

AWARD GAIA Call for Agricultural Technology (Ag Tech) Innovations March 2017

Do you have a big idea that could transform agriculture and agribusiness in Southern or Central Africa?

“Women face gender-specific constraints that reduce their productivity and contributions to agricultural research, development, and production. This has negative consequences for their economic empowerment, and the wellbeing of our families, communities, and countries”

–Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, Former Vice President and Special Envoy on Gender, African Development Bank

The efficiency of African agriculture is hampered by a persistent gender gap. Gender in Agribusiness Investments for Africa (GAIA) ensures visibility, commercialization, and scaling up of agricultural research innovations (AgTech) with the potential to bridge the gender gap in African agriculture by focusing on agribusinesses that demonstrate clear benefits to groups that are often marginalized in agriculture including women smallholder farmers and other women value chain actors.

We are pleased to announce that GAIA is now accepting applications from institutions and enterprises for the **2017 AWARD AgTech Innovation Challenge for Southern and Central Africa**. GAIA has been launched by African Women in Agricultural Research and Development ([AWARD](#)) to increase agribusiness investments in technological and business model innovations that help bridge the gender gap in African agriculture and particularly those that enhance the positive participation of African women in agricultural value chains across the continent.

Do you have a big idea that has been piloted successfully in Southern or Central Africa?

Central Africa: Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Madagascar

Southern Africa: Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Sao Tome & Principe, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe

We are looking for institutions and business enterprises with innovations spanning the research-to-commercialization continuum, and those addressing business model re-invention.

Innovations should contribute towards transforming agricultural practices for improved incomes and food security for ALL, including women. Successful AgTech innovations should demonstrate a clear focus on bridging the gender gap in African agriculture. They should be scalable across multiple geographies in sub-Saharan Africa.

Eligibility

AWARD GAIA is looking for enterprises that:

- Serve the agricultural or allied sectors;



- Demonstrate clear benefits to groups that are often marginalized in agriculture including women smallholder farmers and other women value chain actors
- Have an innovative technology or business model;
- Have a clear for-profit business model with high potential for scale;
- Have some proof of concept on the ground, conducted pilots, and are preferably generating revenues;
- Are seeking funding to commercialize or scale.

The top 25 companies will participate in an in-depth boot camp and then be showcased to investors, incubators, and other support organizations in Lusaka, Zambia from April 10-12, 2017. The goal of this challenge is to increase agribusiness investments in technological and business model innovations that have the potential to help close the gender gap in African agriculture.

To apply, please [complete this application form](#); for any enquiries, contact:
Arielle.molino@intelcap.com or AWARDQueries@cgiar.org.

Submissions will be evaluated on a rolling basis until 16th March 2017. Early submissions are encouraged, and winners will be notified on or around 20th March 2017.