



Open Call

nexBio Amazônia

Swiss-Brazilian Sustainable Innovation Program for the Bioeconomy

Swissnex in Brazil, together with the St.Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America (GIMLA-HSG), the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (Fiocruz), the Amazon Foundation for Research and Studies of the state of Pará (FAPESPA), and with the support of the Social Service of Commerce (SESC) are pleased to announce the first edition of the Swiss-Brazilian Open Innovation Program for the Bioeconomy, nexBio Amazônia.

Purpose of the Call

The nexBio Amazônia bilateral innovation program aims to initiate sustainable innovation projects in the Amazon region. It shall act as a platform and catalyst for new international partnerships between Switzerland and Brazil to develop and implement projects and solutions contributing to a sustainable and efficient bioeconomy. In response to the immediate threats of climate change and the loss of biodiversity, the main goal of this call is to kickstart short-term, easy and fast-to-implement solutions that improve the sustainability and efficiency of existing production chains in the Amazon. The focus of the nexBio Amazônia program is to solve specific problems endemic to the region, is open to various kinds of solutions, and is designed to be compatible with other programs and funding mechanisms from Brazil and/or Switzerland (integrated or afterwards, e.g. Embrapii-Innosuisse Techmakers Call).



Services & Support

The nexBio Amazônia program is designed to substantially accelerate the implementation process of sustainable technologies and therefore offers:

- Targeted introductions and matchmaking with relevant customers, investors, and business partners as well as local stakeholders from industry, academia, government, and civil society
- Immersion in the local innovation ecosystem and culture through workshops, mentoring, and networking events
- Guided field trips to local production sites in the Amazon rainforest
- Connection with complementing local and international startup programs, accelerators, and funding mechanisms to guarantee the continuation of the product implementation
- Internationalization counseling, market intelligence, and scouting services
- Support for development and testing of service and business model
- Logistic and administrative support

The costs for travel and accommodation as well as for on-site trips, transportation, events, and meals will be fully covered by the program partners. The nexBio Amazônia program will take place in the Brazilian state of Pará during a period of two weeks, from Monday, July 22, 2024 to Friday, August 02, 2024.



Focus Areas

The startups must contribute to the development of ready to market solutions for products, technology based services or methods, which have a significant market potential to bring sustainable change to existing production chains in the Amazon.

The focus areas allow for a wide range of technical solutions that are prominent in Switzerland: Big Data, Automation, AI, Blockchain, Food Technology, Sensors & Hardware, Software, Carbon Solutions, Synthetic Biology & Biomimicry, Nanobiotechnology, Clean Energy Solutions, New Materials, Automation, etc.

The nexBio Amazônia program remains open for various types of applications and places importance on the transferability of technologies across industries. However, after careful consultation of local experts and stakeholders, the program will initially prioritize and direct innovative technologies towards the following industries that have a particularly high potential and urgent need for innovative solutions:

- Cacao & Cupuaçu (Amazonian edible fruit)
- Essential Oils
- Fishing Industry
- Other non-timber forest products (fruits, medical plants, etc.)

During the co-creation workshop with local stakeholders of the Amazon region from academia, industry, government, and civil society, the need for the following solutions were especially highlighted:

- Supply Chain Optimization & Automation
- Quality Assurance Technologies & Traceability
- Information and Communication Technologies & Management
- Community Empowerment & Social Innovation

Whereas all sustainable solutions applicable to the local context of the Amazon region are eligible, startups with innovations in the fields determined by the local stakeholders will be preferred.



Eligibility

All applications must meet the following eligibility criteria to be qualified for evaluation:

- The startup must demonstrate a strong case on how their solution will contribute to the sustainable development of the local economy and ecosystem
- The project must be aligned with and strive for the SDGs
- The company must be registered in Switzerland or Brazil. The founder or team member can apply to this call regardless of their nationality.
- The startup has a ready-to-market solutions that, with the right partners, can be implemented in the short-term (minimum TRL 5, Ideal TRL 7 or higher)
- The solution should be a science-based innovation and add value to the bilateral cooperation in both countries.

Only fully-filled proposals meeting all eligibility criteria will be considered for evaluation.

Application

Applications shall be submitted in electronic format only through the online application form by midnight on **Monday, March 11, 2024**. Please submit the complete application on the Swissnex website according to the instructions. [Here you can find the link](#). The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the formal requirements are fulfilled, and that the content is accurate and complete. Otherwise, the application cannot be considered. All information provided in the administrative part and all uploaded documents must be written in English.

Evaluation and Selection

The eligible applications will be evaluated by Swissnex in Brazil and the nexBio Amazônia program partners who will select up to 10 startups from Switzerland and up to 10 startups from Brazil. The principal guiding criteria is the alignment of the application with the purpose of the call. To ensure the match of the technological solutions with the local challenges and context of the Amazon region, the evaluation process will be conducted with the consultation of local experts from academia, industry, government, and civil society. Pre-selected applicants will be invited for an online interview where they will pitch their startup (3 minutes), followed by a Q&A (3 minutes). If accepted, the participants will be asked to sign a commitment form and will be required to write a 5-page final report after the program is finished.



Timeline

Mon, January 22, 2024	Launch of Call for application
Mon, January 22, 2024	Launch and Info Event Zurich
Wed, January 24, 2024	Launch and Info Event Lausanne
Mon, March 11, 2024	Application Deadline
Thu, March 14, 2024	Announcement of pre-selection & invitation for interviews
Mon, March 18, 2024 - Wed, March 20, 2024	Interviews with pre-selected candidates: Startup Pitch + Q&A
Tue, March 26, 2024	Announcement of selected candidates
Wed, May 29, 2024	Online Kick-Off Meeting
June - July 2024	Online Preparation Phase
Mon, July 22, 2024 - Fri, August 02, 2024	nexBio Amazônia program in the Amazon rainforest
Mon, September 02, 2024	Follow-up meeting and deadline for the 5-page final report

Contact Information

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