

CRP-GLDC INNOVATION FUND

BACKGROUND

{Ref: GLDC PROPOSAL (page 22)}

Innovation Fund: Agility and ability to respond to emerging opportunities will be key for GLDC to respond to scale-out opportunities. Consequently, GLDC will establish an Innovation Fund to provide a mechanism to seize emerging opportunities that will catalyse market development, especially in service of women farmers for whom GLDC crops are an important component of their farming system. GLDC will set aside an Innovation Fund that is used to incentivize innovation to address key market and institutional barriers that women and men farmers face. Interventions can range from innovative seed systems, value addition, market integration through to domain-specific decision-support tools and delivery mechanisms.

Innovations should cross more than one Flagship domain but preference will be given to farmer- and market-facing innovations that incentivize local partners to making farming GLDC crops a viable enterprise.

A robust, transparent process will be implemented to ensure fund expenditure adheres to formal governance process.

CRITERIA

1. Support for GLDC to systematically engage with private and public sector, civil society and smallholder farmer actors in targeted value chains that underpin GLDC crops for nutritional security.
2. Fund collaborative design, implementation and outreach of GLDC projects that focus on understanding and overcoming constraints on the path to impact identified by various stakeholders, especially private sector and producer associations.
3. Invest in unanticipated opportunities that can build a strong business case for sustainable and equitable benefits for smallholder producers of GLDC crops.
4. Ability to utilize these funds to enable untapped opportunities for critical capacity building activities that address key institutional barriers along GLDC value chains.
5. Leveraging co-investment from private, NGO or public sector partners for proposed initiatives is highly desirable.