

Startup Call for Application for Agritech Start-Up

About IHFC

I-Hub Foundation for Cobotics (IHFC) is the Technology Innovation Hub of IIT-Delhi set up under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), Department of Science Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt. of India. IHFC is tasked with creating an eco-system for commercialization of the developed technology into products for application into various target sectors like: Medical/Healthcare, Agriculture/Disaster Management, Defence and Factories/MSMEs. IHFC directly works with 100+ faculty from IIT Delhi and other universities such as IITs, IIITs, NITs.

The 21st century has been an age of unprecedented advancement in Robotics supported by AI, ML, Sensing, Computing research & development, and its adaptation in the real world. Extrapolating the trend of adoption, robots are going to play an essential role in society in the coming years.

With this aim, IHFC, established in June 2020 as a Section 8 company, brings together 3 major pillars of success from Academia, Government and Industry, to enable the same.

Agri Innovation Program (AIP)

As a step towards this mission, IHFC is launching the Agri Innovation Program (AIP), an intensive program designed to revolutionize agriculture and adjacent domains by providing comprehensive support to startups and innovators. The AIP focuses on ventures and solutions leveraging cutting-edge technologies such as AI, IoT, Robotics, and Industry 4.0 to address critical challenges in agriculture, i.e. enhance productivity, promote environmental sustainability, improve farmers' income and tackle the low growth rate in the agricultural sector.

Program Objective

- **Impact:** Solutions and innovations should positively contribute to society and the ecosystem, e.g. increasing farmers' income.
- **Address Low Growth Rate:** Tackle the low economic growth rate in the agriculture sector by promoting high-impact innovations.
- **Promote Innovation:** Encourages development of cutting-edge technologies and solutions in agriculture and adjacent domains.
- **Enhance Productivity:** Supports innovations that increase agricultural productivity and efficiency.
- **Sustainability:** Promote sustainable agricultural practices and technologies that minimize environmental impact.
- **Market Access:** Facilitate market access and commercialization opportunities for

innovative agricultural solutions.

- **Capacity Building:** Provide comprehensive mentorship and training to develop the entrepreneurial and technical skills of innovators.

Focus Areas

- **Precision Agriculture**
 - Precision farming, crop monitoring, soil health, and irrigation management.
 - Machine learning for plant growth modeling.
 - Variable Rate Technologies (VRTs) for site-specific input management.
 - Early warning systems for pest and disease detection.
 - Tools enhancing precision and productivity in aquaculture and livestock farming.
- **Sustainable Practices**
 - Regenerative agriculture and climate resilience.
 - Sensor-based detection of nutrient and water deficiencies, pest and disease stresses.
 - Advanced weather prediction tools.
- **Robotics and Automation**
 - Robots for precision crop management.
 - Drone-assisted pest and disease management.
 - Smart farming equipment.
- **Post-Harvest Management**
 - Sensor-based quality assessment and grading.
 - Non-invasive quality detection systems.
 - Storage condition monitoring and post-harvest management.
 - Technologies to reduce post-harvest losses.
- **Agri-Biotech Innovations**
 - Biotechnology for crop improvement and pest control.
 - Soil health enhancement.
- **Supply Chain Optimization**
 - Innovations in logistics and transportation.
 - Advanced food processing and sustainable packaging.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Startup Registration:** Must be a registered startup (as per GOI definition) in India with a focus on agriculture or adjacent domains.

Focus on the following:

- High thrust products and solutions that addresses various challenges faced by country/society
- Product or Solution which are near-ready / ready for deployment.
- Open to growth-stage companies, and research teams with a minimum viable product (MVP) that can be quickly deployed in Robotics, AI, ML, Data Science,

Sensing, Computing etc.

- **Team Composition:** Must have a dedicated and skilled team with a clear vision and business plan. Minimum two full time founders.
- **Innovation Focus:** Solutions should address one or more focus areas and demonstrate potential for significant impact.
- **Compliances desired:**
 1. Age 18 and above
 2. Resident of India
 3. Registration of the startup is must (can happen in parallel while applying)

Essentials Documents

- List of documents essential while filing the application form:
 - Company Registration certificates.
 - GST registration certificate
 - KYC of promoters – Aadhar card and PAN Card
 - Shareholding pattern
- The below documents to be submitted by the startups after selection
 - Constitution documents
 - Memorandum of Association and Article of Association.
 - Annual report for last 1 year in case of POC based startups and 3 years in case of revenue-based startups.
 - Bank statements for 6 months.
 - Proof of business address. Reference from an established incubator or institution

*** - Individual / Team, without registration, can also apply in this, but Registration is must before release of Seed Funding (if selected for funding)*

Investment Mechanisms

📄 **Investment - Upto 50 lacs**

Benefits to Start Up

- 📄 Access to IHFC Ecosystem
- 📄 Incubation and Space
- 📄 Commercialization –Ready for market

- ❑ Business Mentoring- towards fundamentals of setting up business, identifying suppliers, pricing of product, marketing and effective business processes etc.
- ❑ IPR Mentoring Guidance and Support Services

Screening

- Applicant & their Team members to disclose previous funding for similar project.
- Shortlisted proposals will be evaluated by internal / external experts.
- Association with Education Institution and Academia in research project is preferred

Selection Approach

Round 0- Screening/ Shortlisting of Proposals by IHFC Team

Round 1- Presentation by Startups to IHFC Team

Round 2- Expert Evaluation by Industry Experts

Round 3- Selection

Important Dates and links

Complete the Google form as per the Link: <https://forms.gle/mjYi9rbmE3vZT6hf8>

Event	Date
Launch Date	22 July 2024
Last date of Submission of Proposal	22 August 2024

For any queries or further information, please contact:

Contact: +91-7042654553

Website: www.ihfc.co.in

Email: contact@ihfc.co.in