Opportunity Fund of the P4D Initiative

Purpose

The Opportunity Fund (OF) is a small pot of money — between USD 50,000 and 70,000 across the two-year extension period — to support P4D's objective of strengthening farmer-led research and farmer-managed seed systems through concrete farmer-researcher collaborations in West and East/Southern Africa. The fund will operate as a series of small consultancies contracted by Oxfam Novib, structured to feel and function like collaborative pilot projects.

1. What it funds

- Small, (pilot-like) farmer-researcher collaborations that are **co-designed** between a farmer organization and a researcher or research institution;
- Concrete, shareable output — a participatory varietal evaluation, a community seed bank documentation exercise, a joint learning write-up, a policy-relevant case study, a joint proposal for a bigger funding scheme, holding a training event;

Initiatives and activities need to be completable within a few months and within a small budget (approximately USD 5,000–15,000 per pilot). Larger amounts can be discussed, depending on the proposal and the volume of applications.

It does NOT FUND infrastructure, organisational running costs, activities that duplicate existing work or that either party would have undertaken anyway without the support.

2. Who can apply

- Applications must be submitted by pairs or small consortia that include at least one farmer organization and one researcher or research institution based in West Africa or East/Southern Africa. Priority will be given to partnerships already identified through the mapping exercise, demonstrating strong farmer agency, co-creation, and equitable collaboration with research actors.
- Either the farmer organization or the research institution may serve as the lead applicant.
- NGOs and CSOs may participate in two different ways depending on their profile: farmer-embedded CSOs/NGOs with a long track record of direct farmer work and strong community roots may serve as the farmer-side applicant, provided they can demonstrate genuine farmer representation and agency in the proposed activity: larger or intermediary NGOs may join the consortium in a supporting role — such as facilitation, coordination, capacity strengthening, or policy engagement — but should not replace farmer leadership or research functions.
- To ensure broad participation, no organization may be involved in more than two applications.

3. Contracting arrangements

- The different parties may be contracted individually by Oxfam Novib as separate consultancies, or the consortium may nominate a lead applicant responsible for receiving and allocating funds. In all cases, the roles, responsibilities, and budget distribution of each partner must be clearly stated in the application and validated by the Secretariat before contracting.
- Funds received by a lead organisation may be disbursed to others through Subcontracting or direct invoicing

The RFPs and the P4D Secretariat can help the consortium identify the most efficient and transparent mechanism for their collaboration.

4. Evaluation criteria

The following criteria will guide the assessment:

- Partnership quality: the activity is genuinely co-designed between a farmer organisation and a research institution; both parties have a real and equitable role.
- Farmer agency: the farmer organisation is an active partner in the research process, not merely a data source or beneficiary.
- Concrete and shareable output: the activity produces a tangible result (a field evaluation, a case study, a joint write-up, a joint proposal) that can be shared with the broader P4D community.
- Relevance and connection: the activity builds on or connects to existing initiatives (RiD, FMSS CoP, Farmer Research Networks, or other P4D-adjacent work) and contributes to the FMSS evidence base.
- Additionality: the support makes a difference — the activity would not have happened, or not in this form, without the Opportunity Fund.

5. How and when to apply

⇒ **Deadline for submission (first round): 14 November 2026, response within approximately 4–6 weeks.**

⇒ **Expected duration of activity: approx. 6 months (flexible depending on the proposal)**

To submit an expression of interest, complete the application form below and send it by email to your Regional Focal Person and the Secretariat:

West Africa: Alioune Mbow (ga.mbow@sck-africa.org) and Boubacar Amadou Kountche (boubacar.amadou_kountche@cirad.fr)

East & Southern Africa: Daud Manongi (dmanongi@tabio.or.tz) and Gea Galluzzi (gea.galluzzi@oxfamnovib.nl)

Any further question on the Fund may also be directed to the above contact persons.

Opportunity Fund Application form

Title of Activity

1. Applicant team

	Farmer organisation	Research institution / researcher
Name of organisation:		
Name of contact person:		
Address:		
Email address:		
Target country / region:		
Brief description of organisation *(max 50 words):*		

Attachments (optional at this stage)

The following documents may be attached to support your application. They are not mandatory for the expression of interest — full details will be requested at contracting stage:

- Brief institutional profile of the farmer organisation / CSO (max. 1 page)
- Brief institutional profile of the research institution (max. 1 page)
- CV of the lead researcher, if already identified (max. 2 pages)

2. Aim and objectives of the initiative (max. 200 words)

Indicate aim and objectives of the activity or opportunity. Describe the expected output(s) and how the activity will contribute to farmer-led research or farmer-managed seed systems.

3. Approach and timeframe (max. 200 words)

Briefly describe *how* you plan to carry out the activity, who will do what, and over what timeframe. Explain how it connects to existing collaborations or initiatives (e.g. RiD, FMSS CoP, Farmer Research Networks).

4. Budget

Provide the requested amount for each party and a brief description of how funds will be used (max. 100 words). Funds cover consultancy fees for the applicant team. Activities should be completable within USD 5,000–15,000.

Requested amount — farmer organisation (USD):	
Requested amount — research institution / researcher (USD):	
Total requested amount (USD):	
Brief description of how funds will be used (max. 100 words):	

Note: contracts will be subject to Dutch VAT (21%).