



NYB 2023

Nepal Young Bioentrepreneurs

REQUEST FOR APPLICATION (RFA)

ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD CALL

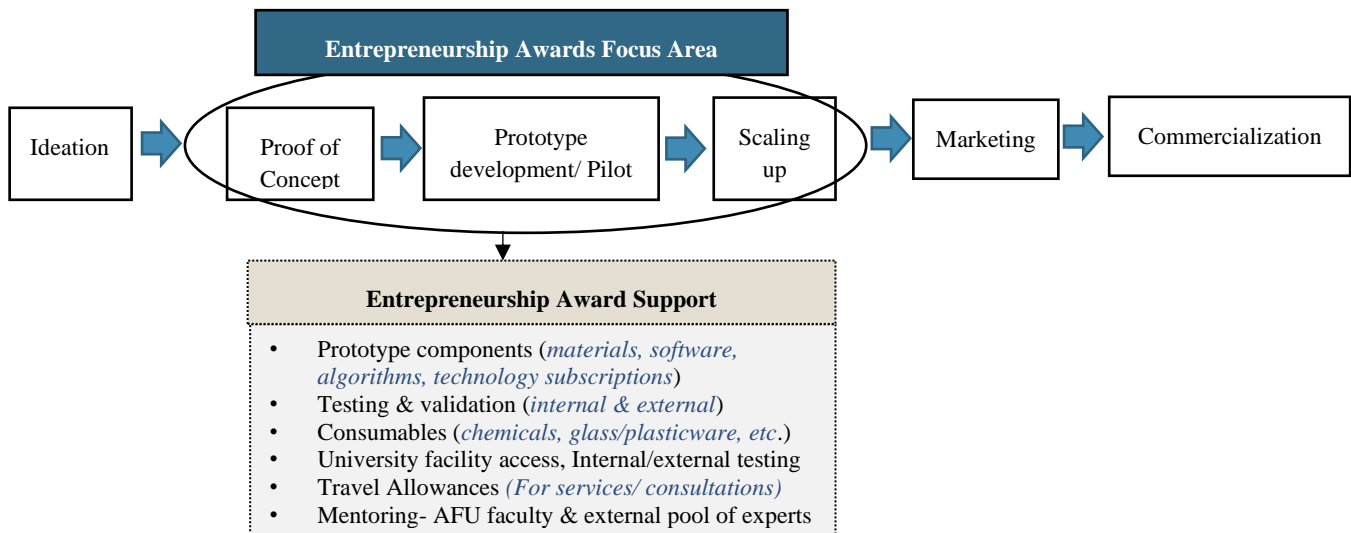
BACKGROUND

Agriculture & allied sector is critical to Nepal's economy, as it contributes to be a major source of livelihood for more than 60% of population. Advancements & prosperity in this predominantly traditional sector is crucial in influencing economic & social transformation of Nepal. There are numerous challenges that hinders the sectoral growth such as low agriculture & cattle productivity, lack of access to affordable and quality inputs (such as agrochemicals, seed, animal vaccines, feed, diagnostic services), poor logistics & market linkage, etc. To solve these underlining issues, important stakeholders including young & bright minds of nation need to bring solutions that are innovative, affordable & practical for Nepal farmers & consumers.

There are numerous budding innovators having potential business ideas in every corner of Nepal but often lacks market connect, mentoring & funding support to convert their idea into successful business ventures. **Nepal Young Bioentrepreneurs (NYB) 2023 Program is here to offer a platform for such young innovative minds of AFU Rampur & Hetauda Campus to kick start their entrepreneurial journey by fostering innovation through an award of up to NPR 18,00,000 incubation opportunities within AFU & mentorship support!**

ENTERPRISE INCUBATION MODEL

NYB 2023 aims to offer nurturing environment for young entrepreneurial minds of AFU to generate and commercialize innovative solutions with potential to tackle challenges faced by value chain stakeholders across Agri-food & allied sectors of Nepal. The goal of the award is to develop market relevant process/product prototype of the novel idea formed by the teams, develop physical prototypes and perform pre-market validation.





The fund will support:

- Teams proposing Process/product innovation with impact & commercial potential.
- Teams pursuing existing AFU technology for prototyping and market validation.
- Teams validating technology from other sources.

The fund will not support:

- Basic/exploratory research projects without market relevance.
- Projects with no element of uniqueness/ commercial potential/impact.

The teams will engage over two years span in pursuing their ideas to create successful products/services working rigorously during their academic year and beyond. The teams will be provided physical incubation on campus and will be guided by mentors to pursue their incubation mission.

WHO CAN APPLY?

- To apply, the students should form 4-5 member team, with one of them identified as team leader.
- The team members will be students currently pursuing bachelor's, master's or doctoral degree at AFU Rampur and Hetauda Campus.
- The teams are encouraged to have members from different disciplines and different semesters.
- Female student entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply.

HOW TO APPLY?

- Students are highly encouraged to attend the orientation sessions at campus during 3-5 August 2023. These sessions will highlight the award details and feature panel discussion with Nepal Entrepreneurs who are providing solutions to Agriculture, Veterinary, Animal Health & Forestry segments through their business ideas. The date, time & venue of these sessions will be communicated over emails/notice board.
- Interested teams should submit the application in response to this call notification, with business ideas that offers affordable, innovative & practical solutions for Nepal farmers & consumers.
- The application should include:
 - *Current challenge identified by the team that needs business solution (not more than 250 words)*
 - *Objective & summary of the proposed innovative solution (not more than 250 words)*
 - *Description of the solution (not more than 250 words)*
 - *Technology source details (own/ AFU developed/ others) (not more than 250 words). Note: Technology can be related to agri-input, production process, composition/recipe, design, software etc.*
 - *Market commercialization potential & target audience. (not more than 250 words)*
 - *Team profile and designated roles (not more than 100 words)*
- Students can also join Live Q&A sessions on Zoom. The date, time & link to join will be communicated over email.

MODE TO APPLY

- Applications are required to be submitted online here: Link- <https://rb.gy/ehwuz> or scan the QR code. before **25 August 2023**. Apply early to avoid delay in submission due to technical glitches.
- To fill the online form, you will be required to log in with your Gmail account.



FOCUS AREAS

Indicative themes under which the applications can be submitted include, **but not limited to:**



Agriculture

Crop Production and Productivity| Seed Treatment| Biocontrol & Biostimulants| Plant Disease Diagnostics| Digital Tools| Farm Implements



Post Harvest & Food Safety

Produce Storage/ Shelf-Life Enhancement| Processing & Value-addition| Food Fortification| Food Safety & Quality| Digital Tools| By-product utilization| Waste Reduction



Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Fisheries

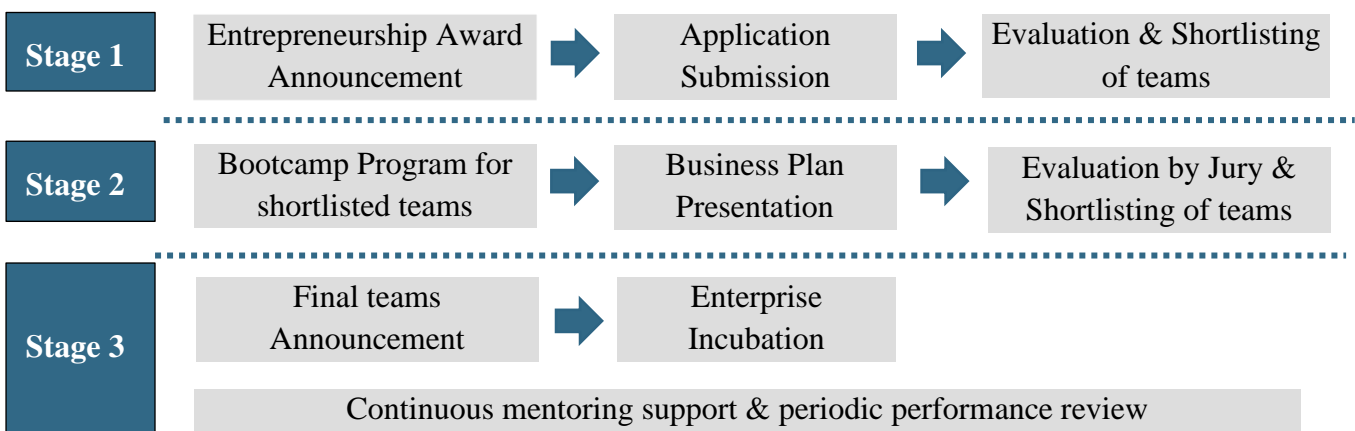
Vaccine| Animal Feed & Nutrition| Disease Diagnostics & Therapeutics| Digital Tools| Value added products



Forestry

Bioactives/Metabolites | Value added products | Micro Propagation | Pulp & Paper | Disease Diagnostics | Digital Tools

AWARD CYCLE





Bootcamp Program- There will be 4 days intensive thematic program for shortlisted teams. Curated program will host different sessions to provide exposure to business plan development, market validation, budgeting & finance, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) management, regulations. It will provide active learning experience that will enable the teams to develop an effective business plan on their proposed idea during the bootcamp.

Further to the program, there will be a business plan presentation, based on which the jury will announce the final teams that will secure entrepreneurship award & mentoring support to translate their business ideas into successful ventures.

Mentoring Support- The final selected teams will get mentorship support from subject specific mentor & faculty throughout the incubation period.

KEY TIMELINES

The process from call announcement to awards will be conducted during July- September 2023.

Announcement of RFA- NYB 2023	24 July 2023
NYB on Campus Orientation Session & Panel Discussion with Entrepreneurs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 August 2023- Faculty of Animal Science, Veterinary Science and Fisheries • 4 August 2023- Faculty of Forestry • 5 August 2023- Faculty of Agriculture
Live Q&A Session- Online on Zoom Time: 2pm – 4pm (Nepal Time)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 August 2023 • 16 August 2023
Application Submission Deadline	25 August 2023
Announcement of shortlisted teams	11 September 2023
Entrepreneurship Bootcamp Program	18-21 September 2023
Business Plan Presentation & Award Ceremony	22 September 2023

GENERAL INSTRUCTION

- All applications must be in English.
- Incomplete applications or applications not adhering to the submission guidelines (please refer [How to Apply](#) section) will not be considered. Requests for changes in a proposal once submitted will not be entertained.
- One team should submit only one application.
- For clarifying the queries, FAQs are provided below. Alternatively, please email your queries to nybteam2023@gmail.com.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

I. Applying to NYB

a. I'm interested in NYB 2023, Where should I start?

- To start with, a team of interested 4-5 students should respond to RFA (Request for Application) call by submitting the application.



- The application should highlight the elements indicated under “[How to Apply](#)” section above.
- RFA are required to be submitted online only. The applications may be submitted here: <https://rb.gy/ehwuz>
- To fill the online form, you will be required to log in with your Gmail account.

For NYB related announcement/ notifications, we strongly encourage the teams to regularly check AFU website, notice boards.

b. Which applications are likely to be competitive and preferred by the program?

- NYB is a program that aims to identify, fund & support innovative solutions from AFU students that addresses critical problems existing in agriculture, veterinary & animal science, fisheries, forestry etc.
- The program will support Process/product innovation with impact & commercial potential.
- The program will also support the teams that aims to propose commercialization of existing AFU technologies or technologies sourced from elsewhere.

c. Which applications are not likely to be considered for funding?

- Basic/exploratory research ideas without commercialization objectives/plans.
- Applications with no element of novelty/ commercial potential/impact

II. Eligibility Criteria

a. Who can apply for the award?

- The current call is open to students from AFU Rampur and Hetauda campus pursuing doctoral, master’s or bachelor’s degree.
- To apply, the students should form 4-5 members team, with one of them identified as team leader.
- Female student entrepreneurs are strongly encouraged to apply.

b. Is there a structured team composition required by the program?

There is no specific requirements for team composition. However, the team profile should indicate the role of individual member in proposed business idea.

c. Can there be inter- disciplinary team composition allowed based on business idea requirements?

Yes, we encourage inter-disciplinary team mix as required in planning and execution of proposed business model. For example- A business idea proposing diagnostic services for plants and animals may have a team of students with background of agriculture/forestry & Veterinary and animal science/ fisheries.

III. Application Process

a. Where do I submit my application?

- Applications are required to be submitted **online only** (<https://rb.gy/ehwuz>) before 25 August 2023. It is recommended to apply early to avoid delay in submission due to technical glitches.
- To fill the online form, you will be required to log in with your Gmail account.
- In case of any issue during submission, the applicant may contact us at nybteam2023@gmail.com .

b. Is there a Q&A session organized for solving queries?

All students are highly encouraged to attend the Orientation/ Q&A session to gain clarity of the process & resolve queries if any. A series of sessions will be arranged online. The date & time will be communicated over email.

c. Does my application have to be in English?

Yes, the application must be submitted in English language. Please note that applications will be judged by the content and quality of the application, not by language skills.

d. How do I know about program updates?

Updates will be put on notice board. Further, shortlisted teams for bootcamp will get email communication. In case of any further guidance, the team can mail us at nybteam2023@gmail.com.

e. Can I re-submit application in case of any changes?

No, the application once submitted through google forms, cannot be edited & allowed for re-submission. Check and validate your application carefully before submission.

IV. Award Cycle

a. How much time will the program take from call announcement to award awards?

We expect to undergo award process between July-September 2023. For more details, refer the “[key timelines](#)” section mentioned.

b. How many stages are there from call announcement to award awards?

There are three main stages, all of which are detailed under “[Award cycle](#)” section above.

c. Where will I get information regarding the award cycle event & deadlines?

The information regarding the events will be notified on notice board, AFU website & emails.