
CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR CLEAN COOKING INNOVATION SUB-GRANT

The Government of Rwanda in partnership with the private sector is facilitating a competition-based development of markets for clean-cooking products and technologies through a results-Based Financing program. The biomass energy strategy target is to reduce the percentage of households that use firewood for cooking from the baseline value of 79.9% in 2017 to 42% by 2024, and phasing-out the use of charcoal in urban areas. The implementation of the Biomass Energy Strategy requires that substantial grant resources be made available to the sector to address the affordability and awareness gaps as well as the unproven nature of many new technological solutions in Rwanda. Cash expenditure on cooking fuels remains limited in Rwanda as 97 percent of households use either firewood or charcoal, which means that the market for clean cooking solutions requires substantial business and technological innovations.

Rwanda Energy Access and Quality Improvement Project (EAQIP) aims to increase access to clean cooking solutions for 500,000 households. EAQIP's Component 3b of the project is a Results-Based Financing (RBF) clean cooking program that partially subsidizes purchases of clean and efficient cooking solutions by eligible households. The clean cooking RBF is initially supporting Tier 2+ solutions, with the objective to gradually increase the minimum performance level requirements as affordable Tier 3+ solutions become widely available. It supports both urban and rural households. The performance of eligible cooking technologies is demonstrated through laboratory testing and/or field-based data. RBF incentive amounts are linked to the verified output, outcome, and impact level results; differentiated by cooking technology performance levels and consumer income categories (Ubudehe categories); and reviewed and adjusted periodically.

Under Component 4, technical assistance and training will be provided to local producers to improve the local product design and quality production. For this to be achieved, there should be opportunities for the companies to access financing support to improve the quality of their products and put in place market development strategies with an aim of delivering better services to beneficiaries. It is in this line that innovation sub-grant was considered important.

Innovation grants will be available through a competitive process to encourage innovative technological, business, and financing approaches with focus on meeting the poor households' cooking need and encouraging female entrepreneurs in the cooking sector.

The purpose of this call is to encourage innovators of clean cooking technologies, business models to submit their proposals of innovations that will contribute to availability of new clean cooking technologies and business models that will lead to the development of sustainable clean cooking market. If accepted, these innovative proposals will be provided with financial support to reach the implementation stage.

Eligibility criteria

Acceptable proposals should be in the following categories:

- Innovative product development with a promising prototype
- Product piloting and subsequent scale up of production
- Production machinery acquisition
- Business models that have passed the trial and testing stage
- Business models under implementation but in need of expansion
- Equipment for business digitalization
- Innovative Product delivery models
- Product traceability and usability monitoring systems

Applications will be evaluated based on the following:

- **Contribution to the national strategy:** the extent at which the innovation idea contributes to increasing access to efficient cooking technologies
- **Knowledge Transfer measures:** measures to ensure the knowledge is transferred during the project lifetime
- **Project Management and implementation plan:** the relevant skills and expertise of the team and the plan to manage the project
- **Project Finances:** project cost to deliver and clear value for money. The applicant should also show clearly how he/she will contribute up to 30% of the cost of the project.
- **Gender representation:** project team to have a minimum participation of women of at least 30%

Selected applicants will receive grant funding of up to 70% of the project cost but not exceeding 50 million Rwf. The applicant will have to cover at 30% of the project cost.

Interested applicants are invited to apply by completing the application form found on the Rwanda Energy Groups website www.reg.rw . On that website you will also find details on the Clean Cooking Innovation Sub-grant guiding document; the applicant should prove that he/she fulfils the eligibility criteria stated on page 6 of the guiding document and submit supporting documents.

The deadline for applications is *3rd February 2023* and applications submitted after this date will not be assessed. Your completed Grant Application Form should be emailed to info@edcl.reg.rw.

Felix GAKUBA
Managing Director

