DATA DRIVEN FARMING PRIZE

WEBINAR FOR INNOVATORS - QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

This document provides answers to questions asked during the webinar for innovators interested in applying to the Data Driven Farming Prize. The full webinar will be available on the resources page. For more information about the Prize visit our website: www.datadrivenfarming.challenges.org

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DATA DRIVEN FARMING PRIZE – Webinar for innovators

1. **This is my first experience with Feed the Future. I work for a Tanzanian NGO that seeks the sustainability of natural resources. Is this the right place for me and my organization?**
   This may be if you can develop a solution relevant to Nepal. You may also be interested in what Feed the Future is doing in Tanzania.

2. **Are there examples of existing models that have been validated in some country on similar problem of agriculture? I wish to learn what has been successful in other cases.**
   There are examples on the webinar's Solutions slide (which you can find also in the Resource page). The slide features examples of other interventions that have been applied across Feed the Future value chains. There are also a number of interactive tools that have been developed to provide agricultural advice, such as Malawi's 3,2,1. Other interventions include I-Cow, in Kenya, which provides timely information to improve livestock and Hello Tractor, in Nigeria, which not only identifies available tractors for people to rent, it also uses the information from rentals to collect farm data.

3. **What is the purchasing power of a typical coop?**
   We don't have clear evidence to respond to this. But A small cooperative (around 100 members) probably has very little purchasing power, possibly in the range of several thousand US dollars. A larger cooperative with several 1000s members would have much more (USD $10,000+).

4. **Can we collaborate with the Nepal government to produce the solution? Can we partner with government to develop a system?**
   The Feed the Future initiative has, at its core, government collaboration for agriculture and nutrition outcomes. In a way, this prize is already a reflection of that collaboration. You may also collaborate with the Nepali government to develop your solution, but the Nepali government may not be a recipient of the prize award. If you do opt to directly collaborate with the Nepali Government, it is important is to determine the nature of your partnership with the government and follow their procedures as well.

5. **Are you just looking for digital interventions or a mixture of both digital and physical infrastructure?**
   We are looking for solutions that provide value to farmers or those who work with them. Any digital intervention must be accessible, culturally relevant, and valuable. We also think solutions that pair digital tools with physical infrastructure are promising. In our interactions

with farmers and extension services, we learned that they value solutions that are more than just an application--something tangible for them to utilize, but also has some digital capability it is ideal. Please see the examples featured on the Solutions slide of the webinar. We also are sharing some examples of promising approaches that have worked in other geographies on the Resources page, as well as Section 3 of the Innovator's Handbook.

6.   Can monitoring livestock through data and technology also be one solution?
        Solutions needs to meet one or more of the outcomes listed in the Prize Statement (see the homepage of the prize platform). In particular, the prize is aligned with the Feed the Future program in Nepal, which works with the rice, maize, lentils, and horticultural value chains.

7.   Are we supposed to create a software solution, or provide a working idea, which may not involve software?
        There needs to be data, and use of data, but those requirements do not necessitate creating new software. See Question 2 in the FAQ.

8.   Can the team be spread out in different locations?
        Yes, see Questions 4 and 5 in the FAQ

9.   If the solution we propose involves collecting enough data and developing algorithms around how it can help farmers have access to finance and other services but farmers themselves would not have direct access to the data, would such solutions be considered? They would however be indirectly be impacted.
        What is proposed could be considered as long as your solution provides useful insights for farmers/extension services. See Questions 2 and 3 for the FAQ, as well as Section 3 of the Innovator's Handbook.

10.   Can this presentation be downloaded?
        The webinar presentation can be downloaded from the Resources Page.

11.   Does the idea have to be completely new or could it also be something that is being done elsewhere but hasn't been implemented in Nepal?
        You may apply with a solution that has been successful elsewhere as long as you are adapting the solution to be successful in Nepal, and meet one or more of the Prize Statement desired outcomes. For more clarity, see Questions 1, 7 and 8 in the FAQ.

12.   We are targeting only a part of the value chain, can we apply?
        Yes, as long as your solution creates positive impact for smallholder farmers. See farmers needs and extensions services in the resource page, as well as our blogs that describe the target users (Can digital technology help develop Nepal's agriculture?, Are digital solutions good for farmers?).

13.   Using a venture design model are we expected to have personas for validation in May or an actual MVP?
        We expect the ten selected finalists to have a prototype ready for feedback at the co-creation event in May. Subsequent adjustments to generate or refine a minimum viable product in time for field testing are encouraged.

14.   I have an idea that meets the criteria and some friends who can let me work with them in Bihar, India, near the Nepali border. My idea is centered around training farmers. What do you think of this approach?
        We encourage you to develop a solution that is relevant and applicable to smallholder farmers in Nepal. For more information, refer to our blogs that describe the target users (Can digital technology help develop Nepal's agriculture?, Are digital solutions good for farmers?).

15.   It is quite difficult to get geophysical requirements at crop variety level. Does this prize assist with finding this data?

  In the Datasets page of the prize platform, we list a series of possible datasets that may be useful to you. In addition, CIMMYT will be uploading all of the data to the Geonode. In the meantime, people can reach out to Shashish Maharjan of CIMMYT (shashish.maharjan@cgiar.org) as indicated in the relevant "card" in the data set page of the prize platform.

16.   If one were to use a dataset that is collected manually, although not available in the links the website provides, from well recognized or verifiably sourced publications, should it be justified in any other way?

  As long as the the dataset is reliable and can generate timely and context-specific insights (and protects personally identifiable information), we do not mind if you use other, external datasets. See Question 13 of the FAQ.

17.   Will the prize be in cash or as support for implementing the idea?

  It is a cash prize under USAID's Innovation Incentive Award authority. We encourage you to use the prize award to develop your solutions, but you are under no obligation to do so. See Question 25 of the FAQ.