



**EAST AFRICA
REGIONAL
INNOVATION
HUB**

Scaling ground-breaking water-energy-food innovations to impact food security, gender, and poverty reduction in an environmentally sustainable way

The WE4F East Africa Innovation Call is looking for climate-friendly and resource-efficient solutions, such as the provision of products and services, the optimisation of processes, new business and financial models, addressing the water-energy-food nexus challenges in East Africa. These solutions may be digital or non-digital, organisational, financial or advisory in nature. The WE4F programme is particularly interested in easily accessible, adaptive, low-cost solutions with immediate impacts and benefits for small-holder farmers and other value chain actors as well as net positive impacts on natural resources, especially water and energy.

Who can apply: Eligibility criteria

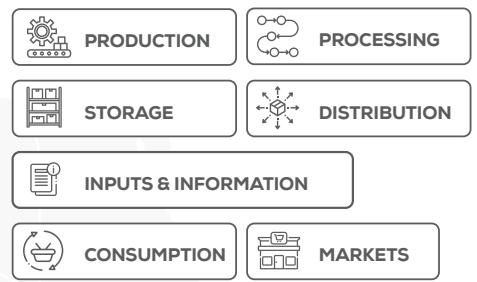
Innovative Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) who are addressing the water-energy-food nexus in East Africa.

The enterprises must offer solutions that increase sustainable food production, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and / or reduce water and energy intensity of the food chain, while increasing income for smallholder farmers, women and youth.

[Click Here](#) to know more about the thematic areas.



ENTERPRISES WORKING ON



Geography

Entrepreneurs must be legally incorporated as a for-profit company in one of these 7 East African countries:



Ethiopia



Kenya



Tanzania



Uganda



Rwanda



Malawi



Somalia

Age

Businesses must be operational for at least 18 months.

Size

We're looking for established enterprises with annual revenue of €50,000 to €500,000 equivalent – not at pilot or prototype stages. Applicants should also have a well-established team of between 5 to 200 employees.

Ambition

Applicants must have an established current customer base with ambitions to scale to new geographies, products, customer segments, and/or increase annual turnover. They should be seeking debt, equity, or blended finance investments to scale the business.

Impact

The best candidates will demonstrate direct/indirect positive impact to the smallholder farmers, the environment, women, and youth.



Government of the Netherlands





WATER and ENERGY for FOOD

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Benefits for selected innovators

- **Be part of the accelerator first cohort in East Africa:** At least 15 enterprises from across 7 countries will be shortlisted to be part of the first regional programme. Support will be delivered over a 15 to 18 month period.
- **With technical assistance funding awards of €50,000 to €500,000,** the program will provide business advisory and access to finance support to:
 - » Expand your business to other geographies, products, or services
 - » Unlock investments for your business to scale
 - » Increase your business's annual turnover
- **Financing Opportunities:** Select enterprises may qualify for results-based financing opportunities to help achieve scaling goals.

Application Process and Timelines



Applications launch
Tuesday May 18, 2021

Open information session Q&A
Tuesday, May 25, 2021



Open information session Q&A
Thursday June 10, 2021

Deadline for Submitting Applications
Tuesday, June 15, 2021

Late June:
Applications evaluated and scored against a set criteria

Mid July:
Follow on interviews with high potential applicants

July 30th:
Announcement of 35 shortlisted finalists and preparation for pitching

Late August:
Pitch to WE4F expert panel

August 31st
Announcement of selected enterprises

For more details and to apply visit: www.eastafrica.we4f.org or write to us on we4f.apply@niras.com

Visit our [FAQs](#) regularly for any clarity on the application process or program.

