

USAID AFRICA TRADE AND INVESTMENT ACTIVITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Mali Agribusiness Incubator and Challenge Competition

1. What firms or companies are eligible to apply for this grant? Is it strictly private sector organizations?

Yes, the focus is on private sector firms. Non-profit or for-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Consortiums of non-profits and for-profit organizations can also apply.

2. Can government agencies apply?

No, government or public sector firms are not eligible. They can however encourage private sector firms they work with to apply.

3. Will firms based in Mali be given more priority since the activity is based in Mali?

Yes. Businesses or private sector firms based in Mali, or with Mali connections will be given priority. However, all private sector companies working in the agribusiness sector are encouraged to apply.

4. What does Zone of Influence in the grant document mean? Do activities for this grant need to be implemented in a specific geographic location?

Yes. The Zone of Influence is a geographic area or areas considered or targeted for the grant implementation. For this grant activity in Mali, the locations or zone of influence are Sikasso, Bougouni, Koutiala, Mopti, Douentza, Bandiagara and Tomboctou.

5. Is it necessary to register on SAM.gov before applying?

Yes. Your application will not be approved if your organization's registration on SAM.gov is not active or valid. You must be assigned a Unique Entity Identity ID (UEID) number to participate in and implement the grant, and this is only possible when you are registered on SAM.gov. You are encouraged to register on SAM.gov as soon as you submit your application, as it can be a lengthy process that takes three – four months.

6. In which language can I send my application?

English or French; when you click on the grants application link - <https://fs25.formsite.com/DupOTo/nzpi4cko3j/index>, you will find the application forms in both English and French. You can submit your application in either language.

7. Can young people who just completed school be incubated?

Yes, out-of-school youth can benefit from the incubation and be prepared for the incubator challenge award (pitch competition) after which successful incubatees will receive prizes if they excel at the competition. Note though, that the focus is not so much on the prize (it's just an incentive). The most important aspect is to acquire knowledge & entrepreneurial skills to grow their businesses (private sector businesses) through incubation.

8. Can there be more than one winner for the RFA?

Yes. While this is possible, it will depend on the number and quality of applications received as well as funding available.

9. What is the duration of the grant?

Two years. The grant activities cannot exceed two years or be implemented beyond 24 months. This is also dependent on when the grantee starts its activities, and the time left on the USAID ATI activity.