

Call for Proposals – 2019

III Edition International Award “Innovative Ideas and Technologies in Agribusiness”

UNIDO ITPO Italy & Future Food Institute

Introduction

The international contest is aimed at identifying “**Innovative Ideas and Technologies in Agribusiness**” that could lead to social, environmental and economic improvements if implemented in Developing Countries (DCs).

The contest offers an opportunity at international level to highlight and promote new solutions to upgrade food security and safety requirements in DCs while creating links with the business world to establish positive synergies with the opportunity to submit the project to potential partners in the UNIDO network.

The initiative is promoted by UNIDO ITPO Italy, Investment and Technology Promotion Office of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, in collaboration with the Future Food Institute.

Applications must be received by 31st March 2019, at the following link:
www.unido.it/award2019

The award ceremony will be held in Rome on **15 May 2019 within the framework of EXCO 2019**, the first ever international expo of Development Cooperation to be held in Italy this year.

Art. 1 – Objective of the Contest

The tender has the objective to scout, classify, select and promote the best innovative ideas and technologies relative to the entire agribusiness value chain – developed by startups, businesses, research centers and academia – that could be successfully applied in Developing Countries (DCs).

Specifically, priority will be given to the following themes:

- **Cultivation, harvesting, processing, conservation, packaging and distribution of agricultural, livestock and fishery products;**
- **Valorization of agricultural products of local communities and aimed at fighting food waste and losses;**
- **Logistics management and access to international markets of agricultural products of DCs;**
- **Improvement of life and economic conditions of workers in the agricultural and similar sectors in DCs;**
- **Development and qualification of a local market for food and agricultural goods and byproducts;**
- **Environmental solutions for agribusiness waste treatment & management, and production of energy and water from alternative sources for agricultural, human and zoo technical use;**
- **Smart and Urban Agriculture and ICT & big data application.**

The tender seeks to create a virtuous circle of connections between the private, academic, financial, and institutional world of the countries in the UNIDO ITPO Italy and FFI network. Furthermore, it offers the opportunity to the winners to present their own innovative ideas and technologies directly to donors and institutions represented at the event, in addition to benefit ad hoc promotional and networking support provided by the organizers.

Art. 2 – Admissible Candidates

The proposal submitted by participants to the tender must be from applicants belonging to the following categories:

- **Micro, small, medium, and large enterprises;**
- **Startups operating in the relevant sectors;**
- **Research centers, incubators, Technology Transfer offices, university spin-offs, and academia;**
- **Public-Private Partnerships;**
- **Associations, business consortia and networks, NGOs, as well as public and private foundations linked to the business world and international cooperation;**
- **Researchers, innovators and smallholders farmers.**

The joint participation of candidates belonging to different admissible categories, with the adequate indication of the leading applicants, will represent an added value to the project. Belonging to a team will have to be a well-motivated decision.

The organizers encourage the participation of proposal at any level of development, from early stage ideas to scaling up projects, but also innovative technologies under testing and evidence collection.

Participation to the initiative is free of charge.

Art. 3 – Submission of Applications

The applications will have to be submitted through the online form available in this website, **no later than 31 March 2019 GMT**

<https://www.unido.it/award2019/registration/>

Each participant can submit a maximum of 2 applications. A larger submission of proposals would lead to the exclusion of extra applications based on the order in which they are received.

Art. 4 – Admission Criteria

The applications sent by admissible candidates will be submitted to an initial screening phase and will be considered only if complete in all their parts and coherent with the tender's objectives and themes.

Only the admissible proposals, following a verification of the feasibility and credibility requirements of the proposal, will enter the evaluation process.

Art. 5 – Evaluation Criteria

The proposals considered as admissible will be evaluated by an *ad hoc* jury.

The jury in charge of the evaluation and selection of the best innovative technologies and ideas will be composed by highly-recognized representatives coming from different backgrounds, including international and Developing Countries’ institutions, research centers and academia, and business & financial entities.

All candidates will be informed about the decisions of the jury. The designation of the winning proposals will be expressed in a collegial way, and the judgment will be considered final.

The composition of the jury will be available soon at the dedicated relevant website.

The evaluation of the proposals will be based on the following criteria, to which the maximum percentages indicated below will be associated:

Innovation content of the proposal	40%
Environmental, social and economic long-term sustainability	25%
Scalability and possibility of extension in different geographical contexts	20%
Expected occupational return	10%
Applicants’ financial involvement	5%

The evaluation process, carried out by the jury on the basis of the above-mentioned percentages, will be cumulative and in line with the highest ethical standards.

The absence of the participants’ conflict of interest, the process’ transparency and tracking, certifications obtained from recognized organs, and motivations of merit identified by the jury will be considered as key elements in the evaluation process.

The organizers have the faculty to request additional documents and/or clarifications to complement the candidature, if deemed necessary.

Art. 6 – Reward and Award Ceremony

At the end of the selection process the jury will select 7 winners for the following categories:

- #3 Overall
- #1 Women
- #1 Young - Under 35
- #1 Agrofood & Climate Change
- #1 Agrofood & Biodiversity

Moreover, among the news for this edition, also a mention of honor will be assigned to the most disruptive innovative proposal.

Winners will be contacted in the days following the date of closure of the call for proposals and invited to the Award Ceremony scheduled on **15 May 2019 in Rome within the framework of EXCO 2019**, the first ever international expo of Development Cooperation to be held in Italy this year.

The winners will also be offered the following services:

- Opportunity to participate as a keynote speaker and guest of honor within EXCO 2019 to be held in Rome next 15 May 2019;
- Realization of an ad hoc web page on the winner innovative idea and / or technology within the UNIDO ITPO Italy's institutional website (www.unido.it) and assistance in defining a project's promotional strategy;
- Honest brokering services to access, through ad hoc promotional activities, to the worldwide UNIDO, ITPOs and FFI network with the aim to guarantee the maximum visibility to the winner proposal and foster the conclusion of international technical, financial and academic partnerships;
- Opportunity to be involved to the international initiatives organized by Future Food Institute in Europe, United States, China, Japan and Thailand;
- Advisory and mentorship services concerning the awarded project;
- Opportunity to test the winning ideas and technologies in the 70 hectares field of the Future Farm in Italy.