

2025 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Where should I submit my project proposal for the 2025 FONTAGRO call for proposals?**

Project proposals must be submitted exclusively through the following link: [Electronic application link](#). The application instructions can also be accessed [here](#).

- **Where can I ask questions about this call for proposals?**

We recommend first reviewing the [current Terms of Reference](#), the [current Operations Manual](#), and other documents related to the [2025 Call](#). For specific inquiries, please contact fontagro@fontagro.org.

- **What can be used as counterpart funding? Can counterpart funds include salaries, buildings, laboratories, etc.? Can it be in cash or in kind?**

Participating institutions must co-finance the proposal individually or jointly by providing counterpart funds in cash, in kind, or a combination of both. The minimum counterpart funding must be twice the amount requested from FONTAGRO.

Counterpart funds should be supported by documentation that justifies the expenses (e.g., payroll records for salaries). There are institutions that have a financial procedure in place to present the counterpart expenses allocated to the Project. Review the Co-Financing Mechanisms in the current Operations Manual, section 1.5. Link: <https://fontagro.org/en/corporate-documents/operations-manual-ii/>

- **Is it still possible to apply if a consortium member has an ongoing FONTAGRO project?**

Yes, as long as the organization has the technical, administrative, and financial capacity to execute the proposed Project. The organization's track record in fulfilling technical activities, delivering products, and executing funds will also be considered.

- **Can the project duration be less than 42 months?**

The maximum duration for Project execution is 36 months. There is no minimum duration; the Project should be scheduled according to the time required to achieve its proposed objectives, activities, and outputs.

- **Can private companies qualify as “other organizations”?**

Yes, private companies can participate in the Platforms for Regional Innovation (PRI) if they contribute to fostering entrepreneurial **and/or** public-private ecosystems, linking producers with science and technology stakeholders. The private sector can participate in the submission of projects. Please note that the PRIs must connect the various stakeholders with the end users or beneficiaries. To this end, PRIs should include: a) at least one public or private research center, b) direct beneficiaries involved in testing or validation processes, c) an entrepreneur or entrepreneurial team (optional), d) other associated organizations (optional). Private companies may participate with a specific role within the platform.

- **Can a research center from one country and an entrepreneurial team from another country collaborate?**

Yes, as long as regionality criteria are met. FONTAGRO co-finances proposals executed by public institutions or public-private partnerships from at least two FONTAGRO member countries. Proposed activities must be implemented in these two countries at minimum. Institutions from non-member countries of FONTAGRO (but members of the IDB), and regional or international organizations, may participate as associated organizations with a facilitating or complementary role, using their own resources.

- **Do funds from associated organizations count as counterpart funding?**

Yes, funds from associated organizations are always considered counterpart funding and are subject to audit. Please note that counterpart funding is an expense subject to reporting. Therefore, when determining the amount of counterpart funding, the organization is required to provide evidence of the expenses allocated to the project, which must be accepted during the project audit.

- **Can a university in Spain receive funds as a co-executing organization?**

Yes, as long as the research benefits one or more FONTAGRO member countries. Executing and co-executing entities can receive funds as long as they comply with the appropriate regulations. For more information, please refer to our [current Operations Manual](#) and verify with your institution that these requirements are met. Note that institutions acting as executing entities must certify that they meet the requirements to manage funds with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), FONTAGRO's legal representative. Failure to comply will disqualify the institution from this role, and project funding could be canceled.

- **Are there restrictions on expense items?**

Yes, there are restrictions. Refer to the [current Operations Manual](#) under the section on Eligible expenses.

- **Will projects focusing on food security, climate change, and CO2 be considered?**

The objective of the call is to identify regional project proposals that provide concrete evidence of how to promote interconnected, efficient, sustainable, and resilient production systems through knowledge, science, technology, and innovation, leading to improved efficiency and resilience while reducing the environmental footprint. Within this framework, projects related to food security, climate change, and similar topics are included.

Food security is a valid topic as long as it is linked to the themes of the call (resilience, climate change, etc.).

- **Can regional or local government entities participate as co-executors?**

Yes, all legally established public and private institutions that meet the criteria outlined in the [Operations Manual](#) are eligible to participate.

- **Will interviews be required for project selection?**

Only for finalist projects. FONTAGRO may request virtual or in-person interviews as part of the co-financing decision process.

- **Are spreadsheets validated by HR staff acceptable for salary justification?**

No, counterpart expenses must be properly justified with financial documents and expense receipts that are eligible for audit. For more information, please review the current [Operations Manual](#). Additionally, external auditing firms are responsible for issuing the final opinion on the eligibility of expenses.

- **Is there a minimum funding request?**

No minimum funding amount is specified. Maximum amounts are established.

- **In what currency should budgets be presented?**

Budgets must be presented in US dollars.

- **Are letters of endorsement from co-executing and associated organizations required by April 11?**

Yes, all proposals must include signed endorsement letters from participating organizations.

- **Do projects on sustainable intensification need to focus strictly on emissions?**

Please review the [current Terms of Reference](#). The decision rests with the proposer.

- **Should the targeted production systems be intensive (e.g., feedlots) or agroecological/extensive?**

Please review the [current Terms of Reference](#). The proposer decides the approach.

- **Is there a database for finding project partners?**

Please visit FONTAGRO's project platform, which includes details on 204 initiatives and participating organizations. [Link to the platform](#).

- **How are Platforms for Regional Innovation (PRI) formed?**

Platforms for Regional Innovation (PRI), whether existing or new, will be co-financed if they are composed of public entities or public-private partnerships that come together to design and implement a regional technical cooperation project in compliance with the Terms of Reference for this call. For more details, refer to sections 5.1 and 5.2 of the [current Terms of Reference](#).

- **Can a continuation proposal for a project awarded in 2024 be submitted?**

Yes, provided it aligns with the 2025 Call objectives. Review the [Terms of Reference](#) for guidance.

- **What is the duration of the projects?**

Projects may be submitted for 36 months of technical execution and 42 months of financial execution. Please review the current [Terms of Reference](#) and [Operations Manual](#).

- **What is the minimum number of countries required for PRI formation?**

FONTAGRO will co-finance proposals executed by public institutions or public-private partnerships from at least two FONTAGRO member countries. This means that the proposed activities must be implemented in a minimum of those two member countries. Once this requirement is met, other institutions from non-FONTAGRO member countries (but members of the IDB) and regional or international organizations may participate as associated organizations with a facilitating or complementary role, using their own resources. For more details, see section 5.6 of the [current Terms of Reference](#).