

Frequently asked questions

1. Why is Feed the Future and partners, running the Data-Driven Farming Prize?

The Digital Development for Feed the Future team at USAID believes in helping farmers extract maximum value from local agricultural production by increasing their access to the data and information they need to make more effective farming decisions. Prizes use open competition to incentivize people to address a well-defined problem. Unlike challenges, prize competitions are designed to reward the achievement of specific outcomes and pay for those results. In Nepal, while there are many early apps for on-farm management, adoption has lagged and the right model for taking them to scale has not yet been identified.

2. What kind of tools and approaches are you looking for?

A promising application of available data that enables farmers to extract maximum value from their production. This prize will incentivize the development and measurement of sustainable tools that translate data into understandable and actionable information for farmers or those who support them. By converging data on indicators such as weather, soil and air quality, crop health and maturity - to name a few- new insights and information can be generated to help value chain actors make smarter and more timely decisions.

3. What do you mean by Data-Driven?

Solutions need to be based on hard evidence and data to generate timely and context specific information. Research demonstrates that increasingly available digital technologies including sensors, geospatial imagery, mobile financial services, and data analytics can be leveraged to make agriculture more precise, productive, resilient, and profitable. However, too often that data and analysis remains in research intuitions and on computer servers rather than reaching farmers or those who work with them. This prize requires solutions to use available data sources and make recommendations informed by good agricultural practice that will give farmers suggested interventions that can improve productivity.

4. Who can enter the prize?

The prize is open to individuals, groups and organizations with no regional restrictions. We encourage ideas from local people, including informal groups and networks, community groups, businesses and existing service providers. You can find out more by reading the eligibility criteria <http://datadrivenfarming.challenges.org/eligibility-criteria/>.

5. Can I apply if I am outside Nepal?

Yes, the prize is open to participants from all over the world, yet the solutions need to be applicable and responsive to Nepalese farmers' needs , as outlined in the challenge statement, datadrivenfarming.challenges.org.

6. Can I submit more than one idea?

Yes, you can submit up to three ideas and be named as a partner on more than one entry. Each idea must be submitted separately and needs to be different from the other ideas you have submitted.

7. I have entered my idea into another competition; can I submit the same idea to this competition?

Yes, you can enter your idea even if you have submitted it to another competition. Please make sure you provide relevant and specific answers to the entry questions for this competition. The other competition may have rules about you entering your idea in more than one competition. It is your responsibility to check this before you enter this competition.

8. I have already developed my idea, can I use that as an entry for this Prize?

As we are looking for innovations, you will need to explain how your idea differs from, builds on what is already out there, or has yet to be applied in Nepal. It's important for us to understand that it is a new idea or a new way of doing things.

9. Who owns the intellectual property of the submitted ideas?

You will retain your intellectual property rights in your entry to the Prize in accordance with the Prize Terms and Conditions section 3 (3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4).

10. Can I remove my entry once I have submitted it?

Yes, you can send an e-mail to ddfarmingprize@nesta.org.uk and request for your entry to be removed.

11. Can I get some advice on how to best enter the competition?

If you have inquiries about how to enter the competition please e-mail ddfarmingprize@nesta.org.uk and somebody from the Challenge Prize Centre Team will contact you within three working days.

12. What do I do after I've submitted an idea?

You do not need to do anything after you submit your idea. The Challenge Prize Team will be in touch and if you're selected as one of up to 10 finalists, you will be invited to participate in the co-creation event and receive additional information.

13. What type of data can I use to develop my idea?

You can use whichever data you need and have access to, as long as they are credible and appropriate to help you solve the prize statement issue. In particular, make sure the data can provide timely and context specific insights to the agricultural sector in Nepal. The prize platform and the innovators handbook both offer you some hints and tips in the use of data, but there is no limitation for you to use what you think will be more appropriate.

14. Would a solution be considered if it doesn't meet Nepalese context-specific needs?

Not for this prize competition. We are specifically sourcing for solutions that can respond to Nepalese farmers' needs. The solution may meet other needs, but our primary focus is Nepal.

15. How can I know more what Nepalese needs are?

You can find information on Nepalese farmers needs on the innovators handbooks, to start. Much more information can be found on the internet. Some useful links include:

[Feed the Future Nepalese country profile](#), or the [FAO Nepal Country program framework 2013-2020](#). If selected as a finalists, you will then have a chance to test your assumptions with Nepalese farmers during the co-creation event and the testing period.

16. Who will be using the tools and approach I can develop?

You can decide if you are targeting Nepalese smallholders farmers, agricultural advisory services, or other value chain actors, yet remember that “usability” is one of the judging criteria and what we will consider is the level to which your tool can be accessed and used by people with different backgrounds, capacities and educational levels.

17. What is a prototype?

A prototype is a demonstrable example of your solution which is sufficiently developed to undertake a testing period with end users.

18. When do I need to have a prototype of the solutions ready for testing?

You will need to have a prototype ready by the co-creation event which will be held during the second half of May 2017 in Nepal. Only finalists will be invited to the co-creation event, and therefore only finalists will need to have a prototype ready by May. You will know if you were selected as a finalist by the end of April 2017. In addition to this, be aware that a prototype will also be needed during June and July for the testing phase with end users.

19. What is the co-creation event?

The co-creation Event is a two/three day workshop which will offer the finalists the possibility to co-create the next iteration of the solutions directly with the target audience of Nepali Farmers and/or extension service providers. This provides a great opportunity to test and refine the product based on the views and interactions of the people that are intended to use it.

20. Will I have to pay to participate to the co-creation event?

The challenge prize team will offer the travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for up to two Finalist representatives. If finalists are participating as a team and want to bring more than two representatives to the event, travel and accommodations costs of any additional members will be the team's own responsibility to cover.

21. If I am selected as a finalist will the co-creation event be mandatory?

Attending the co-creation event is a requirement of participation. The co-creation event will provide you with the relevant information, skills and contacts to help deliver a strong development plan and understand the requirements for the next stage of the Prize. If there are extenuating circumstances which prohibit attendance, we will of course discuss this further and reserve the right to make exceptions.

22. Who will be receiving the \$2500 of prototyping development pot?

Every finalist or finalist team, will receive each a \$2500 prototyping development pot which is meant to support the testing phase of your prototype. This is in addition to the travel and

accommodation costs the prize team will cover to invite finalists to the co-creation event (see question 20).

23. What happens to the ideas that don't make it to the finalist stage of the Prize?

All entries will be listed at datadrivenfarming.challenges.org. This information will be drawn from sections of the entry form. These sections will be clearly marked on the form as public. We will also be looking at ways of signposting entrants to more funding opportunities and other types of support.

24. What if my idea doesn't qualify?

If your idea doesn't qualify for this Prize, don't worry. There will be a series of other initiatives in future to which you can apply. In the meantime you can sign up to receive emails from us about this and future prizes.

25. What can I do with the prize if I win?

We hope the prize will be used to further develop the solution to get into a position in the market to continue to have an impact on the issues we are addressing. You may, however, choose to utilize your winnings how you see fit.