

INNOVATION INVESTMENT ROUND

Both the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC) and AgriZero^{NZ} are working to provide New Zealand farmers with a suite of fit for purpose, practical and cost effective tools to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. During 2025, the NZAGRC and AgriZero^{NZ} are partnering to run a competitive round to identify and support innovative ideas and opportunities.

FOCUS FOR 2025

The NZAGRC and AgriZero^{NZ} welcome applications that are seeking to develop novel approaches, and / or significantly strengthen or accelerate current approaches that show major promise for bringing practical, farm-level solutions closer to implementation within a timely manner for New Zealand farmers. As part of this round, ideas are welcomed that seek to overcome barriers to the development, measurement, or delivery of agricultural GHG emissions reduction solutions (this could range from basic science to application of advanced technologies, such as A.I).

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are sought for projects that address the following research topics:

Topic 1



Reducing nitrous oxide emissions from ruminant animal deposited urine.

Topic 2



Reducing methane emissions from enteric fermentation in grazing ruminants.

FEATURES OF THE 2025 INNOVATION INVESTMENT ROUND

- Up to NZ\$4 million is available. The NZAGRC and AgriZero^{NZ} will each contribute up to NZ\$2 million to the round.
- Individual projects have a maximum duration of two years and a maximum value of \$1M per project.
- Applications are invited from both New Zealand and international organisations. Collaborations are encouraged.
- Two stage process:** **Stage 1** – submission of EOIs and short-listing by a Technical Assessment Panel. **Stage 2** – NZAGRC / AgriZero^{NZ} staff work with short-listed applicants to develop contract-ready research applications for Technical Assessment Panel re-assessment and approval by the NZAGRC and AgriZero^{NZ} Executives. Executives will make the final decision on which projects are successful, taking into account the recommendations of the Technical Assessment Panel, the existing funding portfolios and the broader New Zealand funding landscape.
- Research projects should be conducted in a manner that ensures the widest possible benefit to New Zealand. IP arrangements will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

New Zealand and international research providers, organisations and companies or persons with the ability to undertake research in their own right are eligible.

Co-funding is strongly encouraged for all applications.

There is no specified limit on the number of EOIs any single organisation can submit. However, organisations are strongly encouraged to undertake a realistic approach to the number of individual EOIs they submit. We strongly encourage an internal review and coordination process before submitting a limited number of EOIs that represent the best science from that organization.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications will be assessed against the following:

- Is the innovation applicable to New Zealand farm systems?
- Does it directly address at least one of the research topics?
- Will New Zealand be a high priority country for implementing any developed solution?
- Has the application been submitted by 2pm NZST, 12th May 2025?

All EOIs will be checked for completeness. All sections of the EOI form must be completed.

Only EOIs deemed to be complete and in compliance with the eligibility criteria will be provided to the Technical Assessment Panel for evaluation.



www.nzagrc.org.nz/innovationinvestmentround

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

**NO LATE ENTRIES
WILL BE ACCEPTED**

ROUND OPENS
31 MARCH

EOIs CLOSE
2pm (NZST), 12 May
Applications must
be submitted to
fund@nzagrc.org.nz

23 June
Successful **STAGE 1**
applicants notified

21 July
STAGE 2 applications
submitted

18 August
Successful applicants
notified and contract
negotiations initiated



EVALUATION BY THE TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT PANEL

The Technical Assessment Panel will evaluate the applications using the following high-level assessment criteria:

1. Scientific merit and innovation

Does the project idea demonstrate a high level of scientific merit and innovation? Is the proposed methodology robust and are the anticipated outcomes realistic within the proposed time frame?

2. Ability to contribute to developing applied GHG mitigation solutions in a timely manner for New Zealand farmers

Will the proposed project contribute new knowledge that will significantly strengthen current research avenues and/or develop novel approaches that show major promise and for bringing practical, farm-level solutions closer to implementation in New Zealand by 2030 and/or 2040? If successful, what is the abatement potential for this solution?

3. Ability of the team to deliver high quality outcomes

Does the research team have the necessary expertise, experience and track record to successfully undertake the project and deliver the stated outcomes? Are there any significant gaps in the team that, if filled, would make the team more likely to succeed? Will the project develop capability and capacity for New Zealand?

The Technical Assessment Panel will also take into consideration the following:

• Co-funding

What co-funding would be provided for the project if successful? Co-funding is the commitment of new resources or the re-prioritisation of existing resources such that total investment in the proposed research area is increased if the request for funds is successful. Co-funding is encouraged.

• Breath of impact

Which sectors and types of Agribusinesses will benefit? e.g. particular needs of Māori Agribusiness etc.

Please note that the NZAGRC/AgriZero^{NZ} reserves the right to request more information on any application submitted that does not meet one aspect of the criteria adequately but where the overall application demonstrates merit.

www.nzagrc.org.nz/innovationinvestmentround

