

INNOVATION SPRINT PARTNERS AND INNOVATION SPRINTS – FACTSHEET

What is an Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate's (AIM for Climate) Innovation Sprint Partner?

Non-government participants who announce an increase in aggregate self-financed investment in agricultural innovation for climate-smart agriculture and food systems over five years (2021-2025) to enable investment for bold ideas to foster innovation in an expedited timeframe. Innovation Sprint Partners are encouraged to facilitate innovation challenges with participation by other AIM for Climate participants, including governments. Responsibility, control, and oversight of investments will remain with the participant unless the participant determines otherwise. Announced new investments should avoid double counting (e.g., double counting of the same investments by government and innovation sprint partners).

What is an Innovation Sprint?

An innovation sprint is an increase in aggregate self-financed investment to achieve an outcome/output in agriculture innovation **and** for climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and food systems to be completed in an expedited timeframe

Innovation Sprints should support CSA innovation by increasing agriculture productivity while adapting and building resilience to climate change and/or reducing/removing greenhouse gas emissions. Components of innovation sprints may include, inter alia:

- **Increasing agricultural productivity:** improving water and other resource use efficiency; developing optimized hybrids and varieties; advancements in digital and precision agriculture.
- **Adapting and building resilience:** enhancing soil health; improving hybrids and varieties; improving water and other resource use efficiency; advancements in monitoring tools, biotechnology tools, and/or sustainable management practices to control pests, contamination, and diseases.
- **Reducing/removing greenhouse gas emissions:** Advancements in cold storage; improving traditional fertilizer management practices; advancing alternatives to traditional fertilizers; improving livestock genetics, feeding and management; improving soil carbon sequestration; advancements to reduce deforestation; scaling precision agriculture technology; advancements in sustainable land use practices; improving use of solar and other renewable agricultural technologies; and, advancements in green energy equipment.

2022 Focal Areas for Innovation Sprints

AIM for Climate is currently accepting proposals for innovation sprints to be announced at COP27, with a focus on four focal areas:

- Smallholder Farmers in Low- and Middle-Income Countries
- Methane Reduction
- Emerging Technologies
- Agroecological Research

List of Innovation Sprints

Fast Tracking Climate Solutions from CGIAR Genebank Collections

A new \$40M initiative led by the CGIAR, in partnership with the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will unlock key climate-resilient traits from CGIAR's vast global genebank collections. This Sprint will expand the utilization of high-value genetic diversity to address current and emerging climate challenges faced by millions of smallholder farmers worldwide. The initiative welcomes additional partners from all sectors to scale this critical work.

Participants: [CGIAR](#), [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#), [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

Point of Contact: Andre Zandstra, Global Director, Innovative Finance and Resource Mobilization, CGIAR, a.zandstra@cgiar.org

Climate Resilience Through Crop Protection Innovation

Guided by our purpose to advance innovation in agriculture for a sustainable future, CropLife International is launching an initiative to accelerate access and uptake of climate-smart crop protection innovations for smallholder farmers in Asia, Africa, and Central America. Through a new investment of over \$13M over 5 years, the multi-stakeholder program supports farmers to do "more with less" and increase their ability to mitigate and adapt to pest and disease challenges using climate friendly approaches.

Participants: [CropLife International](#)

Point of Contact: Robert Hunter, Chief Operating Officer, CropLife International, Robert.Hunter@croplife.org

IBM Sustainability Accelerator

The IBM Sustainability Accelerator is a pro-bono social impact program advancing nonprofit and government initiatives that support vulnerable populations while addressing environmental challenges, including climate change, extreme weather, and pollution. IBM will provide the first cohort of participating organizations with technology and expertise to accelerate climate-smart agriculture solutions. Partners are welcome globally. Through 2025, Accelerator projects will receive an estimated market value of \$30M in IBM support including \$10M focused on sustainable agriculture.

Participants: [IBM](#), [Heifer International](#), [Plan21 Foundation](#), and [The Nature Conservancy, India](#)

Point of Contact: Michael Jacobs, Sustainability Leader, Corporate Social Responsibility, IBM, michael.jacobs@ibm.com

AgMission: Cultivating Climate-Smart Solutions

The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research, U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action, and the World Farmers Organisation established [AgMission](#) to make agriculture net-negative for greenhouse gas emissions through comprehensive agricultural research. AgMission collaborates with farmers, ranchers and scientists to co-create and expand adoption of climate-smart technologies by developing an interoperable, data-driven framework that connects farmers to technological and scientific advances. AgMission has raised over \$10M and continues fundraising for this unprecedented initiative.

Participants: [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#), [U.S. Farmers & Ranchers in Action](#), [World Farmers Organisation](#), [PepsiCo](#), [McDonald's](#), [Syngenta Foundation](#) and others.

Point of Contact: Sarah Goldberg, Director of communications & legislative affairs, Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR), sgoldberg@foundationfar.org

Climate Proofing 0.5 billion acres around the world by 2024

The ClimateAi team seeks to “climate-proof” 0.5 billion acres around the world by 2024 by deploying AI-driven adaptation tools that boost agricultural productivity despite climate change. ClimateAi’s innovative climate analytics (1 day to 40 years out) help farmers and agribusinesses adapt by enabling data-driven decisions to maximize yield, crop quality, resource efficiency, and financial stability/profits while reducing GHG emissions per ton. ClimateAi recently raised [\\$12M](#) from investors and [\\$250k in grant funding](#) from the National Science Foundation.

Participants: [ClimateAi](#)

Point of Contact: Borna Poursheikhani, Growth Lead, ClimateAi, borna@climate.ai

Greener Cattle Initiative: Addressing Enteric Methane Emissions

The Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research, the Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy and industry partners are launching the [Greener Cattle Initiative](#), a public-private partnership aimed at reducing enteric methane emissions from dairy and beef cattle, a major climate change contributor. This five-year initiative is awarding \$5M in research grants to identify, develop and/or validate scientifically sound, commercially feasible and socially responsible mitigation options. This research advances the sectors’ voluntary greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.

Participants: [Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research](#), [Innovation Center for U.S. Dairy](#), [ADM](#), [Council on Dairy Cattle Breeding](#), [Elanco](#), [Genus](#), [National Dairy Herd Information Association](#), [Nestle](#), [New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre](#)

Point of Contact: Sarah Goldberg, Director of communications & legislative affairs, Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR), sgoldberg@foundationfar.org

U.S. Regenerative Cotton Fund

The U.S. Regenerative Cotton Fund will work in partnership with U.S. cotton growers and the U.S. cotton industry to implement regenerative soil health practices across more than one million acres of U.S. cotton cropland over the next five years, with the goal of eliminating one million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent from the atmosphere by 2026. The U.S. Regenerative Cotton Fund is supported by a \$5M investment from the Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation.

Participants: [Ralph Lauren Corporate Foundation](#), [Soil Health Institute](#)

Point of Contact: Byron Rath, Sustainability Specialist, Soil Health Institute, brath@soilhealthinstitute.org

Soil organic carbon sequestration opportunities in soils of Latin America and the Caribbean

The objective of this project is to contribute to the design of land use and management with high potential for soil organic carbon (SOC) sequestration in agricultural production systems of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and to build capacities in LAC for the quantification and monitoring of SOC stocks. The project is expected to be completed by May 2025; total investment approximately \$1.5M.

Participants: [FONTAGRO](#), [New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries](#), [Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria \(Uruguay\)](#), [Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria \(Argentina\)](#), [Instituto de Investigaciones Agropecuarias \(Chile\)](#), [Agrosavia \(Colombia\)](#), [Instituto Nacional de Innovación y Transferencia de Tecnología Agropecuaria \(Costa Rica\)](#), [The Alliance of Biodiversity International and International Center for Tropical Agriculture](#), [Ministerio de](#)

[Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca \(Uruguay\), Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases](#)

Point of Contact: Veronica Ciganda, Director of Programme - Production and Environmental Sustainability, INIA Uruguay, vciganda@inia.org.uy

Satellite monitoring of quantity and quality of available biomass in pastoral livestock systems

The objective of the project is to lower the cost of estimating the quantity and quality of biomass available in pastoral livestock systems through a satellite tool, in real-time and with adequate precision. The project is expected to be completed by May 2026; total investment approximately \$1.3M.

Participants: [FONTAGRO, New Zealand Ministry for Primary Industries, Instituto Nacional de Tecnología Agropecuaria \(Argentina\), Facultad de Agronomía de la Universidad de Buenos Aires \(Argentina\), Instituto Nacional de Investigación Agropecuaria \(Uruguay\), Agrosavia \(Colombia\), Instituto Nacional de Innovación y Transferencia de Tecnología Agropecuaria \(Costa Rica\), Ministerio de Agricultura, Ganadería y Pesca \(Argentina\), Ministerio de Ganadería, Agricultura y Pesca \(Uruguay\), Asociación Argentina de Consorcios Regionales de Experimentación Agrícola, Global Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, Cámara Nacional de Productores de Leche \(Costa Rica\), Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research New Zealand, Teagasc - Agriculture and Food Development Authority Ireland, University of Glasgow Scotland, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Australia, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada](#)

Point of Contact: Martín Durante, Researcher, INTA Argentina, durante.martin@inta.gob.ar

For more information, please visit <http://aimforclimate.org>