

2026 INNOVATION INVESTMENT ROUND

I am based overseas – can I apply for this Investment Round?

Yes, you can apply for the fund as long as the EOI meets the minimum eligibility criteria as per the guidelines. Applications will be assessed against the following:

- Does it directly address at least one of the research challenges?
- Is the innovation applicable to common New Zealand farm systems?
- Will New Zealand be a high priority country for implementing any developed solution?
- Has the application been submitted by 2pm NZDT, 24 February 2026?

Is it compulsory for the Principal Investigator to come from New Zealand?

No, it is not compulsory for the Principal Investigator to be from New Zealand – it is an international fund.

What will the Innovation Investment Round fund?

The Investment Round will fund standard research operating costs if they relate to delivering the research outcomes, this includes staff costs, operating & consumable costs, and overhead costs.

CAPEX, other than minor items (\$5k) are excluded.

Can you explain the two types of Eols?

For 2026 there are two types of Eol with separate forms:

- 1) “R&D FULL PROPOSALS” (page 2 of the guidelines; Eol can be found here: https://www.ag-emissions.nz/assets/2026_Innovation-Investment-Round-EOI-Form_FULL.docx). NZ\$2 million is available for this round. The applicant must have a research team in place which is able to conduct the project once contracting has been completed.
- 2) “R&D IDEA PROPOSALS” (page 3 of the guidelines; Eol can be found here: https://www.ag-emissions.nz/assets/2026_Innovation-Investment-Round-EOI-Form_IDEA.docx). Up to NZ\$50k per project is available for this round (through the AgEC). The applicant can submit an idea without a full team in place. Individual projects have a maximum duration of six months. The purpose of this funding is to progress and develop ideas to determine feasibility. This could be in the form of access to scientific expertise, building skills and capability, trial design etc. It is envisaged that these

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projects, if successful, will allow applicants to potentially prepare proposals for additional R&D funding.

Can you clarify the funding available for the Full proposals?

The NZ\$2 million for the Full EoI noted in the guidelines refers to the total funding pool available for this round. As per the EoI form itself, note that the maximum request for each EoI is \$2,000,000. Funding will be allocated across the strongest proposals and the number of EoIs progressing to Stage 2 will depend on the quality and quantity of the applications as well as existing AgEC and AgriZero^{NZ} funding portfolios. Hence there are a number of potential ways that the NZ\$2,000,000 could be allocated.

Is there a template for the 1-page CVs?

No, there is no set template. As per the guidelines the 1-page CVs should be a minimum of 10-point font and capture key publications and experience relevant to this application. It may be useful to include links to ORCID, Google Scholar, ResearchGate etc.

Will there be any further Investment Rounds in 2026?

We are aware that the annual cycle of Innovation Round calls may not be suitable for all situations/circumstances. To help overcome this, from now onwards we will be running two Innovations Rounds per year with the next one currently planned to open in May 2026.