

Guidelines for

# Grant for Agroecology Program (GAP) Fund

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR GAP CHALLENGE - ROUND – I



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# Grant for Agroecology Program (GAP)- Challenge Fund

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR AGROECOLOGY CHALLENGE ROUND I

### 1. About ACCESS Development Services

Set-up in March 2006, ACCESS Development Services (ACCESS) is structured uniquely to build evidence, create models and align thought leadership in collaboration with Civil Society Organizations, Governments, Private Sector, Donors and Multilateral / Bilateral Agencies.

ACCESS works to enhance income of individual small holder farmers and build the sustainability of FPOs by incorporating value addition of commodities to their existing marketing practices and introduce climate resilient farming practices through programs. ACCESS creates model FPOs for learning and for providing models of capacity building that could be emulated for other FPO promoters, Govt agencies and funders.

ACCESS is headquartered in Delhi with ongoing operation in 34 project locations in 11 states, viz., Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Assam, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, West Bengal, National Capital Region, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh. The organization has impacted the livelihoods of 410000 households including vulnerable communities like tribal, minority groups, excluded groups, women, small and marginal farmers and artisans.

### 2. Request for Grant Application under Grant for Agroecology Program (GAP) Fund

ACCESS is managing an investment fund on behalf of International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) as part of the Investments in Agroecology Value Chain Projects (IAVCP) that aims to promote agroecology-based value chains. IAVCP focuses on identifying viable business opportunities linked to agroecology clusters and value chains, providing investment support for integrated agroecology based sustainable production systems by supporting Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) and Producer Organization Enterprises (POE) through grants, technical assistance and ecosystem support. The objective is to improve their businesses, enhance their agroecological outcomes, and provide tangible benefits to small producers in the value chain.

As part of the GAP Challenge, ACCESS is inviting [Concept Notes](#) from eligible enterprises for grant investments in the range of Rs. 100 lakhs to Rs. 200 lakhs for setting up or expanding high impact business projects in Agroecology Value Chains.

### 3. Objective of the Fund

Assisting agroecology focused MSEs and Producer Organization Enterprises (POEs) by offering grants and technical guidance to help them become integral part of sustainable food systems. By providing financial support through a competitive grant mechanism, the GAP- Fund aims to empower these enterprises to scale their agroecological innovations and address pressing challenges in their respective value chains, thereby enhancing sustainable livelihoods for small producers through a viable and sustainable business model.

## 4. Eligible Enterprises

- ☞ **Producer Organization Enterprises (POEs) involved in Agroecology:** These could be Farmer Producer Organizations/Companies (FPO/FPC), Producer Organizations/ Companies (PO/PC), Producer Groups (PG), Producer Cooperatives, Federations of Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and other forms of producer collective enterprises<sup>1</sup>.
- ☞ **Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs):** For-profit enterprises linked to agroecology value chains, including start-up organizations and individual entrepreneurs, can apply, provided they are registered.
- ☞ *Non-profit organizations/NGOs can assist with the preparation of an application by a Producer Organization or Enterprise, but they cannot apply in their own right.*

POEs and MSEs offering products and services linked to agroecology principles, practices, and technologies can apply for grant funding to part-finance their investment/expansion plans. Indicative (non-exhaustive) business activities include the production and supply of bio-inputs, production of diverse and climate-resilient crops and crop varieties, sustainable production/cultivation including the use of renewable energy, water, and energy-efficient technologies, custom hire services, technical advisory services, weather-linked advisory, farm equipment, post-harvest management, transport and aggregation, value addition/processing, health/sustainability focused branding, sustainable packaging, marketing, quality and traceability solutions, compliance/certification/audit services, etc.

## 5. Important Dates & Contact Details

Challenge Invited by	ACCESS Development Services
Project Name	Investment in Agroecology Value Chains Project (IAVCP)
Date of Opening of Challenge by inviting Concept Note	02 November 2023
Date of Closing of Concept Note	17 November 2023 by 5:00 PM
Intimation to shortlisted competitors	27 November 2023
Holding Pre-Proposal Meeting for Shortlisted Competitors	30 November 2023
Last date for submission Grant Application for Round-I Agroecology Challenge	15 December 2023 by 5:00 PM
Contact	Phone: 011-45697039/ 45761146 Website: <a href="https://www.accessdev.org/agroecology-fund/">https://www.accessdev.org/agroecology-fund/</a> Email: <a href="mailto:iavcp@accessdev.org">iavcp@accessdev.org</a> , <a href="mailto:sadique@accessdev.org">sadique@accessdev.org</a>

## 6. Project Location

Grant for Agroecology Program (GAP) Challenge is open pan India.

## 7. Eligibility Criteria

### 7.1 Organization and Type of Registration

- Must be a registered Producer Organization Enterprise (POE) or registered Private enterprise

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<sup>1</sup> Women's groups, vulnerable groups, and youth groups that are formalized and made into a collective are also eligible.



- Must have been in operation for at least 2 years on the date of the application.

## 7.2 Financial Credentials

- Minimum turnover of INR 2 Crore (20 million)
- Audited financial statements for the past 02 years.
- Proof of at least 30% co-funding

## 7.3 Project Alignment

- The proposed application must have clearly defined problem statement along with unique solution with the potential to scale and impact large numbers of primary producers and one or more agroecological dimensions (Please refer **Table 1** for Agroecology principles under Section 10).
- Minimum coverage of 1,000 small and marginal producers.
- A viable business plan that demonstrates the growth and sustainability of the enterprise.

## 8. Selection Process

The selection process under GAP Challenge Fund will be the following

### Stage I

- Call for concept note invited through the widely disseminated GAP Challenge with detailed guidelines and prescribed Concept Note application form;
- A virtual meeting/webinar to provide a briefing on the grant objectives and concept note application form, agroecological principles;
- Preliminary screening and shortlisting;

### Stage II

- Request for detailed proposal and business from shortlisted applicants;
- Virtual pre-proposal meeting for sharing guidelines and clarifying queries;
- Review of full proposals, business plans and compliances by the Fund Manager team and recommendation notes for Investment Committee;
- Evaluation by Investment Committee based on Investment briefs and presentations by Fund Manager and shortlisting of top 8-10 proposals for final stage;

### Stage III

- In-person presentation by finalists to a panel consisting of impact investors and subject matter experts.
- Final selection of 2-3 best proposals for the grant award.

## 9. Submission Instructions

- The [Concept Note](https://forms.gle/h61XRZLXJN6YcEQW9) must be submitted online via google form at <https://forms.gle/h61XRZLXJN6YcEQW9>
- Format for Concept note is available for reference in Appendix C.
- Concept notes not shared in the given format, received after the due date and time will not be considered and liable for rejection.

## 10. Evaluation Criteria

The following three aspects distinguish the GAP Fund from traditional value chain investment programmes and will be used to judge a project's suitability for investment.

### Criteria 1- Integration of Agroecological Principles

The project for investment will have to align with IAVCP's vision regarding agroecological principles, as given in Table 1 below that provides full description of the 10 Elements of Agroecology from the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. It also includes suggestive (non-exhaustive) examples for each element.

<b>Table # 1: The Ten Elements of Agroecology as per FAO</b>		
<b>Component</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Examples of Agroecologically Sound Production Systems and Value Chains (Not Exhaustive)</b>
<b>Diversity</b>	☞ Diversification is key to agroecological transitions to ensure food security and nutrition while conserving, protecting, and enhancing natural resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Crop rotations and Intercropping</li> <li>☞ Polycultures</li> <li>☞ Animal integration</li> <li>☞ Diversity in landscaping, diversity through varieties and breeds, and/or other forms of diversity</li> <li>☞ Functional biodiversity for pest control</li> <li>☞ Incomes diversity from differentiated markets</li> </ul>
<b>Synergies</b>	☞ Building synergies enhances key functions across food systems, supporting production and multiple ecosystem services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Permanent soil cover through mulching.</li> <li>☞ Contour lines that use traditional ecological knowledge with scientific knowledge used to maintain soil health, prevent erosion, etc.</li> <li>☞ Production and use of organic matter using local resources</li> <li>☞ Selective combination of annual crops, trees, perennial crops, leguminous crops, livestock, etc.</li> <li>☞ Territorial/landscape planning maximizing synergies in a territory (e.g., watershed approaches)</li> <li>☞ Integration of value chains to create synergies (e.g. by-products from one value chain to be used as raw material by another. In other words, the output from one chain could serve as input for another)</li> </ul>
<b>Efficiency</b>	☞ Innovative agroecological practices produce more using fewer external resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Enhanced productivity of labour and natural resources. Other efficiency (input/output) measures to be used as appropriate.</li> <li>☞ Reduce/eliminate external inputs through recycling to enhance efficiency</li> <li>☞ Reduction in wastage through recycling and other means</li> <li>☞ Use of bio-fertilizers /bio-stimulants/microbes to fix atmospheric nitrogen, carbon, etc</li> <li>☞ Efficient use of natural resources</li> <li>☞ Water harvesting and water-efficient irrigation systems (e.g., drip irrigation systems)</li> </ul>
<b>Recycling</b>	☞ More recycling	☞ Production and use of compost/equivalent

**Table # 1: The Ten Elements of Agroecology as per FAO**

Component	Description	Examples of Agroecologically Sound Production Systems and Value Chains (Not Exhaustive)
	means agricultural production with lower economic and environmental costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Reduce pollution/waste</li> <li>☞ Recycling of nutrients and biomass, water, etc, to enhance efficiency, reduce pollution, etc.</li> <li>☞ Agroforestry</li> <li>☞ Crop–livestock systems</li> </ul>
<b>Co-creation and Sharing of Knowledge</b>	☞ Agricultural innovations respond better to local challenges when they are co-created through participatory processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Local practical and context-specific knowledge of methods of farming and production including traditional and indigenous knowledge, producers’ and traders’ practical knowledge, and global scientific knowledge</li> <li>☞ Producer experimentation that results in new hybrid knowledge, which is a combination of lab-to-land and local context-specific knowledge</li> <li>☞ Participatory processes for sharing local, context-specific, and hybrid knowledge, <i>including lab-to-land workshops and programs, participatory plant breeding, inter alia.</i></li> <li>☞ Farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing and farmer field schools.</li> <li>☞ Mechanisms for sharing of best practices/ models/ stories/evidence with stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>Resilience</b>	☞ Enhanced resilience of people, communities, and ecosystems is key to sustainable food and agricultural systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Natural methods of pest control</li> <li>☞ Diversified agricultural landscapes that enhance pest and disease control functions</li> <li>☞ Natural methods to increase soil health</li> <li>☞ Resistance to extreme weather, including the use of soil conservation techniques (minimal labor) and natural and continuous drainage systems, etc.</li> <li>☞ Capacity to recover from agricultural and production setbacks/emergencies by using agroecological-oriented agriculture insurance, reinsurance, and emergency funds.</li> <li>☞ Agroecologically oriented vulnerability reducing financial services, including warehouse receipts and other post-harvest financing.</li> <li>☞ Diversification of activities across related and unrelated activities</li> <li>☞ Reducing dependence on external inputs</li> <li>☞ Backward and forward integration of activities in the chain to reduce dependence and enhance resilience</li> </ul>
<b>Human and Social Values</b>	☞ Protecting and improving rural livelihoods, equity, and social well-being is essential for sustainable food and agricultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Social cohesion and cooperation through cooperatives, and producer organizations, especially for disadvantaged groups including tribals, women, and youth in agriculture</li> <li>☞ Fair prices for both producers and consumers</li> <li>☞ Solidarity initiatives</li> <li>☞ Sharing systems (e.g., digital apps to share tractors and other types of machinery)</li> </ul>

Table # 1: The Ten Elements of Agroecology as per FAO		
Component	Description	Examples of Agroecologically Sound Production Systems and Value Chains (Not Exhaustive)
	systems.	☞ Social, gender, financial, and other inclusion
<b>Culture and Food Traditions</b>	☞ By supporting healthy, diversified, and culturally appropriate diets, agroecology contributes to food security and nutrition while maintaining the health of ecosystems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Traditional integrated production systems</li> <li>☞ Local food systems and markets</li> <li>☞ Preservation of cultural agricultural systems</li> <li>☞ Hybrid of traditional and scientific food systems and habits</li> <li>☞ Maintaining and promoting agriculture methods that respect peoples' cultures and food systems</li> <li>☞ Enabling support for producer-managed seed systems (peasant seeds) as well as community-managed seed banks</li> <li>☞ Enhancing utilization and sustainable management of traditional (and wild foods) through the promotion of local indigenous food and seed markets</li> <li>☞ Neglected crops, ancient varieties, perennials and so on.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible Governance</b>	☞ Sustainable food and agriculture require responsible and effective governance mechanisms at different scales – from local to national to global.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Access to land, natural (including water), and other common property resources, including mutual guarantee social justice systems</li> <li>☞ Territorial, landscape, and community-level governance</li> <li>☞ Long-term investments for maintaining and preserving all local knowledge and systems, as mentioned in the other components</li> <li>☞ Natural resources governance with mutual benefit for producers and other stakeholders</li> <li>☞ Enabling infrastructure for agroecological produce branding, certification, etc.</li> <li>☞ Enabling and ensuring effective communication at all levels of engagement through production systems and value chains.</li> <li>☞ Cooperative governance frameworks for mutual benefit</li> </ul>
<b>Circular and Solidarity Economy</b>	☞ Circular and solidarity economies that reconnect producers and consumers provide innovative solutions for living within our planetary boundaries while ensuring the social foundation for inclusive and sustainable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Increased incomes for producers, reduction in their vulnerability, and enhancement of their livelihood, food and nutrition security</li> <li>☞ Local food systems and markets, traditional territorial markets, and so on.</li> <li>☞ Participatory guarantee systems (including productive alliances between producers and consumers and territorial guarantee systems such as bio-districts)</li> <li>☞ Community-supported agriculture and e-commerce schemes (including digital and mobile applications)</li> <li>☞ Diversification of risks and multiple coping mechanisms</li> <li>☞ Producers and buyers co-exist and swap different products (milk production and tea shop example)</li> <li>☞ Agro tourism and eco-tourism</li> </ul>



Component	Description	Examples of Agroecologically Sound Production Systems and Value Chains (Not Exhaustive)
	development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☞ Mutual guarantee systems</li> <li>☞ Dynamic local producer's markets</li> <li>☞ Denomination of origin and traceability</li> <li>☞ E-commerce price and sale information</li> </ul>

*Note: The proposed agro ecology value chain project/business does not need to demonstrate all of the elements; it may cover one or more with a clear articulation of the alignment. However, the proposed project must not be in conflict with any of the above elements.*

The 10 elements have been operationalized in 13 principles by the HLPE.<sup>2</sup> Those are recycling; input reduction; soil health; animal health; biodiversity; synergy; economic diversification; co-creation of knowledge; social values and diets; fairness; connectivity; land and natural resource governance; and participation. These principles are well aligned with the 10 elements of agroecology.

### Criteria 2- Impact on Small Holder Farmers/Small & Marginal Producers

The project/business has to demonstrate a tangible, time-specific impact on small farmers/producers. It should also result in a **quantifiable income increase for them over time**. Also, the business should preferably support the livelihoods of the more vulnerable such as women, youth, tribal, and other similar disadvantaged groups, although support does not have to be exclusively for these groups. Several measures of impact are proposed here: a) tangible income increases for small producers; b) reduction in vulnerability for them as exemplified by enhanced and diverse coping mechanisms including access to emergency funds; c) diversification of risk for small producers as espoused by their dependence on multiple sources of income; d) number of households enabled for participation in viable value chains; e) total acreage/hectares of agroecological farming supported; f) value of co-financing/follow-on financing for POEs/MSEs; and g) other aspects as appropriate to the context and project.

### Criteria 3- Sustainability & Financial Viability of the Business

The project/business must be able to run independently after the proposed gestation period; it must demonstrate a clear, realistic, and time-bound vision toward financial sustainability and viability in terms of various parameters discussed in the subsequent sections. Important measures of sustainability in this context are: a) a time-bound (preferably 3-to-5-year time frame) plan to break even and earn a surplus; b) the strength and reality of the assumptions in the business plan and the actual business plan itself in terms of the realistic and achievable nature of the balance sheet, profit and loss statement, and cash flow statement projections; and c) key financial aspects including various financial ratios.

### Evaluation Criteria for Concept Note Stage

One of the requirements of the Concept Note to be submitted is that it must integrate with (one or more) agroecological principles and articulation to be assessed using [ACE Tool](#). The applicant must refer the link to access the tool from the given link. Please refer **Appendix A** for evaluation of Concept Note. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1va1grQyfAiUgaOugUM8VZZXbtOpgDcaG5hETvl8HObY/edit#gid=610264540>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.fao.org/3/ca5602en/ca5602en.pdf>

## Evaluation Criteria for Full Proposal Stage

At full proposal stage the project must Integrate with (one or more) agroecological principles and the clear articulation (to be assessed using [B-ACT Tool](#)). The extent to which an enterprise 'inspires' is reflected in its alignment with the agroecology principles. while the aspect 'promising' is reflected in its business model, value-generating activities and scalability. The applicant may refer the link to assess the tool.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1P2W8ZC3wJaKL6sOnhUKZleWAPExs0erMtDh9ly6746o/edit#gid=1307042756>

Please refer **Appendix B** for Evaluation criteria at full proposal stage.

## 11. Terms & Conditions

**Duration of the Project:** The duration of the proposed project may vary from 12 months to 18 months however depending the project the duration of the project could be modified on case to case basis.

**Negotiations:** The most competitive proposal will be awarded on the basis of merit thoroughly following the due diligence criteria and selection process. ACCESS reserves the right to request responses to questions and conduct negotiations with any authorised representative of potential organization prior to awarding a grant.

**Rejection of Proposal:** This document is a request for grant proposals only, and in no way binds ACCESS i.e. Grant Manager or IFAD to make an award. ACCESS reserves the right to reject any and all offers received and/or to cancel the Challenge. ACCESS will not be obliged to either inform or provide a justification for rejection of proposals.

**Incurring Costs:** All the cost incurred during the preparation of proposal will be borne by the applicant. ACCESS will not be liable for any cost incurred during preparation, submission, or negotiation of an award for this RFP.

Non-profit organizations/NGOs can assist with the preparation of an application by a Producer Organization or Enterprise, but they cannot apply in their own right.

**Transfer of Grant Fund:** Grant will be directly transferred to the Bank Account of finally selected enterprise (POEs/MSEs) of GAP Challenge.

## Appendix A: Evaluation Criteria for Concept Note Stage

<b>Initial Screening Criteria</b>	
Whether the business proposal is agroecologically aligned?	Y/N
Whether the business is more than 2 years in existence?	Y/N
Whether own risk capital (Own Funds + Loans) is greater than 30%?	Y/N
If answer to any of the above questions in No, then the concept note is rejected. If all the above aspects are fulfilled, then the concept note will be evaluated using the following criteria	

Sr. No	Criteria	Scale	Weightage (%)
1	No of Years of Existence	(2 to 4 yr.= 1, 4 to 8 yr.= 2, >8 yr.=3)	10
2	Alignment with Agroecological Principles. The modified <a href="#">ACE</a> tool <a href="#">will be used to determine this.</a>	No Alignment= 0, 1 to 2= 1, 3 to 4= 2, >4= 3	10
3	Agroecological impact of proposed activity (subjective)	0- No Agroecological Integration, 1- Increase efficiency of Chemical inputs, 2- Substitute alternate practices and inputs, 3- redesign the whole agro system based on ecological process, 4- Re-establish connection between growers and consumers, develop alternate food networks	15
4	Centrality of the idea and its translation into actionable steps (Subjective)	0- Lack of clarity of the central theme, 1- Clarity of Central theme but no actionable steps mentioned, 2- Clarity of Central theme with partial actionable steps mentioned, 3- Clarity of Central theme with actionable steps clearly defined.	15
5	Grant Amount/Number of Producers Impacted	(Plain Areas <300= 0, 300 to 500= 1, 500 to 1000= 2, >1000= 3) (Hilly Areas <150= 0, 150 to 300=1, 300 to 450= 2, >450= 3)	10
6	Potential of the Proposed Business Activity to Impact Farmer's Income (Subjective)	0-3	15
7	Presence of Impact on women/ youth	0- If No, 1- if clearly seen	5
8	Presence of Post-Harvest Activities	0- If No, 1- if clearly seen	5
9	% of Own Risk Capital (Own Funds + Loans)	30% to 50%= 1, 50% to 70%= 2, >70%= 3)	10
10	Presence of Other Committed Sources of Funding (Grants)	No alternate source= 0, up to 25%= 1, 25% to 50%= 2, >50%= 3	5
<b>Total</b>			<b>100</b>

## Appendix B: Evaluation Criteria for Full Proposal Stage

Criteria	Description	Max Points
<b>Name of the Applicant and Project:</b>		
<b>Innovation &amp; Relevance (25 points)</b>		
Innovation	☞ Novelty of the approach, technology, or solution proposed.	10
Relevance	☞ Alignment with the fund's objectives (agroecological orientation) and value chain challenges.	10
Adaptability	☞ Potential for the solution to be adapted or replicated in different contexts or regions.	5
<b>Impact (30 points)</b>		
Tangible Impact	☞ Clear metrics defining the potential socio-economic and agroecological impact.	10
Small Producer Outreach	☞ Number of small and marginal farmers/producers directly benefiting (at least 1000 small producers).	10
Agroecological Outcomes	☞ Area covered for agroecological impact (or other relevant outcome metric/s specific to the project)	10
<b>Sustainability &amp; Scalability (15 points)</b>		
Long-term Viability	☞ Strategy & plans to maintain and grow the initiative post-grant period (Business plan)	10
Scalability Potential	☞ Capacity of the project to be expanded regionally/nationally.	5
<b>Team &amp; Organizational Capability (15 points)</b>		
Team and promoter profile	☞ Past track record, successes, and relevant expertise of the team.	5
Organizational experience	☞ Past projects and business activities of the enterprise	3
Collaborations	☞ Existing partnerships or collaborations that can aid in project implementation.	7
<b>Financial Planning &amp; Co-funding (10 points)</b>		
Budget Clarity	☞ Clear and justified allocation of the grant funds as per the Business Plan.	2
Financial Health	☞ Current and projected financial status, ensuring project continuity.	2
Co-funding	☞ Degree of organization's investment (verifiable) (minimum 30% of total project outlay).	3
Loan Component	☞ The applicant must compulsorily have a matching loan component; either already availed, or at least sanctioned/approved by a formal financial institution.	3
<b>Risk Assessment &amp; Mitigation (5 points)</b>		
Risk Identification	☞ Comprehensive list of potential challenges and risks.	2.5
Mitigation Strategy	☞ Concrete steps and plans to address identified risks.	2.5
<b>All Elements</b>		<b>100</b>

## Appendix C: Format for Concept Note

The template of the concept note is provided here as reference for the interested applicants, however, the Concept Note will essentially be applied through the google form link provided below

<https://forms.gle/h61XRZLXJN6YcEQW9>

### Concept Note Submission Form

## Grant for Agroecology Programme (GAP) Fund

**Section I: Entity Information** (Provide the following details for all proposing entities)

- 1) Name of the Entity:
- 2) Registered Address:
- 3) Current Operational Area (States, District, and Blocks):
- 4) Type of Entity: Farmer Producer Organisation/ Private Business enterprise/ Other (Please mention for "Other")
- 5) Date of registration:
- 6) Legal form of registration of the Entity: (Please attach a copy of the registration certificate, GST certificate, PAN, income tax returns (ITR), and audited financial statements for the last two FYs.)
- 7) Please provide the link to the Website/ other social media of the Entity (if available)
- 8) Contact Person(s) Details:  
  
Name:  
Designation:  
Email:  
Phone:  
Address:
- 9) Name of the Facilitating Agency (if any):
- 10) Type of facilitating agency (NGOs/ Govt Institutions/ Other):

**Section II: Proposed Business/Project** (Please share separate proposals for different businesses or value chain projects, as well as separate proposals for individual Producer Organization Enterprises/Collectives)

- 11) Brief description of the business enterprise (at least past two years' experience) (in 300 words)
- 12) Please provide your current outreach (number of farmers/producers covered) and business turnover (INR) in last two years.

13) Please describe the exact nature of your business/activity for which investment is sought (in not more than 500 words).

14) What specific post-harvest and post-production activities does your project/business idea focus on (if any)? (Max 300 words)

15) Name/s of value chains/commodities:

16) Please explain how your proposed business activity is in conformity with the agroecological principles and how it will contribute to positive agroecological outcomes. *Please be as specific as possible, as this information is very crucial in determining eligibility. Refer to the Table on Description of FAO Elements of Agroecology.* (Max 500 words)

17) Provide the most significant (top 1-3) measurable agroecological outcomes of the proposed project/business activity.

S No	Outcome	Target (Figures and units)

18) Please explain how your business activity will impact the smallholder producers or farmers (such as reducing the cost of production/reducing wastage/value addition/better price realization direct impact on income increase, reducing vulnerabilities, and mitigation of risks). *Please be specific; this information is crucial in determining eligibility.* (Max 500 words)

19) Provide a realistic estimate of the number of smallholder producers/farmers to be covered and an estimate of income increase along with enabling factors that lead to income increase.

S No	No. of farmers/ producers to be covered	Estimated increase in annual income per producer (Rs)	Enabling factors that will lead to income increase

20) Please explain how your business activity will become completely self-sustaining over time. *Please also specify the level of sustainability to be achieved over five years.* (Max 500 words)

21) Will your business benefit youth, women, and other disadvantaged and/or excluded entrepreneurs? If so, how? (Max 300 words)



22) What is the total investment outlay for your proposed business activity? How much of it would be the contribution of promoter/enterprise? How much is requested from IFAD? Have you received firm commitments from others for grants and/or loans toward the project? If so, how much and where from? Please list these details in the Table below

<b>Business Activity Budget, Grant Required, and Other Sources of Funds</b>	
<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Amount in INR</b>
Total Outlay for the Proposed Business Activity	
Own Funds	
Business Grant sought from IFAD	
Duration for which support is needed (in months)	
Other committed sources of funding - grants. Please indicate the source (s) and amount	
Other committed sources of funding - loans. Please indicate the source(s) and amount	
Other information as appropriate	

23) Please explain the broad head-wise budget details for the total outlay of the proposed business activity/project.

<b>Sl. No.</b>	<b>Broad Head Details</b>	<b>Allocated amount (Rs.)</b>	<b>Remarks</b>

By signing below, I confirm that the information provided above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

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(Signature of Contact Person with designation)

(Date)