CIRCULAR BIO-ECONOMY INNOVATION CHALLENGE

BAIF Development Research Foundation, Pune is pleased to invite students from your esteemed institute to participate in the ***Circular Bio-Economy Innovation Challenge!*** **on 7th & 8th October 2024 at Pune.** The Challenge is organised under the **Circular Bio-Economy Innovation Hub** established through the **One CGIAR Nature Positive Solutions initiative**.

BAIF in collaboration with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is hosting this Challenge for students to encourage young innovators to showcase their innovative ideas around the concept of circularity and provide them exposure to evolving technologies and innovation through interaction with global experts at boot camp. The Challenge consists of 2 rounds and selected 5 participants/teams will get a chance to attend the 2 day Boot camp at Pune and win exciting prizes.

ABOUT THE EVENT

The purpose of organizing a Challenge around the topic of circularity models for bio/organic waste is to foster innovation and creativity in tackling one of the most pressing environmental challenges of our time. By engaging young minds in this event, we aim to inspire a deeper understanding of the principles of circularity- where waste is not just disposed of, but transformed into valuable resources, creating a closed-loop system. This Challenge will provide a platform for students to brainstorm, collaborate, and develop novel solutions that can effectively manage and repurpose organic waste. Through this process, participants will gain hands-on experience in sustainability practices, enhance their problem-solving skills, and potentially uncover groundbreaking approaches that can be scaled and implemented in real-world scenarios. Ultimately, this initiative will not only contribute to environmental sustainability but also cultivate a generation of environmentally conscious innovators.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

India, with its burgeoning population and rapid urbanization, faces significant challenges in managing organic solid waste (OSW). The country generates about 62 million tons of municipal solid waste annually, of which approximately 50-60% is organic. In rural areas, the management of agricultural waste, kitchen waste, and livestock manure poses additional challenges. The existing linear waste management system, characterized by the “take-make-dispose” approach, leads to environmental degradation, health issues, and loss of valuable nutrients from the soil. In the current linear consumption system, nutrients are drained from villages through agricultural produce and are often lost in the waste disposal process. This nutrient loss depletes soil fertility and necessitates the use of synthetic fertilizers, which have environmental and health impacts. Circularity solutions can return these nutrients to the soil, promoting sustainable agriculture and reducing dependence on chemical inputs.

ELIGIBILITY

This Challenge is open and offered solely to:

- Students regardless of their subject background who are currently pursuing their Graduation or Post-graduation from any university registered in India
- Has an interest in developing innovative circularity solutions around organic waste
- Is not a member or directly involved in any private commercial enterprise

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Individuals or Team (Maximum of 4 members) can register
  **Female students are highly encouraged to participate*
- Develop your innovative solution for the circularity of organic waste

Themes	Agricultural waste	Livestock waste	Food waste	Human waste	Muncipal organic waste

- Submit your innovative solution to the Challenge along with the registration form

  See *Guidelines and Judging Criteria* before registration
- Get a chance to secure a spot among the top 5 teams
- The selected top 5 teams get a chance to participate in a 2-day residential boot camp, jointly organized by BAIF and IWMI and win exciting prizes

CHALLENGE PROCESS

A. Round One - Qualifiers

All Round One Deliverables must be submitted by **September 10th, 2024, 23:59 IST**.

1. Registration of the Individual/team as per the registration form
2. A presentation of their Project, in English and produced in PDF format with up to 15 slides to explain their innovation needs to be submitted along with the registration form
3. A short video of maximum 3 minutes explaining the innovation (optional)

B. Round Two- Boot Camp and Grand Finals

The Boot camp and final round will take place from **October 7th to October 8th, 2024 at Pune.** Venue details will be communicated later. The Boot camp will provide participants opportunity to learn form renowed experts and will get exosure to emerging technologies around circularity.

The Boot camp will provide participants unmatched exposure to –

1. Hands-on training on innovative circularity solutions
2. Seminars/Webinars to understand the science behind different circularity solutions
3. Exposure to international experts and case studies

Final round of Challenge: The top 5 participants will present their innovations in person to a panel of domain experts.

Format: 20 minutes for presenting their Innovative Solution, 10 min Q&A (LIVE).

**Registration for and participation in the Challenge is free*
**refer to Guidelines and Judging Criteria before submission*
**all travel and lodging expenses for the boot camp & final round will be covered by the Organiser*

PRIZE

The prizes are awarded to the winners of the Challenge as per the following sequence.
Grand Prize – Top Innovative Solution– Rs 50,000/-
1st Runner up – Rs 30,000/-
Other three finalists – Rs. 10,000/-

**The prize will be awarded to the team or individual responsible for developing the winning Innovative Solution. In the case of a team, the prize will be presented to the team as a whole, not to individual members of the team.*