

**GRANT**

**APPLICATION**

November 2022

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# **SECTION A: Guidance for Applicants**

## Funder

Grow Further (hereafter, “we”) invites agricultural researchers (hereafter, “you”) to submit proposals for funding, and in some cases also management assistance.

Grow Further is a nonprofit organization (based in Seattle, Washington USA with a national/global remote team) that makes grants to agricultural innovations relevant to smallholder farmers and other populations at risk of food insecurity. We’re a privately funded public charity founded by an economist and funded by a diverse community of individual donors, spread globally. Please see more about our team and mission, vision, and values here: <https://www.growfurther.org/who-we-are>

## Process

Our process generally includes the following steps:

1. We request an expression of interest.
2. If the expression of interest falls within our scope, we interview the researcher for our newsletter and invite them to submit a full proposal. Proposals may also be submitted without an invitation or newsletter interview.
3. We send the proposals to peer reviewers, and, to speed up the notoriously slow process, generally interview them rather than asking for a written report.
4. Our members select finalists based on detailed notes from these reviewer interviews and their own professional and cultural perspectives.
5. We work with finalists to jointly develop a specific budget and a monitoring and evaluation plan, invite them to a grant workshop, ask them to fill out a bit of compliance paperwork, and may follow up with other questions. The grant workshop will cover monitoring and evaluation, financial reporting, and next steps. We may conduct additional due diligence at this stage.
6. Those selected for a grant sign a grant agreement form that contains legal details. Grantee legal review may be included in the grant budget.
7. We may hold a ceremony with the grant recipient or ask them to participate in similar publicity.
8. We work with the grant recipient and partner organizations to monitor the progress of the grant, measure its social impact, and ensure that the results reach farmers. To save everyone time, we prefer to do this via relatively informal communications and to minimize formal reports and site visits. The grant workshop and grant agreement will contain details on what to expect.
9. We hope to get back to you in a few weeks, but it could be months. As with an academic journal, we can’t guarantee a specific time-frame. Nothing is going to sit on our desk for long, but we can’t control the schedules of outside peer reviewers. We’re going to try to speed up the peer review process by interviewing peer reviewers, and even allowing them to read the application during the interview if they’re especially busy, instead of asking them to put their comments in prose, but again there are no guarantees.

## Timeline

In this grant cycle, we will consider grants in nutrition, climate adaptation, and farm income. Subject to the quality of applications, we intend to make two grants, one in the area of climate adaptation and one in the area of nutrition and value-added agriculture. The deadline for this grant announcement is 11:55 pm (Seattle time) on January 31, 2023.

## Thematic Guidance

We don’t pretend to have all the good ideas and don’t believe in micro-management, but we do like to be clear about what we have in mind. Here are a few guidelines.

**A4.1. Socio - economic Goals**

We support grants relevant to smallholder farmers and other populations at risk of food insecurity and improve one or more of the following:

1. **Nutrition:** This includes both improving nutrient levels in crops (e.g., biofortification) and improving the raising of species that are already nutritious (fruits and vegetables, fish, etc.).
2. **Climate adaptation:** This encompasses not only heat tolerance but also almost all types of biotic (pests, diseases, weeds, etc.) and abiotic (heat, drought, salinity, submergence, cold, soil nutrient, etc.) stress tolerance in both crops and livestock. Anything that reduces the risk of farming or helps farmers on marginal lands is likely also climate adaptation. We also count work on adaptation to increased carbon dioxide levels as climate adaptation.
3. **Farm income:** This mainly encompasses facilitating the production of high-value products or improving the quality of existing products, but can in some cases involve lowering the cost of production.

**A4.2. Species**

We fund research on domesticated species relevant to food and nutrition security, including cereals; legumes; edible roots and tubers; fruits and nuts; vegetables and edible mushrooms; forage crops; animals raised for meat, milk, and/or eggs; and species that support food production (cover crops, bees, draft animals, etc.).

This does not include timber; biofuels; crops and livestock raised for fiber; crops grown for recreational substances; ornamental plants; herbs and flavorings unless there is a clear connection to food security; etc. Projects that seek to improve the yields of major commodity grains do to some extent improve nutrition and farm income but are not our primary focus.

**A4.3. Disciplines**

We will consider proposals from a variety of disciplines, including information and communication technology in agriculture as well as more traditional disciplines like agronomy, crop science, plant protection, animal science, veterinary medicine, soil science, and agricultural engineering.

We are fairly discipline-agnostic, but as a practical matter may prioritize some disciplines over others early in our organizational development for reasons of grant size, risk, or time frame. For example, we may need to show results relatively quickly and thus in the short term need to prioritize something like app development over something like fruit tree breeding.

**A4.4. Knowledge Systems**

We generally fund applied field research, including on-farm trials, as opposed to basic laboratory research. However, for scaling up technologies we plan to rely on private-sector commercialization, government agricultural extension services, or affiliated impact investment funds rather than philanthropic capital. Here’s how we look at potential grants within a larger knowledge transfer system:

| Type of knowledge transfer | Minimum | Preferred |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Teaching or capacity building | Researchers are adequately trained | Capacity building is integrated into work (e.g., training graduate students) |
| Extension or commercialization | Partners exist who can take results to scale | Adoption is integrated into work (e.g., on-farm trials) |
| Bottom-up knowledge | Obvious concerns about cultural acceptance have been addressed by market research | Bottom-up or indigenous knowledge is baked in (e.g., testing farmer ideas) |

## Budget & Time Frame

We generally make grants in a range of $10-100,000 per year. Grants generally last for 1-5 years. Particular grant announcements may include more specific ranges. Our grants are considered cost-reimbursable.

## Eligibility & Location

All types of organizations, public, private, and nonprofit, are in principle eligible to apply, though we may apply additional due diligence to for-profit entities.

We anticipate awarding most grants to institutions based in low, lower-middle, or upper middle-income countries, though this is not a requirement as long as the grant benefits smallholder farmers and other populations at risk of food insecurity in these countries. As a privately funded organization, we have flexibility to work in countries that aid agencies do not consider as a strategic priority.

## Evaluation Criteria

Reviewers will score applications according to three types of criteria, with expected grant impact playing the largest role in final decisions. In a few cases, one or more of our members might be interested in providing pro bono consulting to an applicant’s organization, but whether there is an opportunity for this is not one of our primary evaluation criteria.

Specific grant announcements may include additional criteria, such as target populations and goals, to ensure that applications are of interest to the group of members sponsoring the grant announcement and that the number of applications is reasonable. We intend to limit this section to a few sentences and not micro-manage the content of grants.

**A7.1. Baseline Criteria**

For these, reviewers assign a score of pass, fail, or more information required. They are:

1. Is the application sufficiently clear and complete to be evaluated? We don't judge English writing ability or document formatting. Any mixture of British and American spelling is fine. We suggest putting more effort into discussing the application with farmers than with copy editors.
2. Is the grant relevant to our mission, and to the specific grant announcement?
3. Is the grant of interest to our members?
4. Does the grant duplicate work that has already been done?
5. Does the grant support a project that needs our funding?
6. Does the grant comply with all relevant regulations, local and international?
7. Are any environmental and social risks associated with the grant acceptable?
8. Are the researchers qualified to carry out the grant?
9. Do the researchers demonstrate transparency and integrity?
10. Is there a clear linkage between the grant and our larger goals, including a path to adoption?
11. Is the level of risk and time frame for results evident within the end period of the grant?

**A7.2. Expected Impact Criteria**

To the extent possible, we aggregate quantitative criteria into an expected grant impact according to the following formula. (When, as is very often the case, using this framework is not practical, we use a more subjective process to aggregate quantitative criteria, as opposed to an arbitrary point system).

Expected positive social impact (in impact area) = Size of impact (in impact area) \* This grant’s share of that impact \* Number served \* Probability of success

The impact area or areas will vary from one grant announcement to another. They will generally include an increase in farm income, a decrease in the standard deviation of yields, an increase in disability-adjusted life years through better nutrition, or a similar key social outcome.

Number served is the total number of farmers, consumers, or other beneficiaries of the grant once it is fully scaled up. Early-stage work might have a lower probability of success but could still have a large number served if successful. We suggest that applicants consider adding more detail in areas that may be less precise.

For example, the goal of a grant is to improve income among smallholder farmers in Country X. The expected positive social impact of a particular proposal will be =

$100 per year per farmer who adopts the technology (assuming that it works)

\* 10% of the program’s impact attributable to this grant (e.g., this is a $100,000 grant in a $1 million program that includes agricultural extension and so forth)

\* 100,000 farmers stand to benefit

\* 10% probability of both technical success and widespread adoption

= $100,000 per year

Alternatively, if a reader could tell exactly how much the innovation would increase yields but have no idea of how many farmers might adopt it, then it might be worth adding more discussion of the latter.

**A7.3. Capacity Building, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Criteria**

This is a subjective rating, from none to outstanding, based on

–The extent of the capacity building component in the grant

–Under-represented backgrounds of members of the research team

--Focus on marginalized farmers or other grant participants

–Participation of farmers, partner organizations, and other stakeholders

## Restrictions & Disclaimers

Here are a few highlights from our grant agreement. In the event of any inconsistency between this document and the grant agreement, the grant agreement shall prevail.

We do not fund

--Pre-grant costs other than the grantee’s legal review of the grant agreement.

--Political party and lobbying activities, including those related to land rights

--Religious activities (secular activities of religious organizations are eligible)

--Construction grants, capital goods, and durable goods except for reasonable rent attributable to the grant

Our staff, contractors, or volunteers may conduct site visits. We will not necessarily visit every location but will not fund grants in locations where such site visits are not allowed. We seek to ensure broad access to research results. This grant announcement does not commit us to pay for costs incurred in the preparation and submission of any application. We reserve the right not to make any grants as a result of this announcement.

# **SECTION B: Application Form**

### Applicant Information

1. Name: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Contact information: Click or tap here to enter text.

### Grant Information

1. Title: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Next possible start date (e.g., crop planting time) (month/year): Click or tap to enter a date.
3. Planning time required from grant confirmation to this start date (weeks or months): Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Proposed grant duration (years): Click or tap here to enter text.
5. Location(s): Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Number of farm households potentially served (market size): Click or tap here to enter text.
7. Socioeconomic status of farmers or other beneficiaries: Click or tap here to enter text.
8. Please share a brief story of where your research idea came from:

For example, “I was visiting the University of X and I saw an innovative cropping system there. I thought it might work in my country.” Click or tap here to enter text.

### Research Question(s) or Objective(s)

Research questions or objectives should take one of the following formats:

1. For grants primarily intended to result in a method or publication, a specific research question, such as “What is the effect of X on Y?”. See <https://writingcenter.gmu.edu/writing-resources/research-based-writing/how-to-write-a-research-question> for examples how to clarify vague research questions.
2. For grants primarily intended to develop a product, a specific characteristic that you would like to create in that product (or crop/livestock breed), such as “Sorghum that yields more under drought conditions”. If you were to apply for a patent, it might be the title of your patent application.

| Specific research question or objective | Larger socioeconomic goal (e.g., improved nutrition) |
| --- | --- |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

1. Please discuss how your work will reach farmers, including as applicable:

--Plans to commercialize or collaborate with agricultural extension services.

--Farmer participation, such as on-farm trials or participatory plant breeding.

--Your or your organization’s experience with the above.

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Please state risks that you foresee in the grant and how you plan to manage them:

| Risk | Mitigation |
| --- | --- |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Optional: If your grant includes a significant educational, capacity building or professional development component, please explain: Click or tap here to enter text.

### Team & Organization Information

| Name | Title in grant team | Organization | Title at organization |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

Optional: Do members of the grant team come from backgrounds historically under-represented in agricultural research? Please explain: Click or tap here to enter text.

### External Funding

If this grant is part of a larger program which receives external or additional funding, please fill out the following:

1. Name of program: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Brief description: Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Program start year: Click or tap to enter a date.
4. Program end year: Click or tap to enter a date.
5. Approximate annual budget of program: Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Primary funder of program: Click or tap here to enter text.

### Collaborating Organizations

If this grant is partnering with other collaborating organizations, please fill out the following:

| Organization | Role in grant or program | Address | Website |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
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### Organizational Capacity

1. Please explain how the grant relates to your expertise and to the expertise and mission of your organization: Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Number of full-time equivalent staff and contractors: Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Number of students: Click or tap here to enter text.
4. Has your organization ever accepted a grant from an international source? Click or tap here to enter text.
5. If not, please discuss whether you expect to be able to under your country’s regulations. Click or tap here to enter text.
6. Please enter an X or explanatory text in one column for each row. Note: In this table, we refers to the applicant’s organization.

| Capacity Elements | We need significant support from Grow Further | This is not a strength, but we are able to manage this without Grow Further support | We do this well, and need no support from Grow Further | This is not applicable to us |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Financial Management | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Human Resource Management | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Strategy | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Information Technology | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Marketing and Communications | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Proposal development | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Reporting Writing | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. | Click or tap here to enter text. |

### Budget

1. If we’re interested, we will work with you to develop a specific budget. Since we’re comparing grants on the basis of a cost: benefit ratio, the more you need the more we’ll expect you to accomplish. To give us a general idea, please explain how far you could get with your grant with $30,000 per year over two years. Our actual funding is almost certain to be more or less than this arbitrary figure. Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Would you secure co-funding or additional grants for this grant? Click or tap here to enter text.
3. If so, please state the source and amount of funds applied for Click or tap here to enter text.
4. How would you sustain your program after our grant ends? Click or tap here to enter text.
5. If we were able to fund the grant partially, do you have alternate sources to acquire the funds from?Click or tap here to enter text.
6. If any organization (including your own) would take a share of the grant for overhead/administration, please indicate the organization and percentage. Click or tap here to enter text.

### Required Attachments

1. **Discussion of existing research**: Discuss what has already been done and what’s missing for a technical audience of peer reviewers. Make it clear what is globally new and what is locally new.
2. **Description of methods:** Explain what you plan to do for a technical audience of peer reviewers. Make sure to include (as applicable and in a level of detail appropriate to the size of the proposed grant) the size and number of research plots, a description of each treatment, the number of seasons, and other pertinent information.
3. **Resume/CV for lead and collaborating team members:** We don’t judge CVs on format, and to make things as easy as possible a link to a reasonably complete LinkedIn or Google Scholar profile is also fine.

### Optional Attachments

1. **Plan for impact at scale:** This could include a business plan for commercialization of your grant, expressions of interest from agricultural extension agencies, or other similar documents. If you have such documents, please include them.
2. **Market research report:** This could include results of a survey, interviews, or focus groups with farmers expressing interest in your idea. If you have such a document, please include it.
3. **Theory of change:** A theory of change spells out activities, outputs, outcomes, and impact and explains the connections among them. If you have a document explaining your theory of change, please include it.
4. **Monitoring and evaluation plan:** This type of document describes how you or collaborating organizations will determine whether the grant is improving farmers’ lives. If you have such a document, please include it.
5. **Video:** Include your name, the name of your grant, the name of your organization, and most importantly why you’re excited about the grant. There is no length limit, but 30-60 seconds is often sufficient. Be creative and aim for a general audience-- tell a story about where the idea came from, show us your lab/greenhouse/field site, include a clip from a farmer expressing interest in the idea, sing a song about your grant, do a drum-roll or a dance while you’re talking, etc.

We won’t judge videos will not be judged on technical quality; a cellphone or webcam video is fine. We won’t reject applications on the basis of a weak video, but a strong video can help to pique the interest of donors to our organization, a few of whom might even support your work directly if you don’t get a grant from our organization. By submitting a video, the applicant grants Grow Further the right to share the video to help promote our organization.