



WATER and
ENERGY
for **FOOD**



Q&A for Becoming One: Official Launch of WE4F

What is the range of innovation grant and what is the expected co-investment?

WE4F grant ranges will depend on each WE4F Regional Innovation Hub (RIH) call for innovation. Please stay tuned to the WE4F newsletter and we4f.org for updates with specific Calls for Innovation from the RIHs.

I have a Patents for Humanity Award winning irrigation tool that is not being supported by SWFF. What should I do to get support?

The Securing Water for Food Grand Challenge (SWFF) has come to a close. However, it is possible to apply to become a WE4F Innovator through our regional Calls for Innovations. Please subscribe to our newsletter to stay informed about program news and be the first to hear about Calls for Innovations. [You can subscribe here.](#)

What is the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the businesses supported by WE4F? How has the WE4F programme reacted to the new challenges associated with it?

WE4F has conducted a survey with innovators having been supported by the predecessor programs to understand the unique situations and needs (both monetary and non-monetary) created by COVID-19. We have found that most innovators had financial reserves to support their organization through up to six months of slow business and that the type of assistance needed was learning how to pivot their business models to meet new operating norms. WE4F also developed a [COVID-19 resource page](#) that provides information on funding sources, guidance for operations, and action plans.

Can you comment on how innovations focusing on urban agricultures special needs will be accommodated in the program?

All innovations - those focused on both urban and rural agriculture - will be considered during the calls for innovation as long as they fit the WEF nexus and scalability requirements of WE4F program. More about the selection criteria will be provided once the Hubs release call for innovations.

We are researching and developing solutions for the intersection of energy & water for developing countries. Interested in engaging/participating/collaborating with WE4F. What is the best way to engage besides sending an inquiry email on the website?

Thank you for your interest in WE4F, [please contact us through our website](#). After you submit your inquiry, it will be shared with the relevant partner/hub that will contact you afterwards for more in-depth exchanges.

How the new innovators already connected with SWFF will be assisted their new enterprise for wider scale both at home and abroad to benefit millions are in need?

WE4F will support a select list of previous SWFF and PAEGC Innovators. The respective Regional Innovation Hubs will analyze previously supported innovators along guidelines issued by the Steering Committee. In order to be considered, existing innovators need to be investment ready, have a substantial customer base, and have a large potential for sustainable scaling. Note that not all SWFF and PAEGC innovators will be selected. However, previous innovators not selected can still apply to the Regional Innovation Calls of their region of implementation.

In the Hub slide, I did not see inclusion of Latin America. Will Latin America be part of this initiative?

As of right now, Latin America is not included in the WE4F Regional Innovation Hubs (RIHs). Over the next four years, the program may change to include other regions with more partners that join. At that point, WE4F's involvement in Latin America may potentially change. Currently, the WE4F RIHs are located in West Africa, East Africa, North Africa and the Middle East, and South and Southeast Asia.

Will the hubs assist in identifying investment partners?

Yes, each Regional Innovation Hub (RIH) has a Brokering Unit or qualified experts in financial brokering that will help innovators identify investment opportunities and partners. You can [learn more about the project activities here](#).

How is WE4F planning to cope and combat Covid-19 shocks that already exists and are unseen ahead?

WE4F recognizes that the COVID-related challenges are not just affecting one population - it affects farmers, innovators, investors, and many other partners that our

program works with. WE4F's COVID-19 response framework breaks down into three categories: a reflection of our capabilities and the potential impact of COVID-19 on our innovators; the retooling of our resources to provide related technical assistance and interim grants; and re-deploying our resources through calls for applications for interim grants, deployment of liquid capital/financing, and working with other donors/programs to multiply impacts of our efforts.

Would you consider buying from the base pyramid (creating markets) as opposed to selling to the base pyramid to have more impacts? Is WE4F designed as such?

WE4F is designed to promote sustainable, scalable innovations at the intersection of energy-food, water-food, or water-energy-food. We seek innovations that fit into one of these themes. WE4F does not prefer one business model over others. If any innovation meets the minimum WE4F criteria (including having a financially viable and sustainable model), WE4F encourages those innovators to apply.

How will local and regional innovators have access to global finance, investors and key private sector when the initiative is local and regional? What is the plan for scale up?

Through the Secretariat Units of WE4F, the Regional Innovation Hubs will connect to key partners in the global financial sector. WE4F will, wherever possible, create regional partnerships with global actors to ensure local sustainability. Each innovator selected through the regional calls will benefit from a package of support (financial, technical, and/or investment assistance), that will allow them to scale up their innovations within or outside their countries. WE4F will regularly share information and lessons learned on the innovations with the greatest impact, also with global actors to reach other countries or regions. Please subscribe to our newsletter to stay informed. [You can subscribe here.](#)

Are you looking at alternate energy in the WE4F initiative?

Yes. WE4F is designed to promote innovations at the intersection of energy-food, water-food, or water-energy-food. We seek innovations that fit into one of these themes, this includes alternative energy sources that are sustainable.

We developed a solar-based irrigation by condensation tech but those who need it most can't afford it. What are finance mechanisms for customers?

The WE4F Regional Innovation Hub (RIH) will work with WE4F innovators to help them identify new business models and financing mechanisms.

How will the graduate innovators be supported for wider scale both at home and abroad to combat hunger?

Graduate innovators from the predecessor programs will receive financial, technical, and/or investment assistance to help them scale their businesses, improve their operations, and expand their customer base. As part of their involvement in the program, innovators have to meet certain milestones related to business and customer growth.

Will all the calls from WE4F be only regionally focused & managed? Or will there be a global call?

The release of Calls for Innovations will depend on each Regional Innovation Hub's timeline and processes. Please stay subscribed to the WE4F newsletter and we will provide more information in the coming months. [You can sign up for the newsletter here.](#)

How do I join the technical assistance program?

It is possible to apply to join the WE4F program through our regional Calls for Innovations and receive technical assistance and/or grants. Please subscribe to our newsletter to stay informed about program news and be the first to hear about Calls for Innovations. [You can subscribe here.](#)

One of the key challenges facing innovators in scaling up impact is financing. Will WE4F consider providing guarantees to innovators to enable them to raise additional financing?

WE4F will help innovators access financing through the RIH Brokering Units or qualified experts. They will help innovators develop investor relationships, find investment opportunities, and explore other methods of financing.

What are the scopes that exists for product channeling to global markets to add more value to the producers and on the other has securing quality food for global consumers?

By supporting producers' access to innovations through awareness-raising activities and End-users financing, WE4F will contribute not only to increasing the production volume, but also to improving the quality product, making it more competitive in both local and international markets.

Will WE4F only support market-based solutions or also 'traditional charity'?

In accordance with the lessons learned from its predecessors, SWFF and PAEGC, WE4F has a strong focus on market-based solution in the water-energy-food nexus. Our aim is to support innovators that have a financially sustainable business model or can showcase a potential self-sustaining business model in future.

How does WE4F value depth of impact versus breadth?

[You can learn more about how the program plans to measure impact here.](#)

