



## **INNOVATION INVESTMENT ROUND**

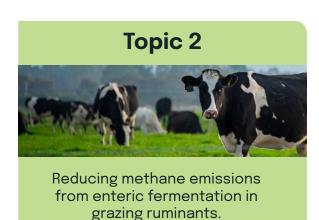
Both the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas Research Centre (NZAGRC) and AgriZero<sup>NZ</sup> are working to provide New Zealand farmers with a suite of fit for purpose, practical and cost effective tools to reduce agricultural greenhouse gas(GHG) emissions. During 2025, the NZAGRC and AgriZero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

#### **FOCUS FOR 2025**

The NZAGRC and AgriZero<sup>NZ</sup> 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:





#### FEATURES OF THE 2025 INNOVATION INVESTMENT ROUND

- Up to NZ\$4 million is available. The NZAGRC and AgriZero<sup>NZ</sup> 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<sup>NZ</sup> 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<sup>NZ</sup> 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.

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#### **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 CL OSE

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







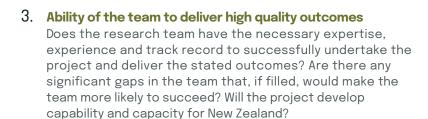
#### **EVALUATION BY THE TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT PANEL**

#### 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?



# 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<sup>NZ</sup> 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.

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