

WE4F Asia EDGE Ag-Energy Prize

FAQs

1. What is the WE4F Asia EDGE Prize?

In recent decades, Asia has experienced unprecedented economic growth and benefitted from an international technological transition that now renders clean energy cost-competitive. However the region is not without its challenges, including electricity shortages, lack of reliable power and regional connectivity, financially weak utilities, health impacts from air pollution, environmental impacts from rapid infrastructure development, and water and food insecurity. Improving the health of the region's energy sector and increasing private-sector investment will be foundational to the region's future economic growth, self-reliance and resilience.

In order to mobilize private investment, modernize technologies and practices, and expand market opportunities, USAID created the **WE4F Asia EDGE Ag-Energy Prize** to create momentum around this initiative.

2. Who should apply to the WE4F Asia EDGE Ag-Energy Prize?

Mid-stage businesses and youth innovators in Asia are encouraged to apply and amplify their impact in the WE4F Asia EDGE Ag-Energy Prize.

3. Who is funding the WE4F Asia EDGE Ag- Energy Prize?

The WE4F Asia EDGE Ag-Energy Prize is a partnership between USAID, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

4. What is WE4F?

Water and Energy for Food Grand Challenge for Development (WE4F) is an initiative to expand the scale of innovations that impact the food and energy sectors, or all three sectors of the nexus (food, water, energy) to increase the sustainability of agricultural food value chains and address climate change in developing countries and emerging markets – with a particular focus on the poor and women.

5. What is Asia EDGE?

Asia EDGE (Enhancing Development and Growth through Energy) is a whole-of government initiative to grow sustainable and secure energy markets throughout the Indo-Pacific region. Launched on July 30, 2018, Asia EDGE furthers the U.S. vision for a free and open Indo-Pacific to ensure peace, stability, and growing prosperity in the region. Under Asia EDGE, USAID

plays a leading role helping its Indo-Pacific partners expand energy access, promote energy diversification and trade, and strengthen energy security across the region.

6. Am I eligible to apply as a mid-stage enterprise?

To be eligible for Mid-Stage Enterprises Prize:

- Enterprises with a unit cost of \$100 or less must have a minimum of 2,500 customers.
- Enterprises with a unit cost of greater than \$100 must have a minimum of 1,000 customers.

7. What is the age limit to join the youth innovators prize?

Applicants seeking the youth innovators prize must be less than 30 years old when submitting an application.

8. Can I apply to both the Mid-Stage and Youth Innovators prize?

No. Applicants may apply to only one of the WE4F Asia Edge Ag-Energy prizes.

9. I am originally from Southeast Asia, but currently living elsewhere. Can I still join?

Yes. As long as the enterprise being entered into the challenge is registered in one of the Southeast Asian countries listed in the prize document.

10. I am not of Southeast Asian descent, but my enterprise is for the Asian market. Can I still join?

Yes. As long as the enterprise being entered into the challenge is legally registered in one of the Southeast Asian countries listed in the prize document.

11. Is it mandatory to join the WE4F Co-Creation Workshop?

Highly preferred. Attending the co-creation summit is a critical part of the consideration process for this prize. However, we recognize that attending the workshop may not be possible for some individuals and we can make special arrangements on a case-by-case basis.

12. Who will I meet at the WE4F Co-Creation Workshop?

The co-creation workshop will bring together public and private sector leaders in the energy for food sector. The workshop will offer opportunities for the finalists to meet with possible investors and other relevant stakeholders to support their business model innovations.

13. If I work with energy but not directly for agriculture (but it would still be applicable to agriculture), can I still participate?

No. All applicant entries that are aligned to the themes on the WE4F website can apply.

14. I am a youth and I am at the conceptual stage for my business, will I still get the chance to win?

Yes. The Youth prize is open to ideas at the conceptual stage as long as they target one of the Southeast Asian countries listed in the prize call document.

15. What kind of acceleration services will be provided?

To be launched in 2020, the WE4F Asia Regional Hub will provide prize winners with non-financial support in the form of a brokering unit and technical assistance unit. The integration of these functions is expected to support innovators more holistically, facilitate quick feedback loops, agile management, and mutual learning processes.

Winners will receive a minimum of three months of technical assistance and a maximum of three to five years depending on their needs and relationship with the WE4F Hub. Acceleration services to winners are anticipated to begin in Summer 2020. Acceleration services may include one or more of the following types of support:

- Business Development: Business Mentorship; Business Modelling; Technical Writing and Scope of Work Development; Supply Chain Development; Product Development, Refinement, and Diversification;
- Market Assessment: Holistic Environmental Assessment; Market Research and Market Analysis (including base of the pyramid); Missing Markets; Partner Identification and Partnerships;
- Operations: Human Resources Management; Legal Services; Organizational Capacity Building; Smallholder Farmer Marketing and Sales;
- Public Relations and Communication: Graphic Design, Branding, and Website Development; Media Training and Presentation Coaching; Policy and Advocacy;
- Technical Expertise: Materials Science; Gender;
- Travel Services: Conferences/Investor Workshops/Meetings.

16. What is the Clean Energy Asia Forum?

ADB, USAID, and the Korea Energy Agency will be organizing the Asia Clean Energy Forum (ACEF) 2020 with the aim of sharing best practices in policy, technology, and finance to meet the region's climate and energy challenges.

