

Innovation Challenge

1,000 ideas for a world without hunger

INNOVATION CHALLENGE



A world without hunger, sufficient and healthy food, a climate-friendly agriculture - all this can only be achieved if ideas can be transformed into innovations and if these are applied. To this end, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has commissioned the Global Project Agricultural Policy and Innovation Fund (GV FABI) to carry out the Innovation Challenge.

In spring 2020 the call for submissions from **small (micro) enterprises, start-ups and small farmers' organizations from GIZ partner countries** was published. The aim of the competition was to find and promote innovative local ideas in GIZ partner countries that contribute to a more efficient and sustainable agricultural sector along the entire value chain. **More than 1,000 people from 44 countries** in Africa and Southeast Asia took part in the competition.

68% of the applicants were under 35 years of age. The Innovation Challenge has thus achieved its goal of giving **young people** in particular the opportunity to actively contribute to development cooperation with their local solutions.

The [public online finale](#) of the Innovation Challenge took place on October 27, 2020. During the event, the finalists representing

the 15 best submissions were given the opportunity to present their innovations in a pitch to a world-class, international jury of experts. In evaluating the presented innovations, the jury members considered criteria such as the degree of innovation, the implementation potential, the possible impact on gender equality and the relevance to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 2 (No Hunger).

In each of **this year's three categories Mechanization, Digitalization and Renewable Energies**, three winners were selected to receive funding packages worth up to EUR 50,000 for 1st place, up to EUR 20,000 for 2nd place, and up to EUR 10,000 for 3rd place. As part of these support packages, the winners will receive training and mentoring tailored to their needs, as well as access to the GIZ network to further develop their innovations.

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The Winners of the Innovation Challenge 2020



A. Agarwal
Indien



T. Tong & S. Manandhar
Nepal



P. Chikasha
Simbabwe



In **Renewable Energies**, the award for 3rd place went to **Gladys Kimondo** of Diacatek Enterprises from Kenya for her solar driers. In the 2nd place was **Mohammed Kamara** of Light Salone Innovation from Sierra Leone for his irrigation systems using solar and wind energy. The award for the 1st place in the category of Renewable Energies went to **Akash Agarwal** of New Leaf Dynamic Technologies from India. Agarwal and his father have developed an off-grid, farm waste-powered cold storage system, which can be used for ripening, drying and short- or long-term storage and thus contributes to reducing food waste and allows farmers to add value to their produce.

In the **Digitalization** category, **Hayfa Khalfaoui** of Lait Espoir (Tunisia) won the 3rd place award for her mobile app which provides rapid diagnostics on cow health for dairy farmers. The 2nd place was awarded to **Chukwuemeka Oyiana** of Upshore Robotics in Nigeria for his drone services for seed-planting and more which connect to widely used instant messaging apps. The 1st place prize for Digitalization went to the team of Aeloi Technologies, **Tiffany Tong and Sonika Manandhar** (Canada/Nepal), for their brilliant technology platform which provides a financing solution for micro-agribusinesses by using digital tokens to connect financial institutions, impact funders, microentrepreneurs and vendors in a complete ecosystem.

In **Mechanization**, **Isaac Osei** of DigiExt in Ghana won the 3rd place award for his sustainable innovation for processing agri-residues into paper products. In the 2nd place was **Devi Murthy** of Kamal Kisan in India for her platform approach to the mechanization of paddy cultivation. Finally, the 1st place prize in the area of **Mechanization** was awarded to **Piwai Chikasha** of Alley Capital Group in Zimbabwe. This young agri-entrepreneur and his team offer innovative crop spraying services using robotic precision drones which, compared to traditional methods of crop spraying, are much more fuel-efficient and better for environmental and human health.