



INNOVATION  
ACCELERATOR



ADAPTATION FUND



# World Food Programme x Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator

Regina Schmidt, Head of SDG2 Acceleration

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 @WFPInnovation

 WFP Innovation Accelerator



# WFP Innovation Accelerator Introduction



# The WFP Innovation Accelerator sources, supports and scales high-impact innovations to disrupt hunger and achieve the SDGs.



With the support of our multi-year partners:



Bavarian State Ministry  
of Food, Agriculture and Forestry



# AFCIA by the World Food Programme



# Key Programme Objectives

1

## Innovation Identification and Support

**Identify, support and scale** high potential climate **innovations** that address priority challenges across the food systems value chain.

2

## Strengthening Local Communities

Promote new **local and global collaborations** to strengthen local climate change adaptation capacities and networks.

3

## Knowledge Management and Sharing

Increase the **knowledge and evidence-base** related to climate innovation in selected regions.

# AFCIA Cohorts & Geographic Focus

Leveraging on WFP's global operations and local presence

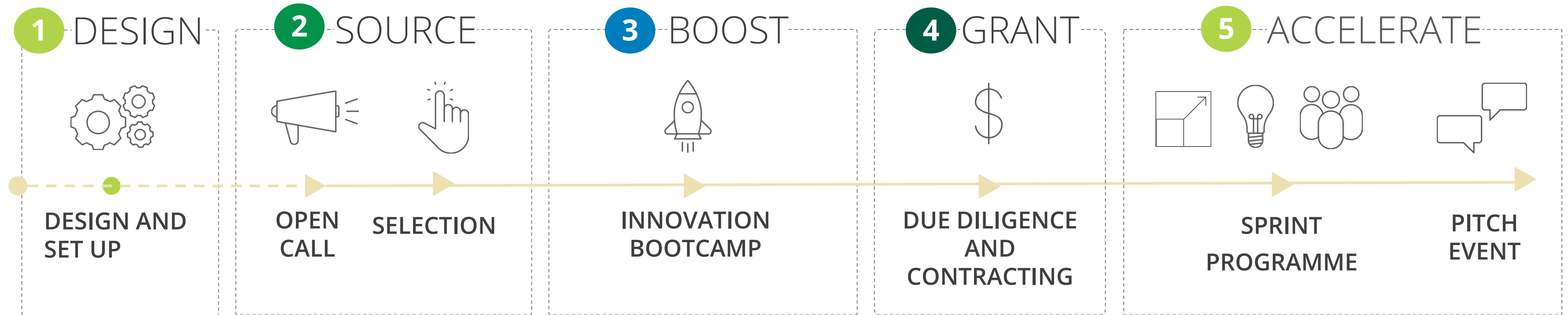
Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator Programme

5 years (2024 - 2029)

Cohort 1 Start 2024	Cohort 2 Start 2025	Cohort 3 Start 2026	Cohort 4 Start 2027
Middle East & North Africa (MENA) Region	Asia-Pacific Region	Latin America & the Caribbean (LAC) Region	Region 4: TBD
Egypt	Nepal	Dominican Republic	
Jordan	Philippines	El Salvador	
Lebanon	Pakistan	Peru	



# Innovation Acceleration Phase



Frame the climate innovation **problem statements in co-creation with governments, WFP COs and external stakeholders.**

Launch a **Call for Applications** to source and **select 10-12 climate innovations** per cohort.

Organize **bootcamp** to define **climate innovation uses cases** and **assess potential** of pre-selected innovations.

Ventures with highest potential are **awarded an equity-free grant** to test their innovation in the selected countries.

The awarded teams receive support to test innovation, **advance on their path to scale, and create evidence of potential impact.** The accelerate phase will close with an **online pitch event** with relevant stakeholders.

# Design: Inception Workshop



Participants of the Egypt Inception Workshop, including Dr. Rania A. Al-Masha and representatives from the **Ministry of International Cooperation, Cairo, 6 June 2024.**



WFP Lebanon Country Director at the Lebanon **Inception Workshop, Beirut, 23 May 2024.**



Participants engaged in a group exercise during Jordan **Inception Workshop, Amman, 5 June 2024.**

# Source: Innovation Challenge



## For Lebanon, we are looking for:

- precision agriculture solutions to monitor soil moisture, temperature, crop health, soil conditions or pest activity in real-time enabling smallholder farmers to use resources precisely;
- affordable off-grid irrigation technologies to reduce water usage and enhance agricultural productivity and resilience in remote areas;
- solutions for pastoralists to manage pests, diseases, and monitor livestock health and behaviour in real-time;
- innovative financing solutions for smallholder farmers and agro-processors necessary for sustainable climate resilience or climate insurance solutions that offer quick and transparent payouts based on weather indexes;
- eco-friendly solutions to eliminate pests and damaging pathogens to protect crops and enhance soils for plant health improvement while maintaining environmental sustainability;
- affordable off-grid cold mobile storage solutions to enhance food preservation and reduce post-harvest losses in areas without reliable access to electricity; and
- solutions that convert agricultural and food waste into affordable inputs such as compost, biochar, organic fertilizers or animal feed.



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# Boost: Innovation Bootcamp



*Plenary sessions*

*Working sessions with the startups, World Food Programme and governments*



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# Grant: Selected Ventures



## Adaptive Symbiotic Technologies

[www.adsymtech.com](http://www.adsymtech.com) | Jordan

AST discovered, manufactures and distributes **microbes that transform crops to be climate resilient and require less water and fertilizer.**



## The Noornation for Renewable Energy

[noornation.com](http://noornation.com) | Egypt

Transforming flood irrigation into **smart, solar-powered systems through Solar Irrigation as a Service (SlaaS).**



## Partners with Sun

[partnerswithsun.com](http://partnerswithsun.com) | Lebanon

A disruptive **clean energy solution that uses a solar-powered convection oven with integrated hydrogen backup** to replace conventional fuel-based ovens with a sustainable, off-grid alternative.

# Accelerate: Sprint



**Community workshop with farmers for Remer in Lebanon.**



**Consultation session with farmers group in Luxor for the FarmGuru Application for Visual Artificial Intelligence Solutions (VAIS) in Egypt.**



**WFP colleagues testing DeployTech water tank in Jordan.**

# Recommendations



# Design & Needs Identification

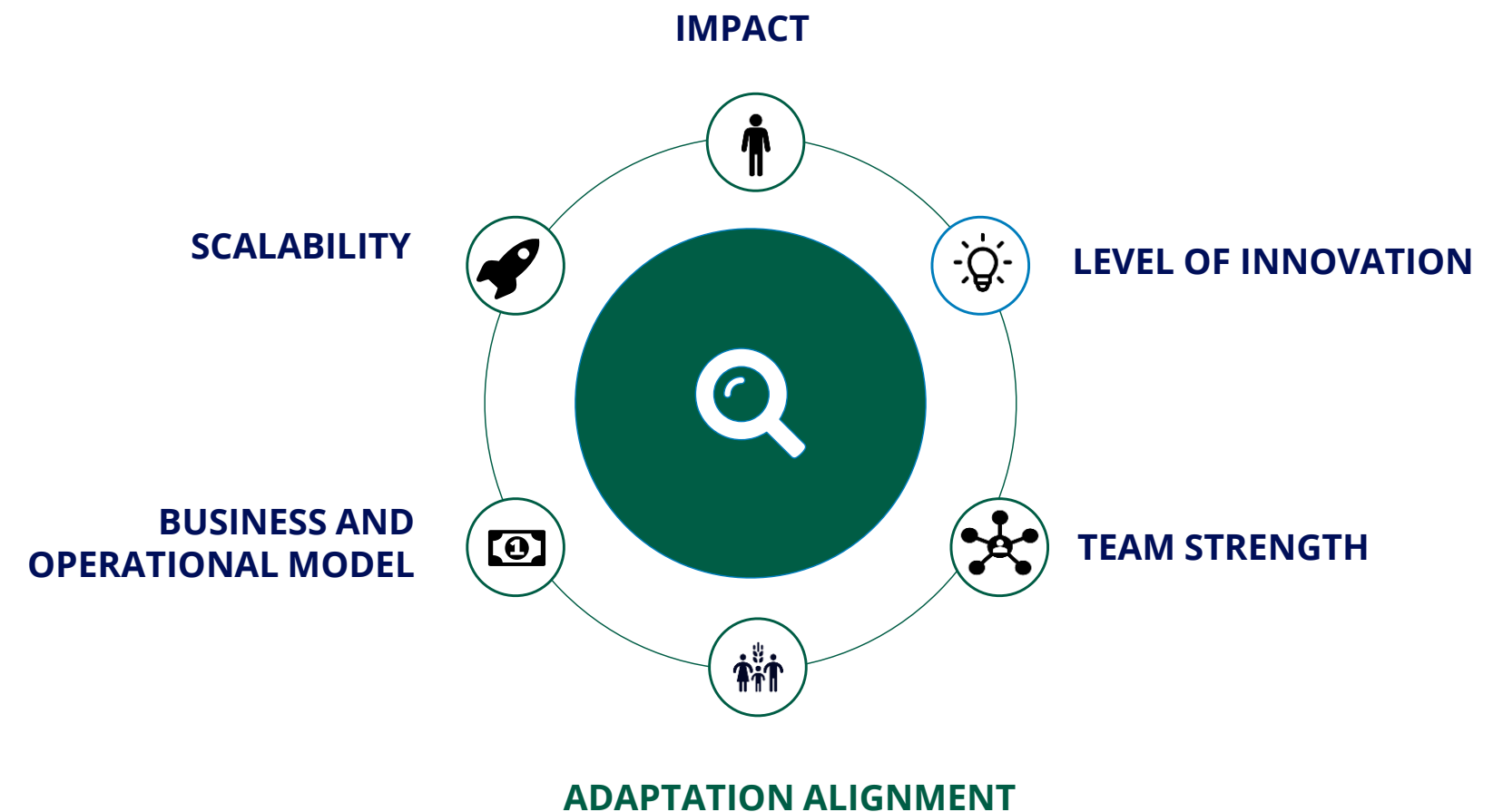
- Start with a **locally grounded needs assessment** by engaging government and diverse regional stakeholders, rather than applying broad global priorities.
- Use **inception workshops to identify climate-innovation gaps** so programme themes match real local and regional challenges.
- Match **solutions to real, context-specific problems**, rather than fitting ventures to predefined themes.



*Co-creation process with local stakeholders during Inception Workshop in Jordan.*

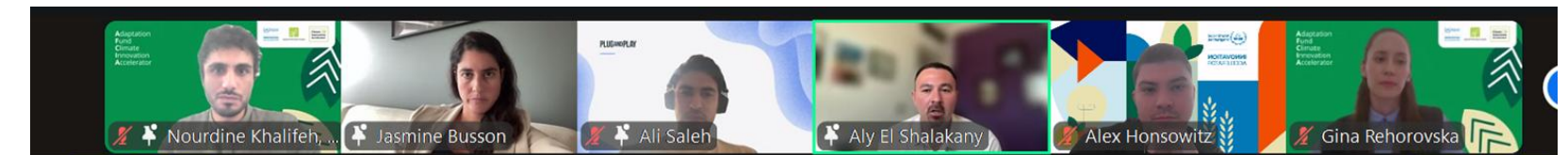
# Sourcing & Clear Criteria

- Define **transparent eligibility criteria** (e.g. legal status, local presence, maturity stage, innovation level).
- Communicate a **simple application process** with clear steps, timelines, and expectations.
- Ensure criteria are understood by local partners to support **consistent and fair selection**.



# Financial Sustainability

- Facilitate **investor-readiness training and events** that connect ventures with local/regional stakeholders to identify funding pathways.
- Support ventures in developing their **sustainable financial business model and funding strategies**.
- **Bring key partners in from the start**, e.g. development banks, IFIs, and investors to widen impact.



**Fireside Chat**  
**Key success factors for establishing scalable climate ventures**

 <b>Nourine Khalifeh</b> Innovative Finance Consultant WFP Innovation Accelerator	 <b>Ali Saleh</b> Senior Ventures Analyst PlugANDPlay Ventures	 <b>Aly El Shalakany</b> Venture Partner A-typical Ventures	 <b>Jasmine Busson</b> Founder Globinvest
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*Accessing Impact Investment event - roundtable with investors and ventures from cohort 1.*



# Capacity Building

- Combine bootcamps, learning sessions and peer exchanges to **strengthen and build entrepreneurship, innovation and adaptation skills.**
- Use shared learning spaces to foster **cross-country knowledge transfer** and strengthen local innovation ecosystems.
- Position **capacity building as a tool for sustainability and institutional strengthening**, not only venture support.



*Local Ecosystem event in Lebanon with ventures, WFP, governments, NGOs, and other local actors.*

# It's time to *#disrupt*hunger.

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