

## ROUND 2 RESILIENCE INNOVATIONS CHALLENGE 2014-2017 SOUTHERN AFRICA RESILIENCE INNOVATION LAB

### RESILIENCE INNOVATION CHALLENGE FOR FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED INCOME GENERATION (RIC4FIG)

([www.grants.ranlab.org](http://www.grants.ranlab.org))

**Main objective:** To strengthen resilience of target communities by building their agency to promote life and entrepreneurship skills, diversify to profitable enterprises, improve farming skills and take more control of the agricultural value chain in ways that are sustainable and expands financial inclusion.

#### RIC4FIG Grant Architecture:

Phase	Description	Projects	Who	RAN Grant
1	Solution Development	6	Open to public	US\$15,000 – 35,000
2	Piloting: <u>Refined optimized prototype or concept</u>	3	Closed	US\$ 35,000 – 65,000
3	Scaling Phase: <u>Business model and scale</u>	2	Closed	US\$ 75,000 – 125,000

#### 2 Intervention Pathways:

**Intervention Pathway 1:** Improve life and entrepreneurship skills

**Intervention Pathway 2:** Diversify local economy for resilience

**Intervention Pathway 3:** Transform agricultural practices and markets for resilience

#### Pathway 1: Improve life and Entrepreneurship skills

- Human capital a challenge- lack of education and skills and the inability of people to get employment in skilled or better paying jobs
- High unemployment, over-reliance on social grants and other social safety-nets
- Communities are constrained by the lack of entrepreneurial skills and limited access to finance/start-up capital
- Intervention pathway seeks solutions to develop models and approaches or technology for promoting life and entrepreneurship skills in target communities in South Africa and Malawi
- Pathway is built on notion that it is important to change people's mind set while providing entrepreneurial skills

## **Innovation challenges**

### **Challenge: Life and entrepreneurship skills development**

***Develop models and approaches or technologies for promoting life and entrepreneurship skills that would reduce vulnerability to food insecurity and promote opportunities for income generation taking into account specific contexts in target communities in South Africa and Malawi.***

#### **Examples of possible projects**

- **South Africa-** *new approaches that will remove the sense of entitlement and hopelessness, new approaches that will give entrepreneurship and business skills with life skills as an integral component, models that will make use of existing business potential, low cost small business ideas and marketing skills, models that will encourage attitudinal change and disseminate information on opportunities for business and employment*
- **Malawi-** *novel platforms for effective entrepreneurship and life skills training, models that will create novel non-monetary incentives for community life skills education, including learning to take responsibility for own health*

### **Intervention Pathway 2: Diversify local economy for resilience**

- Target communities are highly dependent on rain-fed subsistence farming that is vulnerable to adverse effects of climate variability
- Adaptation is constrained by limited livelihoods options and limited financial inclusion and engagement
- Calls for solutions that will substantially empower target communities by diversifying their livelihoods using simple but highly profitable farm and non-farm businesses
- Solutions that also create opportunities for better financial inclusion through savings and access to credit also encouraged.

### **Challenge 2: Enterprise development for livelihoods diversification**

***Develop contextually responsive models for launching highly profitable businesses that would reduce vulnerability to food insecurity and promote opportunities for income generation in target communities in South Africa, Malawi and Zimbabwe.***

#### **Examples of possible projects**

- **South Africa-** *approaches to creating service related markets e.g. spaza shops, recycling, models to strengthen stokvels to mobilize resources for small businesses and savings, models for empowering small livestock farmers to create profitable companies from goat milk production (value addition) and models for private sector sponsored local business projects.*
- **Malawi-** *technology mediated service oriented business enterprises, models, approaches, or platforms for outsourcing business for rural youth, profitable business from*

*green energy, profitable drought independent small-scale enterprise defaults, create a business around a community based remote sensing and early warning of floods, responsive mobile based financial services and products, innovations or platforms to facilitate saving in households, models that channel savings directly to pre-determined low risk investment, novel approaches to make water from flooding available during drought*

- **Zimbabwe-** *Novel approaches that will harness natural resource products e.g. mopani worms, baobab fruit, watermelon, models, approaches, or platforms for outsourcing business for the youth and organised marketing*

### **Pathway 3: Transform agricultural practices and markets for resilience**

- Communities dependent on subsistence agriculture
- Sometimes affected by prolonged dry spells, drought and floods
- The agricultural methods employed are usually not effective to grow sufficient crops and raise livestock and affected by skewed markets which they have no leverage.
- Call seeking innovations that will make changes to the current situation.

### **Challenge 3: Scaling sustainable agricultural practices**

***Develop low cost environmentally friendly approaches and technologies to increase agricultural yield per acreage.***

#### Examples of possible projects in Malawi and Zimbabwe

- **Malawi-** *New approaches for increasing yield of drought tolerant agro-forestry, innovative approaches for drought and flood early warnings, low cost farming implements that make production more efficient, technologies or approaches that will increase surface irrigation for small scale farming and technologies that improve post-harvest processing*
- **Zimbabwe-** *new approaches for increasing livestock value addition e.g. milk products, new approaches for increasing yield of drought tolerant agro-forestry for fodder, alternative energy, technologies or approaches for rain water harvesting and efficient use of the water, including harnessing water from the Limpopo basin to support vegetable, gardens and small livestock and technologies that improve post-harvest processing*

### **Challenge 4: Catalyzing agricultural markets**

***Develop models or approaches for agricultural markets of the future that promote new types of networks and distribution methods to catalyze enterprise and narrow the gap from farm to market.***

#### Examples of possible projects in both Malawi and Zimbabwe

- *Introduce innovative farmer business schools within the communities to train farmers on how to take farming as a business, new approaches to subsistence farmer networking to multiply capacity for price leverage and produce stabilization in markets and new and transformative platforms that completely change the location of agro-produce markets from 'near the buyer' to 'near the farmer'*

**You need to know....**

- Innovations are not limited to technologies but could be approaches or models
- An idea may not be new – the innovation could be in its social application
- Selection criteria:
  - *Technical plausibility and alignment to theory of change*
  - *Human capacity development and agency*
  - *Contribution to conservation of the environment*
  - *Utility, business model and scalability*
- We are particularly in the lookout for:
  - *Paradigm changers that transcend business-as-usual*
  - *Platform projects that can launch many other synergies*
  - *Innovations with high transformative potential and scalability*

For details and to apply, please visit: [grants.ranlab.org](http://grants.ranlab.org) by 31 January 2015, 5.00pm South Africa time