



NYB 2024

Nepal Young Bioentrepreneurs

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA) ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD CALL

BACKGROUND

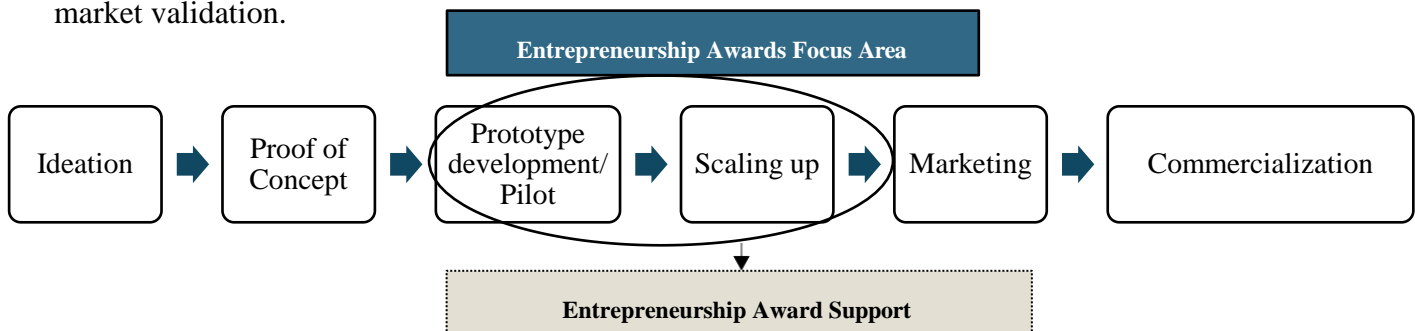
The agriculture & allied sector is critical to Nepal's economy, as it contributes to being a major source of livelihood for more than 60% of the population. Advancements & prosperity in this predominantly traditional sector are crucial in influencing the economic & social transformation of Nepal. There are numerous challenges that hinder sectoral growth, such as low agriculture & cattle productivity, lack of access to affordable and quality inputs (such as agrochemicals, seed, animal vaccines, feed, diagnostic services), poor logistics & market linkage, etc. To solve these underlying issues, important stakeholders, including young & bright minds of the nation, need to bring solutions that are innovative, affordable & practical for Nepal farmers & consumers.

There are numerous budding innovators with potential business ideas in every corner of Nepal, but they often lack market connections, mentoring & funding support to convert their ideas into successful business ventures. **Nepal Young Bioentrepreneurs (NYB) 2024 Program is here to offer a platform for such young innovative minds of all AFU Campuses to kick start their entrepreneurial journey by fostering innovation through an award of up to NPR 15,00,000 incubation opportunities within AFU & mentorship support!**

Note: While NPR 15,00,000 is the maximum award, the award granted for selected teams will depend on the enterprise development cycle, the complexity of innovation, and the duration needed to reach market readiness and, therefore, may remain less than the ceiling indicated, as determined by the expert reviewers. *The focus of the grant is product translation to market and not exploring research hypotheses. Therefore, business plans proposing basic research work will not qualify for the grant.*

ENTERPRISE INCUBATION MODEL

NYB 2024 aims to offer a nurturing environment for young entrepreneurial minds of AFU to generate and commercialize innovative solutions with the potential to tackle challenges faced by value chain stakeholders across the Agri-food & allied sectors of Nepal. The goal of the award is to develop a market-relevant process/ product prototype of the novel idea formed by the teams and perform pre-market validation.



- Prototype components (*materials, software, algorithms, technology subscriptions*)
- Testing & validation (*internal & external*)
- Consumables (*chemicals, glass/plasticware, etc.*)
- University facility access, Internal/external testing
- Travel Allowances (*For services/ consultations*)
- Mentoring- AFU faculty & external pool of experts



The fund will support:

- Teams proposing process / product innovation with impact & commercial potential.
- Teams pursuing existing AFU technology for prototyping and market validation.
- Teams validating technology from other sources.

The fund will not support:

- **Basic/exploratory research projects.**
- Projects with no element of uniqueness/ commercial potential/impact.

The teams will engage over **12-18 months** span in pursuing their ideas to create successful products/services working rigorously during their academic year and beyond. The teams will be provided physical incubation on campus and will be guided by mentors to pursue their incubation mission.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- To apply, the students should form 4-5 member team, with one of them identified as team leader.
- The team members will be students currently pursuing bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree at AFU Campuses.
- The teams are encouraged to have members from different disciplines and different semesters.
- Female student entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply.

HOW TO APPLY?

- Students are highly encouraged to attend the orientation sessions at campus/ online conducted during **May 2024**. These sessions will highlight the award details and provide orientation for teams to conceptualize and frame their business ideas. The date, time & venue of these sessions will be communicated over emails/notice boards.
- Interested teams should submit the application in response to this call notification, with business ideas that offers affordable, innovative & practical solutions for Nepal farmers & consumers.
- The application should include:
 - a. **Current challenge identified** by the team that needs business solution (not more than 250 words) (30% weightage*)
 - b. **Solution proposed:** (30% weightage*)
 - Objective & summary of the proposed innovative solution (not more than 250 words)
 - Description of the solution (not more than 100 words)
 - Technology source details (own/ AFU developed/ others) (not more than 100 words). Note: Technology can be related to agri-input, production process, composition/recipe, design, software etc.
 - Product Development cycle for readiness to market (not more than 200 words)
 - c. **Market commercialization potential & target audience.** (not more than 250 words) (20% weightage*)
 - d. **Team profile and designated roles** (not more than 100 words) (20% weightage*)
 - Describe team composition, strength of the team, specific role of the team members, external or university advisor/ mentor if any proposed.

** The weightage indicated refers to the weightage assigned by reviewers in ranking the business ideas for preliminary selection*

- Students can also join Live Q&A sessions on Zoom. The date, time & link to join will be communicated over email.

MODE TO APPLY

- Applications are required to be submitted online here: Link- [Google Form Link](#) or scan the QR code. before **14 June 2024**. Apply early to avoid delay in submission due to technical glitches.
- To fill the online form, you will be required to log in with your Gmail account.



FOCUS AREAS

Indicative themes under which the applications can be submitted include, **but not limited to:**



Agriculture

Crop Production and Productivity| Seed Treatment| Biocontrol & Biostimulants| Plant Disease Diagnostics| Digital Tools| Farm Implements



Post Harvest & Food Safety

Produce Storage/ Shelf-Life Enhancement| Processing & Value-addition| Food Fortification| Food Safety & Quality| Digital Tools| By-product utilization| Waste Reduction



Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Fisheries

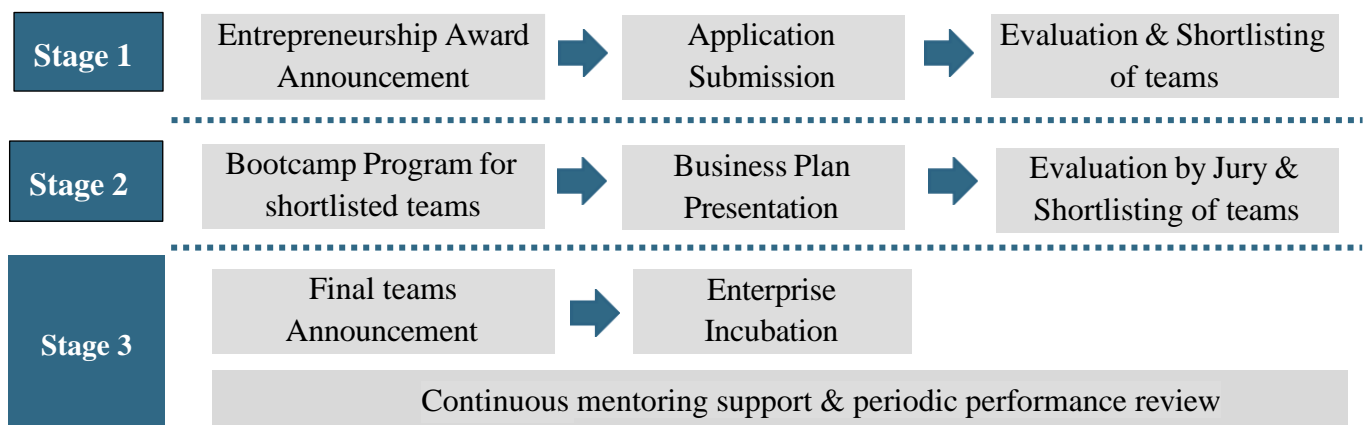
Vaccine| Animal Feed & Nutrition| Disease Diagnostics & Therapeutics| Digital Tools| Value added products



Forestry

Bioactives/Metabolites | | Value added products | Micro Propagation | Pulp & Paper | Disease Diagnostics | Digital Tools

AWARD CYCLE





Bootcamp Program- There will be 4 days intensive thematic program for shortlisted teams. The curated program will host different sessions to provide exposure to business plan development, market validation, budgeting & finance, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) management, and regulations. It will provide an active learning experience that will enable the teams to develop an effective business plan on their proposed idea during the boot camp.

Further to the program, there will be a business plan presentation, based on which the jury will announce the final teams that will secure entrepreneurship awards & mentoring support to translate their business ideas into successful ventures.

Mentoring Support- The final selected teams will get mentorship support from subject-specific mentors & faculty throughout the incubation period.

KEY TIMELINES

The process from call announcement to awards will be conducted during April-June 2024.

Announcement of RFA- NYB 2023	13 May 2024
NYB on Campus/ Online Orientation Session & Induction	May Week 3 - June Week 1
Live Q&A Session- Online on Zoom Time: 4:30pm – 5:30pm (Nepal Time)	Week 3- Week 5 from the announcement of RFA
Application Submission Deadline	14 June 2024
Announcement of shortlisted teams	22 July 2024
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp Program	4-7 Aug 2024
Business Plan Presentation & Award Ceremony	8-9 Aug 2024

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- All applications must be in English.
- Incomplete applications or applications not adhering to the submission guidelines (please refer [How to Apply](#) section) will not be considered. Requests for changes in a proposal once submitted will not be entertained.
- One team should submit only one application.
- For clarifying the queries, FAQs are provided below. Alternatively, please email your queries to nybteam2023@gmail.com.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

I. Applying to NYB

a. I'm interested in NYB 2024, Where should I start?

- To start with, a team of interested 4-5 students should respond to RFA (Request for Application) call by submitting the application.

- The application should highlight the elements indicated under “[How to Apply](#)” section above.
- RFA are required to be submitted online only. The applications may be submitted here: [abc.com](#)
- To fill the online form, you will be required to log in with your Gmail account.

For NYB-related announcements/ notifications, we strongly encourage the teams to regularly check the AFU website and notice boards.

b. Which applications are likely to be competitive and preferred by the program?

- NYB is a program that aims to identify, fund & support innovative solutions from AFU students that address critical problems existing in agriculture, veterinary & animal science, fisheries, forestry, etc.
- The program will support process/ product innovation with impact & commercial potential.
- The program will also support the teams that aim to propose commercialization of existing AFU technologies or technologies sourced from elsewhere.

c. Which applications are not likely to be considered for funding?

- Basic/exploratory research ideas without commercialization objectives/plans.
- Applications with no element of novelty/ commercial potential/impact

II. Eligibility Criteria

a. Who can apply for the award?

- The current call is open to students from all AFU campuses pursuing doctoral, master’s or bachelor’s degree.
- To apply, the students should form 4-5 members team, with one of them identified as team leader.
- Female student entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply.

b. Is there a structured team composition required by the program?

There is no specific requirements for team composition. However, the team profile should indicate the role of individual member in proposed business idea.

c. Can there be inter-disciplinary team composition allowed based on business idea requirements?

Yes, we encourage inter-disciplinary team mix as required in planning and execution of proposed business model. For example- A business idea proposing diagnostic services for plants and animals may have a team of students with background of agriculture/forestry & Veterinary and animal science/ fisheries.

III. Application Process

a. Where do I submit my application?

- Applications are required to be submitted **online only** ([Google Form Link](#)) before 14 June

2024. It is recommended to apply early to avoid delay in submission due to technical glitches.

- To fill the online form, you will be required to log in with your Gmail account.
- In case of any issue during submission, the applicant may contact us at nybteam2023@gmail.com.

b. Is there a Q&A session organized for solving queries?

All students are highly encouraged to attend the Orientation/ Q&A session to gain clarity of the process & resolve queries if any. A series of sessions will be arranged online. The date & time will be communicated over email.

c. Does my application have to be in English?

Yes, the application must be submitted in English language. Please note that applications will be judged by the content and quality of the application, not by language skills.

d. How do I know about program updates?

Updates will be put on notice board. Further, shortlisted teams for bootcamp will get email communication. In case of any further guidance, the team can mail us at nybteam2023@gmail.com.

e. Can I re-submit application in case of any changes?

No, the application once submitted through google forms, cannot be edited & allowed for re-submission. Check and validate your application carefully before submission.

IV. Award Cycle

a. How much time will the program take from call announcement to award awards?

We expect to undergo award process between April-June 2024. For more details, refer the “[key timelines](#)” section mentioned.

b. How many stages are there from call announcement to award awards?

There are three main stages, all of which are detailed under “[Award cycle](#)” section above.

c. Where will I get information regarding the award cycle event & deadlines?

The information regarding the events will be notified on notice board, AFU website & emails.

V. Fund Disbursement Cycle

a. How will the disbursement of funds be executed?

The funds will be awarded based on phases. These phases will be milestone-based as follows:

Phase I: Market Assessment and Prototype Development

Phase II: Product or Process Optimization/ Testing

Phase III: Product Registrations/ Market Validation