

Indigenous Knowledge

(KITSO YA SETSO)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

BOTSWANA INNOVATION FUND



OPENS:
09 February 2023



CLOSES:
08 March 2023 (5pm - CAT)



BACKGROUND

Botswana has a wealth of Indigenous Knowledge (IK) entrenched in its people, borne from cultural practices passed from generation to generation. For many years, products found in our natural environment and ecosystems have been exploited with great benefit to the local communities who have the knowledge of where to source them and how to use them. Some of these have been researched, packaged, and sold for commercial gain, with little or none of the returns being shared with those local communities. In fact, there are some products based on local IK that now have designated Intellectual Property (IP) rights residing in foreign countries and organisations.

In a bid to promote Botswana's Indigenous Knowledge, the Botswana Innovation Fund is calling on innovators or communities that would like to develop Indigenous Knowledge based products and services to make their submissions through this call. The ultimate and desired outcome from this call is the introduction of IK based products and services into key markets whilst ensuring that there is benefit-sharing with the local communities from where this knowledge stems.

FOCUS AREAS OF THE CALL

This call focuses on grass-root innovations driven by communities, IK Innovators and/or social enterprises. They will be supported through a co-creation approach with a focus on addressing pressing community challenges. Co-creation refers to a product or service design process in which input from consumers plays a central role from beginning to end. Out of this process, we expect to see the innovations to scale and realise commercial and/or social value with recognition apportioned to the

knowledge holder's inputs.

The call shall address food, nutrition, cosmetics, and traditional supplements. The call will however not address any medical/health products related claims that may require full clinical trials and/or create a need for ethical issues to be addressed. The focus shall be on protecting (IP), producing the product and facilitating the commercial landing of the IK based innovations.

We are seeking innovative solutions that have completed Technology Readiness Level (TRL 1-3) early-stage research, and development stages (TRL 4-6). These are solutions that now require funding for Pre-commercialisation (TRL 7-8).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Botswana registered companies and individuals
- All entities whose project proposals shall be shortlisted will be required to register as BDIH members
- Recipients will be part of a cohort that will receive specialised Business Development support for their sector
- Intellectual Property shall reside in Botswana

General Selection Criteria for Projects

1. Solutions that address national and global challenges
2. Developed solutions with potential registrable intellectual property post the BIF funding phase
3. Projects proposals should include projects budget and timelines
4. Projects from TRL 7 (Prototype ready for demonstration & quality testing) to Pre-Commercialisation (TRL 8)

Selection criteria for the submitted proposals includes:

- Market Need
- Value Proposition (a clear path

towards operationalizing the product on-the-ground)

- Team Composition and Roles
- Customer Validation
- Clear Revenue Streams
- Alignment with Key Govt Objective/National Need/SDGs
- Social Impact: Identification of a specific problem/challenge statement or need
- Articulation of proposed solution and approach

APPLICATION PROCESS:

- All applications completed through the application form on the Jot Form Platform will be accepted. The form is available on

<https://form.jotform.com/230381508672557>

No email, fax or hard copy applications will be accepted.

NOTE: The below documents are available on the BDIH website (<https://www.bih.co.bw>): Botswana Innovation Fund Guidelines; Application evaluation criteria and Questions & Answers

For further enquires please email: innovationfund@bih.co.bw no later than 1200hrs on 08 March 2023.

Online Training will be provided on how to complete applications on the following dates:

• 14th February 2023

• 21st February 2023

• 28th February 2023

AN INITIATIVE OF



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MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS,
KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY

ADMINISTERED BY

