



\$1 Billion Funding Opportunity to Pilot New Revenue Streams for America’s Climate-Smart Farmers, Ranchers and Forest Landowners

USDA’s Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities will provide grants for pilot projects that create market opportunities for U.S. agricultural and forest products produced using climate-smart practices and include innovative, cost-effective methods for quantification, monitoring and verification of greenhouse gas and carbon sequestration benefits. USDA will support the production and marketing of climate-smart commodities through a set of pilot projects that provide voluntary incentives through partners to producers and landowners, including early adopters, to:

- ◆ Implement climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands,
- ◆ Measure/quantify, monitor and verify the carbon and greenhouse gas (GHG) benefits associated with those practices, and
- ◆ Develop markets and promote the resulting climate-smart commodities.

Proposals must provide plans to:

- ◆ Pilot implementation of climate-smart agriculture and/or forestry production practices on a large-scale, including meaningful involvement of small and/or historically underserved producers;
- ◆ Quantify, monitor, report and verify climate results; and
- ◆ Develop markets and promote climate-smart commodities generated as a result of project activities

Pilot Projects and Climate-Smart Production Practices

Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities pilot projects must focus on the on-farm, on-ranch or forest production of climate-smart commodities and associated reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and/or carbon sequestration. For the purposes of this funding opportunity, a climate-smart commodity is defined as an agricultural commodity that is produced using farming, ranching or forestry practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon.

Highly competitive projects will include agricultural and forestry practices or combinations of practices, and/or practice enhancements that provide GHG benefits and/or carbon sequestration, including but not limited to:

- ◆ Cover crops
- ◆ Low-till or no-till
- ◆ Nutrient management
- ◆ Enhanced efficiency fertilizers
- ◆ Manure management
- ◆ Feed management to reduce enteric emissions
- ◆ Buffers, wetland and grassland management, and tree planting on working lands
- ◆ Agroforestry and afforestation on working lands
- ◆ Afforestation/reforestation and sustainable forest management
- ◆ Planting for high carbon sequestration rate
- ◆ Maintaining and improving forest soil quality
- ◆ Increase on-site carbon storage through forest stand management
- ◆ Alternate wetting and drying on rice fields
- ◆ Climate-smart pasture practices, such as prescribed grazing or legume interseeding
- ◆ Soil amendments, like biochar

Who Can Apply

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is accepting project applications for fiscal year 2022.

A wide range of public and private entities may apply, including:

- County, city or township governments
- Special district governments
- State governments
- Small businesses
- For profit organizations other than small businesses
- Native American tribal governments (Federally recognized)
- Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments)
- Nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) (other than institutions of higher education)
- Private institutions of higher education
- Public and State-controlled institutions of higher education



How to Apply

The opportunity is available to partners who serve producers of all sizes and all methods and all locations and all types of production. Primary applicant/recipient must be an entity, not an individual.

Applicants must submit their applications via [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on:

April 8, 2022 – First Funding pool

Proposals are from \$5 million to \$100 million are in the first funding pool and should include large-scale pilot projects that emphasize the greenhouse gas benefits of climate-smart commodity production and include direct, meaningful benefits to a representative cross-section of production agriculture, including small and/or historically underserved producers

May 27, 2022 – Second Funding Pool

Proposals are from \$250,000 to \$4,999,999 are in the second funding pool and are limited to particularly innovative pilot projects. These projects should place an emphasis on:

- ◆ Enrollment of small and/or underserved producers, and/or
- ◆ Monitoring, reporting and verification activities developed at minority-serving institutions.

There is no specific match requirement for this funding opportunity. Applications will be evaluated, in part, on the relative contribution of non-Federal resources to the project when appropriate. This will be taken into consideration through an equity lens to ensure that the ability to secure a non-federal match is not a barrier to participation.

USDA is committed to equity in program delivery and is specifically seeking proposals from entities serving all types of producers, including small or historically underserved producers. In addition, sufficient incentives to encourage producer participation, as well as, generation of verifiable greenhouse gas reductions and carbon sequestration are critical to project success and will be considered in the evaluation criteria.

For more information and resources to support your application, visit usda.gov/climate-smart-commodities.