

Technology Innovation Agency (TIA), an entity of the Department of Science, Technology and Innovation (DSTI) was established in terms of the TIA Act, 2008 (Act No. 26 of 2008), with the objective to stimulate, intensify and exploit technological innovation to improve economic growth and the quality of life of all South Africans.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

ABIPP BIOSECURITY

PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

TIA is calling for the submission of funding applications for Agricultural Bio-Innovation Partnership Programme (ABIPP) projects to address recent biosecurity outbreaks and cross-cutting sectoral needs.

Through this call TIA invites proposal for projects that would strengthen South Africa's biosecurity, food security, and agricultural resilience by supporting innovation across the bio-economy. Solutions supported by this call are expected to respond to recent animal disease outbreaks given the current national and regional imperatives in this area.

WHO SHOULD APPLY

Applications are invited from any recognised South African legal entity, including public and private entities, industry associations, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), not-for-profit organisations (NPOs), start-up companies, small, medium and micro enterprises, private individuals, research institutions, science councils and higher education institutions.

CALL SPECIFICATIONS

- The focus areas are as follows:
 - Development of new/emerging biosecurity technologies and processes: Support for new or early-stage R&D that addresses animal and plant biosecurity risks (e.g., avian influenza, foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever, rabies, banana Fusarium STR4).
 - Pilot demonstrations of smart, precision, and digital biosecurity innovations: Demonstrate field-ready tools such as rapid diagnostics, digital outbreak dashboards, e-permit systems, and precision farm-level biosecurity kits. Each project must also include smallholder farmer and enterprise development to ensure broad uptake.
 - Late-stage innovation and technology transfer for outbreak resilience: Implementation-ready projects that help farmers operate under disease pressure, including technology demonstrations, pilot studies, technology transfer, and farmer training.
 - Product and systems innovations for food and livelihood security: Develop product innovations or agro-processing interventions that strengthen nutrition security, support sustainable livelihoods, and enhance biosecurity resilience.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

- Applications will be assessed against the following:
 - Must address biosecurity issues in South Africa
 - Alignment with the Decadal Plan and related government priorities.
 - Novelty of the proposed innovation.
 - Localisation of core technologies Demonstrated market need, a clear path to commercialisation, and capacity to execute.
 - Expected economic and/or social impact.
 - Suitability and capacity of the team.
 - Budgets must be realistic, aligned to the project plan and deliverables, and compliant with South African regulatory requirements
 - Co-funding or in-kind contributions, especially for TRL 5 and above.
 - Preference for women, youth, persons with disabilities, black entrepreneurs, and applicants from underserved provinces.

COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

- Technology or process development must align with the stated technology focus areas or sectors.
- Demonstrate a viable, feasible and sustainable business case.
- Demonstrate positive socio-economic impact and embed skills development through training of students, technicians, artisans or other practitioners.
- Must have a proven, tested and validated proof of concept (TRL 4 and above).
- Applications must show a strong, transformation-focused consortium with meaningful stakeholder collaboration, including private-sector participation, co-funding or in-kind support, partnerships, technology transfer, skills development and socio-economic pathways. All members must be disclosed with signed agreements or letters of intent outlining roles and responsibilities.
- Declare all previous public-sector funding received.
- For applications involving IP, applicants must provide a clear IP description, management strategy, ownership structure and (where available) proof of freedom to operate, managed in line with South African regulations. Foreign-owned IP must be licensed or assigned to the applicant before funding is approved, with proof provided.
- Project duration may be up to three years, with yearly funding subject to performance and ABIPP Steering Committee approval.
- Include a co-funding component, disclose the amount with a letter of intent, and provide formal proof during full application stage.
- Primary technology development must take place within South Africa.
- Applicants must attend the compulsory briefing session.

ELIGIBILITY

- Individual applicants must be South African citizens with valid identity documents.
- In the case of legal entities:
 - Must be registered or in a process of registering with the Companies and Intellectual Properties Commission.
 - Must be registered or in the process of registering on National Treasury's Central Supplier Database.

TIMELINES

- Statement of interest (SOI) deadline: **30 January 2026**

Applications to be submitted on the TIA portal no later than **30 January 2026**. No late applications will be accepted.

To submit click here [CLICK HERE](#)

COMPULSORY BRIEFING SESSION

A compulsory briefing session will be conducted on Microsoft Teams (link will be shared upon RSVP) to facilitate and assist applicants to understand the Call requirements.

Briefing session: 23 January 2026 from 10h00 to 12h00.

Email: customerservice@tia.org.za to confirm attendance by no later than **21 January 2026**

Use subject line: ABIPP Biosecurity Call

ENQUIRIES

For further information regarding the call or the applications process, please contact customerservice@tia.org.za.