

## GAFSP 9th Call for Proposals – Frequently Asked Questions

### Eligibility to Apply

**Who is eligible to submit a proposal under the 9th Call for Proposals? Can civil society organizations, farmers organizations, local government, academic institutes, private firms or individuals apply directly for GAFSP funding on behalf of their country?**

Proposals must be submitted by the national government of the eligible national government.

**Can international NGOs or civil society organizations (e.g., International Red Cross) or research institutes or private sector contribute to or partner in the implementation of a GAFSP-funded project under the 9th Call for Proposals?**

NGOs, civil society organizations, private sector actors or research institutes, local governments, academic institutions, and individual organizations are not eligible to apply directly. However, applicant countries are expected to demonstrate engagement with civil society, the private sector, farmer organizations, and other relevant stakeholders in the preparation of their proposal. These actors are therefore strongly encouraged to liaise directly with their government — specifically the ministry responsible for agriculture or food security — to explore how they could contribute to their country's national proposal.

**Can non-SE UN agencies (e.g., UNDP, UNOPS, UNIDO) participate in a GAFSP-funded project as implementing partners, technical delivery partners, or subcontractors alongside the Government and an approved Supervising Entity?**

Yes, although these entities cannot participate as Supervising Entities, the Government may choose to work with these agencies as an implementation partner. Any engagement of additional partners — including non-SE UN agencies — in a delivery or technical service provider role would be governed by the internal procurement and operational rules of the government and the chosen SE, not by GAFSP directly. Please work with the national government directly in such engagement.

**I am a farmer/small business owner/small non-profit. How can I benefit from this funding opportunity?**

GAFSP grants are provided directly to national governments of eligible countries, so you cannot apply for funding individually. Individual farmers are not eligible to apply directly under the 9th Call for Proposals.

**How should national technical agencies and statutory bodies engage in the GAFSP 9th Call for Proposals process, and through what coordination arrangements?**

Only one country-led proposal may be submitted per country, which should be determined through an internal process of prioritization led by the Ministry of Finance (or any ministry that handles relationships with GAFSP supervising entities), in consultation with its development partners. The internal process of coordination and prioritization would depend on each country.

**In what areas can national technical agencies, such as water resources management authorities, contribute to a country-led GAFSP proposal, and what form should that contribution take?**

There are no specific areas or form in which national technical agencies should be involved. It is up to the country.

**Are multilateral regional institutions or multi-country proposals eligible?**

Generally, proposals are submitted on a per-country basis. Proposals that cover more than one country from among the 58 eligible countries are also permitted. However, if a country participates in a multi-country proposal, it cannot then also submit a single-country proposal.

**Supervising Entities**

**Which development agencies are eligible to serve as Supervising Entities?**

Countries must be supported by an eligible GAFSP Supervising Entity (SE). Applicant governments may choose one of the following investment Supervising Entities: the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), or the World Bank. In addition, countries may optionally choose the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) or the World Food Programme (WFP) to serve as an additional SE for technical assistance activities. According to GAFSP's Governance document, the World Bank, AfDB, ADB, IDB and IFAD are eligible for both investment activities and technical assistance activities, while FAO and WFP are eligible for technical assistance activities only.

**Can a country submit a proposal with two Technical Assistance Supervising Entities (TA SEs)?**

No, this is not possible. Countries can choose to work with (i) only 1 Supervising Entity that manages investments and TA (AfDB, ADB, IDB, IFAD or WB) or (ii) 2 Supervising Entities (1 Supervising Entity in (i) plus another TA-only Supervising Entity (FAO or WFP).

**What is the specific role of the Supervising Entity in the application process?**

The SE's role is to: (1) provide quality assurance on the proposal before submission; (2) confirm their willingness to serve as SE via an attestation letter; and (3) supervise implementation once the project is approved. The investment SE channels grant funds to the government, while a TA SE (FAO or WFP) may be more directly involved in implementation.

**If a country chooses two SEs (e.g., AfDB for investment and WFP for TA), does each SE receive 5% of their respective portion of the grant as a service fee?**

Yes. The standard service charge is 5% per Supervising Entity, applied to their respective portion of the grant. For example, if AfDB manages \$15 million and WFP manages \$5 million, each receives 5% of their respective allocation — calculated separately.

**Co-financing**

### Is co-financing mandatory, and how is it assessed?

Yes, co-financing is a mandatory eligibility requirement under the 9th Call. Proposals that show no co-financing will be considered ineligible. Both cash and in-kind co-financing are treated equally. Proposals must submit evidence of secured co-financing (e.g., signed agreements) or expected co-financing (e.g., formal letters of intent). Co-financing is also scored: proposals can earn up to 3 additional points for co-financing sourced outside of official development assistance — such as from the private sector or government — and up to 4 additional points if the total co-financing amount equals or exceeds 50% of the GAFSP grant request. Annex 2 provides further guidance on evidence to be submitted for co-financing:

- Secured: Official documentation such as a signed financing agreement, budget allocation letter, government appropriation document, or approved project document.
- Expected: Documentation such as a letter of intent, draft memorandum of understanding, or official government communication confirming the co-financing.

### Can an existing ongoing project be used to host the GAFSP project and treated as co-financing?

Yes. An existing ongoing project can be treated as co-financing. Please attach the project documents and most recent progress report. Pipeline projects are also eligible as co-financing if supporting documentation is provided.

### We are currently designing a project that will only be approved in April 2027. Can we integrate GAFSP as part of this ongoing design process at the concept note stage?

[Yes, pipeline projects are eligible. This is counted as “expected co-financing”. Up to the financing source, it needs to be supported by a letter of intent, draft MoU, or official government communication confirming intent to co-finance. In addition, you should provide associated parent project design/appraisal document if available.] Please see Point #7 and #8 in Annex 2 of the Guidelines.

## Innovation

### Can an approach be considered innovative if it is already tested elsewhere but new in the local country context?

Yes. Innovation is defined broadly and must be context-specific. It does not need to be globally novel — an approach that is new in the local context qualifies. Innovation can be technological, financial, institutional, or policy-related. The key is to clearly explain what the innovation is, why it is innovative in your specific context, and its value addition.

### How does GAFSP assess proposals from fragile and conflict-affected countries that may lack strong implementation capacity or proven innovation?

GAFSP recognizes that fragile contexts require simplified designs better matched to implementation capacity. The Technical Advisory Committee takes this into account. Innovation is defined broadly and context-specifically — what matters is that the approach goes beyond business as usual in the local context, even if it has been tested elsewhere. Fragile and conflict-

**Commented [PN1]:** I am not sure that we are clear in this context because this could also assume that co-financing may not be available at this stage of submission as the project will only be approved next year. The application will only be forwarded for consideration if co-financing is definite. Are we assuming that a project that is to be approved in April of next year can be confirmed as providing co-financing to the GAFSP proposal? We may need to consider that projects can also be dropped mid-way through preparation.

**Commented [SV2R1]:** Hmm, good point. This is what we have in the Guidelines.

1. Secured co-financing requires hard documentation — signed financing agreements, approved project documents, or government appropriation documents. A pipeline project that has not yet been approved would generally not meet this bar.
2. Expected co-financing can be supported by a letter of intent, draft MoU, or official government communication confirming intent to co-finance — this is where a pipeline project *could* potentially qualify, but only if the co-financier is willing to issue a formal letter of intent at this stage.

So it could be the 2<sup>nd</sup> case, but we need the co-financer for a formal letter of intent.  
Also I see this question differently that I've provided some answers.

**Stefanie Tamimichi Hoberg** please take a look.

**Commented [YTH3R1]:** I was only thinking of your point #2 when I drafted the response. I did not see “A pipeline project that has not yet been approved would generally not meet this bar.” in the Guidelines. Where is that written?

affected countries (FCS) also receive additional scoring points under country needs. Also for a country that is on the world Bank's [FCS list](#), it will receive additional three points.

#### **Other Questions:**

##### **What is the funding ceiling per proposal, and what is the maximum eligible fund size per country?**

There is no formal per-proposal or per-country maximum. The total available envelope is approximately \$163 million for 6 to 10 projects. Proposals should be justified based on actual needs and a detailed activity-level budget.

##### **Are there specific requirements for countries with de facto governments? Can implementation be government-led, or should a third-party implementing agency be identified?**

No, there is no specific requirement by GAFSP. The government endorsement letter from the Ministry of Finance or Planning, and the line Ministry remain required. The use of third-party implementation agency should be presented in the relevant section in the template.

#### **Administrative questions**

##### **Is there a registration portal or login system to access the GAFSP 9th Call for Proposals application documents?**

No, there is no specific login needed. All relevant documents are on the public website (<https://www.gafspfund.org/9th-call-proposals>).

##### **What is the font and line spacing requirement to keep the proposal within the 20-page limit?**

Please refer to the formatting specifications in the proposal template provided in the guidelines: 11-point font and use single spacing. The page-limit for the proposal is 20 pages, including the template questions but excluding annexes. Succinct, focused answers are strongly encouraged — length does not translate to higher scores.