence in food and agriculture**

This document provides written responses to questions received since the launch of this and other calls issued by the Research Commissioning Centre on **6 March 2024**. Where relevant, we have edited the original to combine similar questions.

### **Responses to questions specific to this call**

**Q1: How many 200K GBP projects will be awarded in this call? Are you funding one project or multiple projects under the following portfolios: (a) AI and agricultural innovation, (b) ethics and governance research, (c) capacity development, and (d) expanding existing workstreams?**

**A1:** At this time, we are planning to award only one project of GBP 200,000, which will then inform programming under the areas outlined. For information on other opportunities, please [sign up](#) to receive updates from the RCC.

**Q2: Who is the audience(s) for the report within FCDO?**

**A2:** The audience within FCDO includes the Research and Evidence Division, food and agriculture advisors, country posts working on agriculture.

**Q3: Will any content from the report feed into a public document or are the objectives solely focused on shaping FCDO programming?**

**A3:** While the primary purpose is to inform future research commissioning and programming at FCDO, the report will be made publicly available.

**Q4: How will this work fit with other research on AI commissioned by FCDO and others - e.g., recent work on path to scaling AI in ag and other sectors commissioned by FCDO country offices?**

**A4:** This will drive FCDO's centrally-managed programming on ag and AI, which will in turn link with country offices.

**Q5: Will the report focus on opportunities across all low- and middle-income countries, or put additional weight on opportunities in FCDO's priority countries?**

**A5:** Its scope includes all low- and middle-income countries.

**Q6: Are there any FCDO internal or external timelines to be aware of beyond those shared in the call for proposals?**

**A6:** All timelines are outlined in the call for proposals.

**Q7: What is the maximum length of time this grant can be awarded for?**

**A7:** The contract will be awarded for a period of up to 10 months. However, this is open to negotiation.

## **Responses to questions related to all calls**

**Q1: Can a non-UK university apply? Or does the applicant need to be legally registered in the UK?**

**A1:** Non-UK institutions are eligible to apply.

**Q2: The guidelines state 'only legally registered organisations and consortia of registered organisations, not individuals, may apply'. Does this mean that if I apply, I will submit my application on behalf of my institution?**

**A2:** We will only award to organisations rather than individuals. So, organisations are welcome to apply through individuals directly affiliated with those organisations but we can't accept applications from individuals outside of organisations or working for organisations but applying on their own behalf.

**Q3: Will the award incur VAT?**

**A3:** This depends on the trading status of the applicant. As a US nonprofit organisation providing a public good, 3ie does not incur VAT for the management of the Research Commissioning Centre. If you are likewise applying as a not-for-profit organisation or registered charity, this award should not incur VAT.

**Q4: Once awarded, who owns IP?**

**A4:** Intellectual property in all material (including, but not limited to, reports, data and designs, whether or not electronically stored) produced by the applicant will be the property of the applicant. The applicant will be asked to grant 3ie and FCDO a worldwide, non-exclusive irrevocable and royalty-free licence to use all the material produced, where "use" shall mean, without limitation, the reproduction, publication and sub-licence of all the material and the intellectual property therein, including the reproduction and sale of the material and products incorporating the same, for use by any person or for sale or other dealing anywhere in the world.

**Q5: Would we be able to freely use the IP for teaching and non-commercial activities?**

**A5:** The IP may be used for teaching and non-commercial activities provided this is approved by FCDO.