

# Innovation Facility

The Innovation Facility of the Adaptation Fund is offering vulnerable countries new tools and grants to foster, scale up and accelerate innovative adaptation practices and technologies on the ground to help meet the urgency of climate change.



Farmers at indigenous territory of Talamanca-Valle de la Estrella in Costa Rica restore a greenhouse to diversify production that conserves land and resources. The project won the international INNOVAGRO 2019 award for Social Innovation. (Photo by Silvia Camareno)



AGCID in Chile is innovating new approaches to water management, including establishing emergency water access stations during drought through an AF innovation grant. (Photo by Violeta Leiva Milanca)



Mother & daughter harvesting taro in AF direct access 'PEARL' project in Cook Islands that installed culverts to protect crops from floods. (Photo by Mel Tuiravakai)

*"Accelerating, encouraging and enabling innovation is critical for an effective global response to climate change."*

—Paris Agreement

**The Innovation Facility emerged from the innovation pillar of the Adaptation Fund's Medium-Term Strategy for 2018-2022, which aims to **ACCELERATE, ENCOURAGE, & ENABLE INNOVATION** for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change.**

The Fund has supported innovation throughout its history. The Facility builds on the Fund's core strengths and comparative advantage as a highly functioning and innovative fund established to finance concrete adaptation projects in developing countries.

**The Fund has demonstrated its capacity to innovate through pioneering:**

1. New models for accessing finance such as Direct Access and Enhanced Direct Access;
2. New services that empower national institutions such as the Fund's Readiness Programme; and
3. Concrete adaptation projects that directly reach, engage, empower and benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups.



ADAPTATION FUND



An innovative AF project is building resilience in vulnerable Colombian communities, and has been scaled up to achieve transformative impacts. (Photo by UNDP)



AF has pioneered 'Enhanced Direct Access' to empower local farmers in South Africa with its NIE, SANBI. (Photo by SANBI)

*"The Innovation grant will be key to strengthening the country's urban adaptation strategies. The project focuses on improving safe water access and will favor a particularly vulnerable group, exposed to drought and difficulty of water delivery through the promotion of innovation."*

—Violeta Leiva Milanca,  
Programme Manager  
at Chile's NIE, AGCID,  
Innovation Grant  
Recipient

### The Facility offers two types of innovation grants:

A **small grants** mechanism (up to US\$250,000 each) to develop and/or test innovative products, adaptation practices, tools, and technologies, and generate an evidence base to scale up effective solutions. Small grants are awarded to vulnerable developing countries through two routes:

- **Directly** to the Fund's accredited National Implementing Entities (NIEs)
- **A Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) Grant Aggregator Mechanism** through **UNDP** and **UNEP**, together with the **Climate Technology Centre and Network**, to entities that are not accredited with the Fund (organizations, groups, associations, institutions, businesses, agencies, NGOs, youth and other vulnerable groups).

small grants  
up to  
**US\$250,000**  
each

large grants  
up to  
**US\$5 million**  
each

A **large grants** mechanism (up to US\$5million each) which rolls out proven solutions in new countries and regions or scales up innovations already demonstrated to work.

- Large grants are available to **all Implementing Entities** (NIEs, MIEs & RIEs) accredited with the Adaptation Fund.



**Adaptation Fund**  
**Climate Innovation Accelerator**



### The innovation grants can be used to address adaptation challenges in various thematic areas, including, but not limited to:

- Advancement of gender equality
- Disaster risk reduction
- Enhancement of cultural heritage
- Focus on communities
- Inclusion of youth
- Urban adaptation
- Nature-based solutions
- Social innovation
- Water resources management
- Food security
- Innovative adaptation financing
- Other sectors as needed

**OPEN ACCESS TRAINING:** The Facility offers free new innovation training for vulnerable countries, implementing entities, interested partners, and stakeholders to share insights on innovation and serve as a guide to help organizations prepare innovation grants.

For more info, please visit:

[www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/innovation-grants/](http://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/innovation-grants/)



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