



British Asian Trust

SAJIDA
FOUNDATION

CLIMATE INNOVATION FUND

NURTURE | TRANSFORM | SUSTAIN

Application Guidelines

The Climate Innovation Fund seeks to support local solutions which address the ongoing threats of climate change in Bangladesh. The Fund will identify and support Bangladesh based innovations with funding, advisory and mentorship support, as well as technical assistance to establish and scale.

The Climate Innovation Fund invites applications from enterprises, organisations, and individuals working to enhance climate resilience and adaptation in any of the areas of agriculture, food security, water security, and livelihoods.

Applications received will be assessed and selected for one of two distinct pathways of support:

- **Venture building:** For early-stage innovations that would benefit from in-depth mentoring and advisory support as well as funding
- **Catalytic funding:** For more mature innovations that would benefit from larger funding and business development support

For the purposes of applications, climate resilience is defined as the capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the impacts of hazardous climatic events while incurring minimal damage to societal wellbeing, the economy, and the environment.

Eligibility Criteria

From the applicant pool, the most promising innovations will be identified and supported. These could include:

- **Enterprises and other organisations** that have tested innovations and are working towards financial sustainability but require funding and support to enhance their business models. These could include private limited companies, social enterprises, sole proprietorship entities, or NGOs.
- **Individuals** that have well-defined innovations, are dedicated to developing and testing their ideas, and are determined to achieve financial sustainability.

In addition to the above, applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the Climate Innovation Fund:

Venture Building Applicants		
1	Enterprise Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Applicants eligible for this pathway of support would typically be in the early stages of growth, including post-ideation, Research & Development stage, or any pre-seed stage. - Private limited companies, NGOs, social enterprises, and sole proprietorship entities are welcome to apply. - Must have completed / applied for business incorporation at the time of application - Must have a business bank account - Must be based in Bangladesh
2	Sector Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must address climate resilience across one or more areas of agriculture, food security, water security, and/or livelihoods
3	Advisory & Mentorship Status	The applicant must be willing to take the six-month advisory & mentorship support
4	HR Composition	At least one founder and/or CEO must be involved on a full-time basis.
5	Business Development Services	Must be willing to take business development support assigned by the Fund.
Catalytic Funding Applicants		
1	Enterprise Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eligible applicants would be those able to provide proof of traction. - Private limited companies, NGOs, and social enterprises are welcome to apply. - Must have completed business incorporation - Must have a business bank account - Must be based in Bangladesh
2	Sector Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Must address climate resilience across one or more areas of agriculture, food security, water security, and/or livelihoods
3	HR Composition	At least one founder and/or CEO must be involved on a full-time basis
4	Business Development Services	Must be willing to take business development support assigned by the Fund.

To apply

- Please download the application form from the Climate Innovation Fund webpage.
- Completed application forms should be emailed to “cif@sajida.org”
- The deadline for submission is 15 August 2023 by 5:00pm Bangladesh Standard Time.

Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted and invited to submit the full proposal.

Application and Selection Process

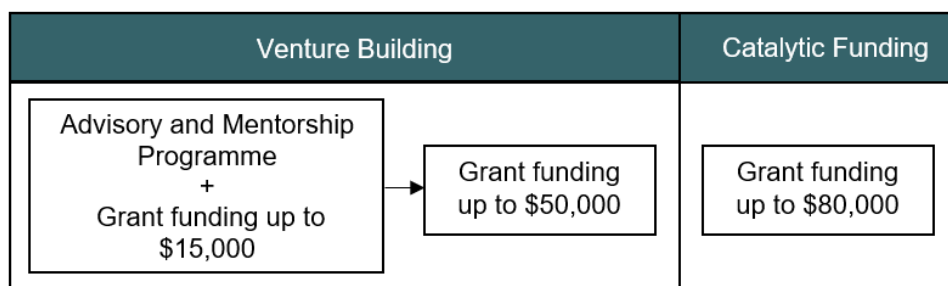
The application for the Climate Innovation Fund will involve three stages:

1. **Concept note submission:** Applicants are initially required to submit their concept note from which the most promising innovations will be selected. These shortlisted applicants will be contacted directly to submit a full proposal.
2. **Full proposal submission:** Shortlisted candidates will be requested to submit a full proposal and will also be required to undergo due diligence which includes, but is not limited to, interviews with founders, visits to operational sites or offices, sector expert assessment interviews, visits to evaluate the innovation, reviews of business plan and commercial viability.
3. **Application review, selection and contracting:** Upon successfully fulfilling the full submission requirements, applicants will receive an invitation to pitch to the Selection Committee comprising of investment and sector experts. The Committee will select the most promising applicants and make a recommendation of whether they should go through the Venture Building programme or directly receive Catalytic Funding.

Funding, Advisory and Mentorship, and Business Development Opportunities

Once an agreement has been signed with the selected awardees, the grant funding will be disbursed. The amount of funding awarded will depend on the stage of the enterprise and evaluation done by the Selection Committee. [Note that selected applicants may be required to participate in further due diligence, prior to (any) decision to grant funding.]

Applicants selected for the Climate Innovation Fund will receive advisory and mentorship support, technical assistance, and funding as follows:



1. Venture building:

- **Advisory & Mentorship programme:** This includes hands-on guidance and mentorship over a period of six months from a team of technical and business experts who will help to enhance business models, develop valuable networks, and gain access to resources and funding.

- **Grant funding:** Grants of up to a total of \$15,000 for the duration of the Advisory & Mentorship programme will be paid on a monthly basis and tied to the achievement of set KPIs.
- **Further grant funding:** Upon the successful completion of the advisory and mentorship programme, top performing enterprises will become eligible for up to \$50,000 each to help scale their innovation. The funding will be disbursed in the form of performance-based grants and will be tied to pre-set KPIs. They will also receive Business Development Support services (in areas of Finance, IT, Administration and Procurement, HR, and Internal Audit / Compliance) on a need basis to ensure smooth operational functioning.

With this support, enterprises are expected to achieve:

- Improved traction
- Improved operational efficiency
- Growth strategy

2. Catalytic funding:

Selected enterprises will be eligible to receive grant funding of up to \$80,000 each. This will be disbursed in tranches that will be tied to the achievement of pre-set KPIs. Enterprises will also receive business development support during the funding period.

With this support, enterprises are expected to achieve:

- Improved traction
- Sustainable revenue growth
- Robust operational processes