

Fall Armyworm Tech Prize

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Why are Feed the Future and partners running the Fall Armyworm Tech Prize?

The Feed the Future team at USAID believes that digital tools and approaches can complement the support of traditional agricultural advisory. Consistent, reliable diagnoses of fall armyworm, paired with timely, actionable, context-appropriate information on intervention can help farmers respond to an emergent threat. Prizes use open competition to incentivize people to address a well-defined problem. Unlike challenges, prize competitions are designed to reward the achievement of specific outcomes and pay for those results. We believe that a prize can encourage the introduction or expansion of digital fall armyworm interventions as farmers confront this new threat.

2. What kind of tools and approaches are you looking for?

A promising digital tool or approach that helps farmers recognize and intervene against fall armyworm. The tool or approach may be an existing approach that has been newly digitized, a current fall armyworm digital intervention looking to adapt and scale in new geographies, an innovative tool or approach that is now addressing fall armyworm, or the creation of something wholly new. Competitors may want to draw upon examples from machine learning, digitally enabled social networks, SMS alerts, video footage, aerial surveillance, interactive voice response, and digital decision trees, but should not feel limited by them.

3. What do you mean by context-appropriate?

Although this prize seeks solutions that might be applied across a variety of sub-Saharan African smallholder farmer contexts, we are aware that the lives, purchasing power, digital penetration, digital connectivity, and geographies of farmers can vary widely. We therefore encourage applicants to define a context (e.g., serving lusophone smallholder farmers in the Great Rift Valley of Mozambique) and hone their solution accordingly. Solutions, for example, should not advise the use of specific pesticides for a particular region if they are unavailable or unauthorized, require payment of mobile money if it is not available or feasible, or suggest waiting for a seasonal cold snap to kill worms, if there is no reasonable expectation the temperature will dip below 65° F/18° C for a sustained period of time.

4. Who can enter the prize?

The prize is open to individuals, groups and organizations with no regional restrictions. We encourage ideas from local people, including informal groups and networks, community groups, businesses and existing service providers. You can find out more by reading the eligibility criteria <http://fallarmywormtech.challenges.org/eligibility-criteria/>

5. Can I apply if I am outside sub-Saharan Africa?

Yes, the prize is open to participants from all over the world, yet the solutions need to be applicable and responsive to sub-Saharan African smallholder farmers' needs, as outlined in the prize statement, fallarmywormtech.challenges.org.

6. Can I submit more than one idea?

Yes, you can submit up to three ideas and be named as a partner on more than one entry. Each idea must be submitted separately and needs to be different from the other ideas you have submitted.

7. I have entered my idea into another competition; can I submit the same idea to this competition?

Yes, you can enter your idea even if you have submitted it to another competition. Please make sure you provide relevant and specific answers to the entry questions for this competition. The other competition may have rules about you entering your idea in more than one competition. It is your responsibility to check this before you enter this competition.

8. I have already developed a product/service, can I use that as an entry for this prize?

As we are looking for new innovations, you will need to explain how your idea differs from existing solutions, builds on what is already out there, or has yet to be applied in your target geography. It's important for us to understand that it is a new idea or a new way of doing things.

9. Who owns the intellectual property of the submitted ideas?

You will retain your intellectual property rights in your entry to the Prize in accordance with the Prize Terms and Conditions. See specifically Section 3 (3.1; 3.2; 3.3; 3.4).

10. Can I remove my entry once I have submitted it?

Yes, you can send an email to fawtechprize@nesta.org.uk and request for your entry to be removed.

11. Can I get some advice on how to best enter the competition?

If you have inquiries about how to enter the competition please email fawtechprize@nesta.org.uk and somebody from the Nesta Challenge Prize Centre Team will contact you within three working days.

12. What do I do after I've submitted an idea?

You do not need to do anything after you submit your idea. The Nesta Challenge Prize Centre team will be in touch if you're selected as one of the finalists. If so, you will be invited to participate in the co-creation event and receive additional information.

13. Would a solution be considered if it doesn't meet sub-Saharan African smallholder context-specific needs?

Not for this prize competition. We are specifically sourcing solutions that can respond to sub-Saharan African smallholder farmers' needs. The solution may meet other needs, but our primary focus is on sub-Saharan Africa for smallholders.

14. How can I know more about sub-Saharan African smallholder farmer needs?

You can find information on sub-Saharan African farmers' needs in the Prize Call Innovator Handbook, to start. Much more information can be found on the internet. Some useful links include: [Feed the Future country profiles](#), or the [FAO Country profiles](#). If selected as a finalist, you will then have a chance to test your assumptions with sub-Saharan African farmers during the co-creation event and the testing period.

15. Who will be using the tools and approach I develop?

You can decide if you are targeting sub-Saharan African smallholders farmers, agricultural advisory services, or other value chain actors, yet remember that "usability" is one of the judging criteria and what we will consider is the level to which your tool can be accessed and used by people with different backgrounds, capacities and educational levels.

16. What is a prototype?

A prototype is a demonstrable example of your solution which is sufficiently developed to undertake a testing period with end users.

17. When do I need to have a prototype of the solutions ready for testing?

You will need to have a prototype ready by the co-creation event to be held in June 2018 in Kampala. Only finalists will be invited to the co-creation event, and therefore only finalists will need to have a prototype ready by June. You will know if you were selected as a finalist by the end of May 2018. In addition to this, be aware that a prototype will also be needed during June, July, and August for the testing phase with end users.

18. What is the co-creation event?

The co-creation event is a three-four day workshop which will offer the finalists the possibility to co-create the next iteration of their solutions directly with the target audience of sub-Saharan African smallholder farmers and/or extension service providers. This provides a great opportunity to test and refine the product based on the views and interactions of the people that are intended to use it.

19. Where is the co-creation event?

The co-creation event will take place in Kampala, Uganda. While your solution does not have to be specific to the Ugandan smallholder farmer context. Many of the farmers and extension services representatives attending will be Ugandan.

20. Will I have to pay to participate to the co-creation event?

The Challenge Prize Centre team will offer the travel, accommodation and subsistence costs for two members of each finalist team. If finalists are participating as a team and want to bring more than two representatives to the event, travel and accommodation costs of any additional members will be the team's own responsibility to cover.

21. If I am selected as a finalist will the co-creation event be mandatory?

Yes. Attending the co-creation event is a requirement of participation. The co-creation event will provide you with the relevant information, skills and contacts to help deliver a strong development plan and understand the requirements for the next stage of the prize. If there are extenuating circumstances which prohibit attendance, we will of course discuss this further and reserve the right to make exceptions.

22. Who will be receiving the \$2000 of seed funding for prototyping?

Every finalist or finalist team will receive \$2000 in seed funding which is meant to support the testing phase of your prototype. This is in addition to the travel and accommodation costs the Challenge Prize Centre team will provide to finalists invited to the co-creation event (see question 20).

23. What happens to the ideas that don't make it to the finalist stage of the prize?

Even if your innovation is not selected, we will continue to alert entrants to more funding opportunities and other types of support.

24. What if my idea doesn't qualify?

If your idea doesn't qualify for this prize, don't worry. There will be a series of other initiatives in the future to which you can apply. In the meantime, you can sign up to receive emails from us about this and future prizes.

25. What can I do with the prize award if I win?

We hope the prize award will be used to further develop the solution to get into a position in the market to continue to have an impact on the issues we are addressing. You may, however, choose to utilize your winnings how you see fit.