

Order of the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation dated 27 August 2014, no. DME-2014.7896, laying down policy rules and a ceiling for grants awarded under the Grant Regulations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2006 (Geodata for Agriculture and Water Facility 2014-2015)

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,

Having regard to article 6 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grants Decree;
Having regard to article 10.2 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006:

Orders:

Article 1

For the granting of subsidies under Article 10.2 of the Grant Regulations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2006 within the framework of the second call of the Geodata for Agriculture and Water Facility, the policy rules in the annex to this Order apply from the date this Order comes into force to 31 December 2015.

Article 2

1. For the granting of subsidies within the framework of the second call of the Geodata for Agriculture and Water Facility, a grant limit of € 30.5 million applies for the period from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2015.

2. The grant is subject to the condition that for the part of the grant borne by a budget that has not been adopted yet, sufficient funds will be made available.

Article 3

Grant applications within the framework of the second call of the Geodata for Agriculture and Water Facility will be submitted from the moment this decision comes into force up to and including 27 February 2015 (15.00 hrs. CET) using the application form identified for this purpose and with the documents requested in the application form.¹

Article 4

The available funds will be allocated in accordance with a qualitative assessment based on the criteria stipulated in the policy rules, on the understanding that of all the applications that meet the criteria, those applications that meet these criteria best first qualify for the granting of subsidies, within the framework of a balanced allocation as referred to in article 8, third paragraph, subsection d, of the Grant Decision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

This decision shall enter into force as of the day following the date of the Staatscourant (Government Gazette) in which it is published and expires as of 1 January 2016, on the understanding that it remains applicable to grants awarded prior to that date.

¹ See <http://www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw>.

This Order and its accompanying annex shall be published in the Government Gazette.

The Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation,
on the Minister's behalf,
the Director-General for International Cooperation,

A.C.C. Rebergen

ANNEX TO 'GEODATA FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATER FACILITY 2014-2015 (G4AW FACILITEIT)'

1. Introduction

The Geodata for Agriculture and Water (G4AW) Facility is a facility of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the policy priority of food security that focuses on improved and increased sustainable food production and, with respect to water, on the efficient use of water in agriculture and irrigation and on water catchment areas used for this in partner countries and partner transition countries, hereafter to be referred to as the G4AW partner countries. The G4AW Facility fills a niche in the current range of instruments by creating opportunities for new combinations of cooperating parties (public-private cooperation), each with its own contribution (knowledge, entrepreneurship, network, financial means).

The Minister has decided to publish two calls for proposals for the G4AW Facility: in 2013 and 2014 respectively. This annex constitutes the guideline for the assessment of the subsidy applications within the scope of this second call for the G4AW Facility.

The main changes in the current policy rules compared to those of the first call are:

- A maximum subsidy of EUR 30.5 million is available for this round of the G4AW.
- The minimum amount per application is EUR 500 000, the maximum amount remains unchanged.
- The size of the target group to be reached has been reduced to 100 000 for agriculture/farmers and/or 50 000 for fishermen and/or 50 000 for agropastoralists.
- The list of countries has been extended in order to better facilitate a regional approach.
- For G4AW transition countries the subsidy amount is 60%. The rules with respect to the own contribution have been simplified.
- The project may be extended (cost-neutrally) with one year.
- The rules with respect to the composition of the partnership and the partnership cooperation agreement have been simplified. The applicant may be from any country and there is at least one Dutch partner. The partnership comprises at least one public and at least one private organisation. Signing a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) or a LoI (Letter of Intent) suffices for a public partner should there be objections to signing the partnership cooperation agreement.

With respect to development cooperation, the Netherlands government directs its efforts towards food security, water and sustainable economic growth and activity. With the current increase in efforts towards economic development, the aim is to increase the self-reliance of developing countries. The private sector, here and in G4AW partner countries, plays an important part in achieving this. These efforts tie in with the priorities of food security and water use in particular, to which satellite information and advice make an important contribution. A connection is sought with the leading agricultural sectors, including livestock farming, horticulture, aquaculture and water. Cooperation between various parties, both public and private, is in many situations an effective strategy used to contribute to an inclusive growth, meaning economic activity small food producers and entrepreneurs also benefit from. Food producers are those persons actively involved in the food producing sector, such as farmers, fishermen or agropastoralists.

The G4AW Facility aims to facilitate the realisation of partnerships between parties (private sector, NGOs, knowledge institutes, public organisations) from at least the Netherlands and the G4AW partner country. These initiatives are aimed at the demand-oriented use of satellite data to improve the food production, the water use by food producers such as farmers, agropastoralists, water managers and fishermen, and the improvement of income security of the food producers. Parties in the partnership make means available, both financial and non-financial, on the basis of a detailed plan.

The G4AW Facility ties in with the new policy for development cooperation as set out in the Policy Document "What the World Deserves: A New Agenda for Aid, Trade and Investments"², the letter of the Dutch Lower House "Elaboration of the Food Security Policy"³ and the letter of the Dutch Lower House "Water in Development"⁴. Central to the new policy are trade and development, sustainable economic growth, food security and water, self-reliance of developing countries and transition countries and additional attention for global issues.

The G4AW Facility is intended for activities in those countries included in the G4AW country list. The country list used for the 2013-2014 call has been extended with a number of countries for the 2014-2015 call in order to facilitate a regional approach. This country list is found in 'admission criteria' (section 4.3) and is included in annex 1.

The Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation has assigned the execution of this Subsidy Policy Framework to the Netherlands Space Office, the administrative agency of the Dutch government for the space policy. The Netherlands Space Office will carry out these policy rules on behalf of and mandated by the Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation.

In this policy framework, chapter 2 first outlines the policy principles that constitute the basis for the G4AW Facility. Chapter 3 describes the assessment procedure of the subsidy applications. Subsequently, chapter 4 describes the criteria based on the policy principles.

2. Policy-related principles

2.1 G4AW Objective and Policy Themes

The themes of food security and water focus on:

- 1) increase in sustainable production
- 2) better access to healthy food
- 3) more efficient markets
- 4) improved entrepreneurial climate
- 5) more efficient use of water in agriculture
- 6) an improved water catchment management

² *Parliamentary Papers II*, 2012/13, 33625, no. 0001 "What the World Deserves: A New Agenda for Aid, Trade and Investments," (BIS 049 2013 env 2013.3892, 5 April 2013).

³ *Parliamentary Papers II*, 2011/12, 32605 no. 0054 "Elaboration of the Food Security Policy" (DDE-435a/2011, 24 October 2011).

⁴ *Parliamentary Papers II*, 2011/12, 32605 no. 0065 "Water for Development" (DME/MW – 004/2012, 9 January 2012).

The objective of the G4AW Facility is to improve sustainable food production by providing demand-oriented and relevant information and services on a wide scale, correctly and timely to the agricultural and fishing sector based on satellite data and, if necessary, supplemented with other data sources. Effective water use is a vital element in food production and is therefore an important and integral part of the G4AW Facility. Modern techniques are used to reach the end user which include mobile telephony and the Internet in addition to traditional mass media such as the radio and television. Activities such as the accumulation of knowledge and training of the food producers by local actors (extension officers, NGOs, etc.) are crucial to reinforce confidence and make the link with the action perspective of the food producer.

Further details of the reason for and the policy-related implementations of the G4AW Facility are listed below.

- The G4AW Facility aims to increase the large-scale use of satellite data-based services in G4AW partner countries (see section 4.3, admission criterion a) and with that reach at least 3 million food producers.
- The World Bank has calculated that food production should increase by 70% in order to feed the world population in 2050. FAO statistics show that at least 300 million people work in the agricultural sector in the G4AW partner countries.
- The World Food Organisation (FAO) and the World Bank recognise the importance of geodata for agriculture, water management and climate adaptation. Food production starts with the producer. It is important to support this target group with production-relevant information, in which satellite data play a crucial role with respect to the upscaling of services and reaching millions of food producers.
- Large-scale information services using new technologies and new media contribute to the increase in investment security in agriculture (reduction of risks, e.g. through advisory services, early warning services), the acceleration of economic development (reducing damage to food production, improved market information, reduction of waste, increase and improvement of production methods) and sustainability by reducing energy consumption, raw materials and water (which reduces costs). Use of mobile phones in G4AW partner countries varies per country and is rapidly on the increase. The use of mobile phones to pass on advice and price information is gaining momentum in many of these countries.
- Satellites provide data objectively, timely and promptly which, once processed, supply information that is relevant to food producers. These data can be used globally, regionally, nationally, and locally. Moreover, time series of approximately 30 years can be derived from weather satellite data. This makes satellite data the only possibility to make a large-scale contribution to the provision of information for the optimisation of food production and water use. A focus on supply, use, acceptance and upscaling of reliable satellite information and advice most certainly yields a higher return on development against lower costs than a traditional, mostly geographically-limited approach with a local, diversified infrastructure which is usually outdated.
When we talk about satellite data, we refer to imaging data from earth observation satellites, possibly supplemented with positioning data such as GPS and other types of geodata.

2.2. Expected results from the G4AW Facility

At facility level, the G4AW Facility aims to achieve the following impact and outcome.

Expected impact:

- Improved food production or yield;
- Increase in sustainable agriculture including water use;

- Improved income security of food producers.

Expected outcome:

- A (new) market for the supply of information services in G4AW partner countries and partner transition countries (economic activity);
- Sustainable cooperation between G4AW partners aimed at the continuation and self-financing of the information provision and advisory services;
- Farmers make effective use of information, advice and products originating from the use of satellite data;
- More effective use of inputs (sustainability); at least 10% more effective use of inputs such as fertilizers, water, seeds and pesticides and/or an increase in the food production of at least 10% and/or an improved income. This compared to a baseline measurement which is part of the Grant application.

Explanation of the expected impact and outcome:

- There is a strong focus within the G4AW Facility on the need of the food producer: it is the ambition to reach at least 3 million food producers in the G4AW countries within the time frame of the G4AW Facility. Half of the food producers that are reached directly actually make use of the supplied information or services.
- It is the ambition to use correct and timely satellite information and advice to contribute to sustainable production by realising a 10% more effective use of inputs and a 10% improved production (compared to the baseline study) and risk-mitigating measures.
- One of the G4AW Facility's key features is that the information chain from satellite providers to food producers is covered using modern technologies and modern media.
- In order to make proper use of the spatial data and information, food producers need to have a certain level of knowledge and education.
- It is assumed that a proper use of data and information leads to a more efficient and sustainable business operation and/or more efficient water use and/or an improved income position, e.g. by using risk-mitigating measures. This is not easy to measure. Several factors play a part in food production which the G4AW Facility cannot influence. It is a known fact that improved business operations generally lead to higher income. The G4AW Facility will ascertain whether and how it can be demonstrated that a better use of spatial data and information actually results in more efficient business operations and/or a better income.
- Possible products and services: support to farmers, agropastoralists, fishermen, for example with respect to:
 - business operations including crop monitoring, prediction of crop yield, market information, weather information, water use and irrigation advice, optimisation of crop differentiation (production, income), soil type and use
 - risk-mitigating measures including available insurances combined with the provision of relevant information for food producers, access to credits/loans and investments, improved market information and timely measures in the event of calamities, e.g. diseases, drought, flooding (risk management).
 - regional area management for food producers including land use, planning, resource management, water regime

2.3. For whom and what are the subsidies intended?

The G4AW Facility represents global cooperation and provides opportunities to combine mutually reinforcing interests with respect to food security and water in developing countries using knowledge of and experience with satellite data and the agricultural and water sector in businesses.

The G4AW subsidises partnership activities where the market fails, because the risk is considered to be too high (in accordance with OESO-DAC guidelines⁵) and which (may) ultimately lead to economic activities that are in line with the market (for example the development and implementation of a business model, such as for the paid provision of demand-oriented information via means of communication, index-based micro insurances or via a link to the sale of nutrients and seeds). The use of the private sector's knowledge and know-how are vital for this.

The following principles apply to a partnership:

- A partnership shall consist of: at least one organisation established in the Netherlands other than the Dutch government and at least one organisation from the G4AW partner country. The partnership comprises at least one public and at least one private organisation and may be supplemented with public and/or private organisations, whether or not from countries other than G4AW partner countries.
- The entire information chain from satellite data to services to the food producer should be covered by activities of the partnership.
- The partnership is in direct contact with the target group (end user of the proposed service) or with the representative(s) of this target group.
- A partnership may enter into an agreement outside the direct partnership with organisations that contribute to the realisation of the project and who are essential to the sustainable provision of the envisaged services; these may be international organisations, local (governmental) organisations, NGOs, etc.
- A written agreement signed by all participating parties which guarantees the partners' willingness to cooperate as well as the compliance with mutual agreements after the subsidy has been granted. Fulfilment of the obligations of the subsidy towards the Minister shall also be guaranteed through the agreement.
- For the description of the obligations of the subsidy's recipient, should the subsidy be granted, one is referred to section 6.

2.4. Financial rules

The following principles apply to the granting of the subsidy:

- The lower limit of a request for subsidy is € 500 000; the upper limit is € 5 million.
- The subsidy is granted to the applicant of the partnership. The subsidy is granted in accordance with Dutch law.
- The subsidy is granted with respect to those costs made by the partnership that are necessary and are directly linked to the project. These costs may consist of:
 - costs for technical assistance, such as project management (including travel and subsistence allowance), development costs, costs for operational upscaling of information provision, training, local capacity building, development/modification of local regulations, advice, validation, certification

⁵ For the OESO-DAC guidelines, see www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw

- costs of durable capital goods, infrastructure and required services (also those of third parties) (including hardware and/or software and/or satellite images) that are put to use for the information chain in the G4AW partner country, with the exception of buildings and land
- Those costs that explicitly do not qualify for subsidy include VAT, working capital such as loans and guarantees to food producers and also inputs such as seeds, pesticides, etc.
- Based on article 9 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Decree ('Subsidiebesluit Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken') no subsidy will be granted in case the subsidy is applied for after the project activities have started.
- Activities that are carried out before the decision to award the subsidy, and which are meant for the preparation of the project, will not lead to a rejection of the subsidy, but the associated costs will not qualify for coverage by the subsidy.
- Organisations that receive an institutional subsidy from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs may not be a grant applicant on behalf of the partnership.
- A maximum of 70% subsidy is granted for eligible costs for G4AW partner countries and a maximum of 60% for G4AW transition partner countries.
- The partnership demonstrates that during the implementation period of the project the own contribution (30% of the costs for projects carried out in G4AW partner countries and 40% of the costs for projects carried out in G4AW transition partner countries) can be funded. When the own contribution will be financed by the companies in the partnership, this will be reflected in a higher score in the assessment. For this purpose, one is referred to section 4.4 Assessment criteria. Own contributions may include contributions eligible for funding by organisations that are not part of the partnership.
- For regional activities that encompass G4AW partner countries as well as G4AW partner transition countries the subsidy amount and, correspondingly, the amount of the own contribution, will be determined in proportion to the envisaged size of the target group (the expected number (percentage) of food producers to be reached) in the different countries.

The annexes (project plan, template for project costs) of the application form include a further explanation of the eligible and non-eligible costs.

2.5. Monitoring and Evaluation

2.5.1 M&E on facility level

Monitoring and Evaluation is intended to identify which outcome and impact are achieved with the G4AW Facility and projects financed by it. The output of the G4AW Facility is largely the sum of the results of the separate projects.

2.5.2 M&E on project level

The requirements imposed on the grant recipients with respect to monitoring and evaluation have been incorporated in the assessment criteria (section 4.4) and in obligations relating to the implementation of the project (see section 6).

3. Application procedure

When the second call of the G4AW Facility is opened, those organisations that are interested will be given the opportunity to attend an information meeting of the G4AW Facility.

Request for Advice

In order to reduce the administrative burden, potential grant applicants have the opportunity to submit a (non-binding) Request for Advice prior to submitting an application to the Netherlands Space Office. The Request for Advice is intended to prevent that project plans that do not match the scope of G4AW are being elaborated into a detailed full project proposal. The advice is non-binding, cannot legally remunerate any raised expectations and is not aimed at legal decision. If despite a negative opinion the applicant still intends to submit an application, then there is no legal impediment whatsoever.

The template for the Request for Advice can be downloaded from the website: www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw. The Request for Advice should be in English, complete and in writing (1 original) and submitted at the Netherlands Space Office for the attention of G4AW Programme Office in accordance with the Request for Advice template. The completed Request for Advice can be submitted from 15 September to 28 November 2014, 15.00 hrs. CET, at the Netherlands Space Office. After receiving the Request for Advice, a project adviser of the Netherlands Space Office will confirm the receipt and contact you as soon as possible to discuss the analysis of the submitted Request for Advice. Partnerships are strongly recommended to make use of this advisory service. A partnership can submit only one Request for Advice per project proposal. Per partnership, the envisaged grant applicant should submit the Request for Advice.

Grant Application

Grant Applications should be complete and in writing (1 original and 3 copies; annual reports only in digital form) and submitted to Netherlands Space Office for the attention of G4AW Programme Office in accordance with the Application form. At the same time an electronic copy on a USB stick should be submitted. The Grant Application must be submitted in time. The final date of submission for the Grant Application is 27 February 2015, 15.00 hrs. (CET).

With respect to the application procedure, explicit reference is made to Article 7, third paragraph, of the Grant Decree of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Should an application not be complete when submitted, the Minister may request a supplement. The date the application was supplemented will subsequently be considered as the date of receipt of the application. If an application is not submitted until the last **two weeks prior to the deadline** (27 February 2015, 15:00 hrs. CET), the applicant runs the risk of the Minister not applying his authority to request a supplement from the applicant, since it is no longer possible to request such a supplement without the deadline being exceeded. In this case the application can no longer be supplemented and the version that was originally submitted will be assessed.

In the case of an incomplete application, 13 February 2015 will be the final date for any supplements to be requested.

The address where the Request for Advice and the Grant Application should be submitted are:

Netherlands Space Office

attn. G4AW Programme Office

Prinses Beatrixlaan 2 | 2595 AL | The Hague | the Netherlands (visiting address)

The Grant Applications should be written in English. The name of the applicant and the names of the other partners in the partnerships should be provided in the Application Forms. An authorised representative of the applicant should sign the Application form. In addition to the applicant, all partners of the partnership should sign the Application using a Partner Form.

The date and time of receipt of the application at the G4AW Programme Office is binding. The applicant will receive a written notice with the date and time of receipt and a reference number.

All the information and documentation required for a Request for Advice and the Grant Application can be found from 5 September 2014 at the latest at:
<http://www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw>

Administrative burden

The Minister for Foreign Affairs provides subsidies to organisations to allow them to start up activities under their own responsibility, within the framework of the Geodata for Agriculture and Water Facility.

In order to reduce the administrative burden, it has been decided to offer potential grant applicants to have a (non-binding) consultation based on his/her project idea. Following the received Requests for Advice, the NSO holds consultations with the applicants concerned. Applicants are free in their decision to follow this advice or not and to submit a Grant Application. Application for a Request for Advice and participating in a subsequent consultation is strongly recommended. The reason for this is to reduce the administrative burden for the applicants by providing advice and explanation on subsidy criteria and the requirements set to a grant application.

To submit a Request for Advice a standard Request for Advice form is used which summarizes the project idea (see www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw). This Request for Advice will be limited to a short description of the partnership, the project idea, the requirements of the target group, the business case and the information chain and will not be longer than ten pages.

The standard application forms are also used for the Grant Application itself, which prevents duplication of information. The Grant Application should be submitted in hard copy in quadruplicate as well as on a USB stick (see www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw).

As part of the efforts of the Dutch government to reduce the administrative burden for Dutch Grant Applicants it has, with respect to the second call of the G4AW Facility, been examined which estimated costs accompany a grant request. Assuming an hourly rate of € 49.00 and 30 grant applicants, rounded off this amounts to 470 hours and approx. € 23 000 on internal costs and approx. 1250 hours and € 61 000 on external costs. Rounded off, this results in the total estimated costs of 1720 hours and € 84 000 per grant application.

In the implementation process, the Minister conforms to the Uniform Subsidy Framework which was realised to reduce the administrative burden as much as possible.

4. Evaluation of the applications

4.1 Formal assessment

A formal assessment precedes the assessment of the content of the grant applications. In this assessment the timeliness and completeness of the grant application are verified. Grant requests not submitted in time are not eligible for subsidy.

In the context of the application procedure, explicit reference is made to Article 7, third paragraph, of the Grant Decree of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (see also Chapter 3 under *Grant Application*).

4.2 Assessment procedure

A grant application for a subsidy in the framework of the G4AW Facility will have to comply with certain assessment criteria. If the grant application complies with all formal criteria – see section 4.1 – further assessment will take place based on two types of criteria:

1. Admission criteria (section 4.3): criteria that have to be met by every application for a G4AW subsidy. No points are awarded; if one or more admission criteria are not met, the grant application will be rejected and will not be assessed further.
2. Assessment criteria (section 4.4) related to the quality of the grant application. Grant applications of insufficient quality will be rejected.

Please visit the G4AW website (www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw) for further details on all criteria and terminology used.

If not all admission criteria are met, the application is not eligible for a grant. If the assessment of the admission criteria does not result in a rejection, the grant application will be assessed using the assessment criteria (see section 4.4). Where necessary, advice will be sought and support will be gained from external experts and/or Dutch embassies in G4AW partner countries. Dutch embassies in G4AW partner countries have an important advisory role in the assessment.

The Netherlands Space Office will draw up an assessment report to be submitted to an independent and by the Minister established Advisory Committee for G4AW for advice.

The Advisory Committee for G4AW will present an advice that carries great weight to the Netherlands Space Office on the outcome of the G4AW grant applications assessment documented in the assessment report. The Advisory Committee for G4AW is authorised to review complete grant applications, if required.

The Netherlands Space Office, as mandated by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, will take a decision on the grant applications. When – in exceptional cases – the grant decision of the Netherlands Space Office deviates from the advice of the Advice Committee, rationale will be provided.

Grant decisions will be made within 22 weeks after the deadline for grant application.

4.3. Admission criteria

Each grant application should meet the admission criteria listed below in order to be eligible for subsidy.

- a) The grant application concerns activities in at least one of the following countries: G4AW partner countries in transition: Colombia, South Africa, Vietnam; G4AW partner countries: Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
- b) The requested grant is at least EUR 500 000 and at most EUR 5 000 000.
- c) The project should be completed within 3 years after the date the subsidy was granted. The NSO may extend a project budgetary neutral with a maximum of one year.
- d) The size of the target group of the application is at least 100,000 (one hundred thousand) for agriculture/farmers and/or 50,000 (fifty thousand) for fishermen and/or 50,000 (fifty thousand) for agropastoralists.
- e) Project proposals are aimed at an improvement of food production/yields and/or a more efficient use of the input for food production, such as water, seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and/or risk mitigation and/or income improvement of food producers by means of the provision of information services. A project proposal aimed at insurance services, loans and credits can only be submitted

when combined with the provision of relevant information services to the target groups.

- f) Satellite data form an indispensable and essential part of the information chain as the basis of the supplied service or product. Without the satellite data the proposed information service cannot be operational.
- g) Grant applications are submitted on behalf of a partnership which consists of at least:
 - A Dutch organisation other than the Netherlands government.
 - Not less than one organisation from the G4AW partner country for which the activity was set up.
 - Not less than one private organisation and one public organisation.
- h) All parties in the partnership are legal entities. Corporate rights are demonstrated by enclosed registration with the Chamber of Commerce and/or statutes (or local equivalent).
- i) The partnership is in direct contact with the target group (end user of the proposed information service) and/or with representative(s) of this target group and/or other intermediary organisations.
- j) The proposal demonstrates that during the implementation period the own contribution (30% for G4AW partner countries and 40% for partner transition countries) can be funded.

The own financial contribution of the partnership is not directly or indirectly coming from subsidies or contributions from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The own contribution of the partners of the partnership may be coming from different sources of funding. These include subsidies, loans to partners in the partnership and donations or investments in project partners by third parties, etc. Contributions from parties outside the partnership can be counted as the own contribution to the partnership. However, this funding may not directly or indirectly be coming from by a subsidy or contribution from the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs either.

- k) The activities of the partnership (including those activities carried out by any organisations outside the partnership) bridge the entire information chain from satellite data to services to the food producer.
- l) A written agreement signed by all participating parties that guarantees the partners' willingness to cooperate and the compliance with mutual agreements after granting of the subsidy. The agreement will also contain provisions on the way each of the parties contributes to the activities of the partnership and how decisions are made within the partnership. Fulfilling the obligations of the subsidy towards the Minister shall also be guaranteed through the agreement. If there is cooperation with a local government, and if no other option is available, the cooperation with this local government can be laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or a Letter of Intent (LoI).
- m) The participating parties declare to be acquainted with the requirement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to rule out the use of child and forced labour in the trade and investment chain. The participating parties also declare that they will act according to the OECD guidelines for multinational companies regarding ICSR and that the project activities to be funded are not on the FMO exclusion list. A link to this list can be found on the G4AW website (www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw).

4.4 Assessment criteria

The quality of the grant application (including annexes) is determined on the basis of all assessment criteria mentioned below and the degree of compliance with these criteria.

1. Quality of the Partnership:

- a) Those organisations involved in the partnership have a legal status, are financially healthy, have the right core competences and expertise with respect to the context and scope of the project and have experience with cooperating in a partnership. Partners demonstrate their core competences with respect to the scope of the project by providing examples (track record) and demonstrate that they have adequate resources (staff, infrastructure) to carry out the project.
- b) The extent to which the partnership has a strategic added value and is committed to this by achieving the project objectives. There is a synergy (thematic specialisation) between the parties. And the role of the different partners in the information chain are clearly defined and marked out.
- c) The extent to which the partnership has the right capacity to build sustainable relationships with customers of the services and to ensure that the customers have confidence in and accept the services.
- d) The private organisations that participate in the partnership have a policy with regard to Corporate Social Responsibility and can demonstrate this. This policy will be directed at the primary activities of the private organisation with respect to the responsibility in the supply chain and be proportional to the nature and size of the company and its activities. In situations where such a policy is lacking, the private organisation shall declare to draw up such a policy during the first year of the project implementation.
- e) The quality of the specification and substantiation of the partnership for the financial and administrative management of the project. The extent to which the partnership is formed and maintained is a transparent and clear process to all partners.
- f) The quality of the partnership: the partnership lays down agreements in a contract. This contract will contain at least the following elements (a checklist can be found on the website www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw):
 - Scope and objectives of the planned cooperation.
 - How each of the parties will contribute to the partnership, the way of cooperation and representation, and how decisions are made within the partnership.
 - Observing the obligations of the subsidy towards the Minister.
 - How authorisation and responsibilities will be defined and how the difference between management positions and supervisory positions has been organised.
 - Planning, monitoring and evaluation. The planning-monitoring-evaluation (pme) systems of all parties are aligned.
 - A plan for financial agreements, including the distribution of (ownership of) means, equipment/overhead costs (rates and partition), advances and settlements.
 - Ownership of proposed service(s).
 - The extent to which the participants bear the risks associated with the execution of the work and take measures to manage these risks.
 - Other provisions, including a dispute settlement, an anti-corruption policy, a sanctions policy, a complaints procedure and an exit strategy.

2. Quality of the Business Case:

- a) Business case: the business case is based on a thorough market analysis (including stakeholder analysis, problem analysis and a clear analysis of the social, economic and political factors in the country where the programme will be implemented) and a description and substantiation of the economic opportunities (including market size, market share, revenue analysis).
- b) Target group: the partnership demonstrates that the service is directed at the demand of the envisaged target group (food producers). The target group is specified and rationale is provided.

- c) Demand-driven: the partnership specifies and substantiates the demand-driven aspects and involvement of the target group, taking the position of women into account.
- d) Business Proposition: the partnership specifies and substantiates the business proposition, including the unique and specific nature of the partnership with respect to the business proposition.
- e) Not commercially viable: the partnership demonstrates that the service is not commercially viable during the implementation period of the project. The partnership demonstrates that the service is financially viable after the ending of the project without financial support of the Dutch Government. This will be substantiated by, for example, a standard template for a cash flow analysis for the project. The project proposal shall demonstrate that it will not disturb market conditions in the country where the project is implemented, nor in Europe.
- f) Local embedding: the partnership demonstrates that the service is affordable and useful and specifies and substantiates an approach that aims at creating trust with the client to ensure that the service is trusted and accepted. Examples are: training and capacity building, alignment with local systems and initiatives, the facilitating role of peripheral government organisations.
- g) Intellectual Property Rights: the partnership shows that an inventory and description of possible Intellectual Property Rights are made in such a manner that the services can be utilised for ongoing activities after the project.
- h) License-to-Operate: the partnership demonstrates that provision of the service is feasible in the partner country. There are no legal impediments and all input data are available.
- i) Synergy: the partnership demonstrates that provision of the service, where relevant, links to local initiatives and synergy with bilateral and international programmes is obtained.

3. Quality of the Project:

- a) Scope and description of the output (including the size of the target group and the percentage of women that will be reached).
- b) Scope and description of the outcome
- c) Scope and description of the impact.
- d) Scope and description of the results; these results shall be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely (SMART).
- e) The importance that the different participants of the partnership attach to the project, demonstrated by the allocation of the own contributions to the costs of the project implementation and the relation with the financial sustainability of the activities after the project. A higher own contribution by the companies in the partnership will be expressed by a higher score in the assessment.
A higher own contribution above the minimum specified standard of 30% (40% in the case of G4AW transition partner countries) will also be expressed by a higher score in the assessment.
- f) Determination of price-quality ratio: the size of the own contribution in relation to the total requested subsidy and the size of the target group to be reached.
- g) The description of the project-specific approach towards ODA themes, including the quality of the analysis of the International Corporate Social Responsibility (ICSR), sufficient coverage of the risks of climate change and environmental degradation or contribution to reduction of environmental degradation and/or climate adaptation, the approach towards gender aspects.⁶
- h) Quality of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (including risk analysis, planning, monitoring and corrective action, monitoring and evaluation, baseline measurement), including the themes mentioned under g).

⁶ For information on ODA criteria (IMVO analysis policy & cross-cutting themes of climate & environment and gender) see www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw

4. Feasibility of the Information Service:

- a) The partnership provides a clear description of the information service(s) and specifies the Unique Selling Points.
- b) The partnership substantiates the essential role and level of satellite data use for the information service(s). The partnership also identifies the possible limiting factors of the use of satellite data.
- c) The partnership substantiates the completeness of the information chain.
- d) Transmission channels: the partnership substantiates the use and reliability of transmission channels.
- e) Operational applicability: the partnership substantiates the operational applicability of elements of the information service(s).
- f) Validation: the partnership specifies and substantiates the validation of the information service and the mechanism for quality control.
- g) Quality: the partnership specifies and substantiates the implementation of quality control during and after the project.
- h) Data: the partnership specifies and substantiates access to (local) data, including the alliance with international and/or regional programmes.

A total of **370** points can be obtained as a result of the assessment of submitted applications. In addition, there is a required minimum score for each of the four items of section 4.4. Proposals that do not comply with this requirement will be rejected. The following ranking applies:

Proposal check	Minimum required score	Maximum score
Quality of the Partnership	45	75
Quality of the Business Case	75	125
Quality of the Project	45	110
Operational feasibility of the information service	30	60
TOTAL	195	370

Bonus: In addition to the 370 points that can be obtained as a result of the assessment, extra points will be awarded for a proposal for activities in one of the countries listed and indicated with (B) in Annex 1 of the Government Gazette nr. 24934, 5 September 2014. For each country eligible for bonus points 10 bonus points can be earned, up to a maximum of 30 points per proposal.

4.5 Guiding principles

Stipulations of the General Administrative Law Act ('Algemene wet Bestuursrecht'), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Decree ('Subsidiebesluit Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken') and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Grant Regulations 2006 ('Subsidieregeling

Ministerie van Buitenlandse Zaken') apply in full to the assessment of grant applications and the granting of subsidies.

Applications will be assessed in accordance with the above legislation and pursuant to the requirements set out in these administrative rules.

5. Allocation of the available budget

Assessment of the applications and the awarding and allocation of the available budget takes place through competitive bidding: the quality of all applications that meet the requirements set out in these administrative rules will be assessed according to the same criteria.

Allocation of the available budget takes place on the basis of the outcome of the assessment of the application with respect to the criteria of section 4.4.

If the available budget is not sufficient to completely fund all applications that were assessed positively, the budget will be allocated based on a ranking of the applications as a result of the assessment. Applications that best meet the criteria will qualify first for subsidy awarding, until the available budget is depleted, taking into account the framework of articles 8 and 14 of the Grant Decree of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It is therefore possible that a project proposal qualifies, but will be rejected nonetheless, because the available budget of the call for tender concerned is insufficient. Furthermore, it is possible that a grant allocation decision, with rationale provided, is taken to allocate a lower budget than requested, yet one that is feasible for implementation.

Based on this ranking, the Netherlands Space Office, mandated by the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation, takes the grant allocation decision.

6. Project implementation

The subsidy recipient is completely liable to the Minister for compliance with all obligations related to the subsidy, also in case the subsidy serves to fund activities of partners in the partnership or in case the activities are (partly) carried out by a partner. If a subsidy is granted, the awarding is always subject to the following obligations.

Business plan: a G4AW project should become self-financing, preferably within the project duration. The partnership monitors the business plan and updates the financial analyses periodically (at least once a year). Adjustment of the business plan and/or the financial analyses (including quantification of the sources of funding) is reported to the Netherlands Space Office.

Progress reports: the recipient of the subsidy reports once every 12 months on activities that have been achieved and expenditure. The deadline for submitting the next progress report is each time 12 months after submission of the previous progress report, noting that in the final year of the subsidy period the progress report is substituted by the final report. Reports shall be submitted in English in accordance with the applicable template (see www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw).

Notification requirement: the subsidy recipient is required to submit a written notification without delay, as soon as it is to be expected that the activities, for which the subsidy is granted, will not be (completely) implemented, not be timely implemented or if he cannot (completely) fulfil the obligations that are related to the subsidy.

Special notification requirement in the framework of the 'Wet Bestuurlijke Boete Meldingsplichten' (Administrative Penalty Act Notifications) subsidies: the subsidy recipient is obliged to ensure that partners and primary suppliers do not make use of child labour and/or forced labour for the project under consideration nor for any other activity. The beneficiary of the subsidy is obliged to notify the Netherlands Space Office immediately of any facts or circumstances that could possibly indicate the use of child labour or forced labour by these organisations.

Advance payments: with the awarding of the grant the method for advance payments will be defined. The maximum amount of the advance payments paid over the project duration is in total no more than 90% of the total subsidy.

Monitoring and evaluation: to enable quantification of the output of the G4AW Facility, a number of performance indicators have been formulated. All G4AW projects are required to report on these indicators. In addition, an assessment of the added value of public-private partnerships and the multiplier effect of government support to generate private investments has to be part of the monitoring and evaluation assessment. The requirements for monitoring and evaluation are:

- The partnership reports annually on a number of performance indicators⁷, these have been included in the template for progress reporting (to be downloaded from the G4AW website).
- The partnership will commission an (independent) evaluation of (parts of) the programme(s) and the functioning of the partnership itself. Results obtained will be compared to, among others, the baseline measurement (for example production/input without satellite data), as stipulated in the grant application.
- A minimum of 1% of the project budget shall be reserved for monitoring and evaluation.

The subsidy recipient monitors and reports on the outcome and output criteria. These are published on the G4AW website.

Grant settlement: the subsidy recipient is required to submit the final financial report and the final activity report within six months after completion of the activities, accompanied by a request for grant settlement. This final report is submitted in accordance with the provided template (see www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw).

The Netherlands Space Office decides within 13 weeks on the grant settlement. A physical inspection on site can be part of the assessment of the request for grant settlement. If such an inspection is carried out, the Netherlands Space Office may extend the decision-term to 22 weeks.

Information provision after grant settlement: The Netherlands Space Office can request the grant recipient to provide information on the project impact until 36 months after the grant settlement.

⁷ see G4AW Project plan template, www.spaceoffice.nl/g4aw

Annex 1: G4AW Country list

G4AW partner transition countries

Colombia

Vietnam

South Africa

G4AW partner countries

Angola

Bangladesh (B)

Benin (B)

Burkina Faso

Burundi (B)

Cambodia

Ethiopia (B)

Ghana (B)

Indonesia (B)

Kenya (B)

Laos

Malawi

Mali (B)

Mozambique (B)

Myanmar (B)

Niger

Uganda (B)

Rwanda (B)

Senegal

Tanzania

Zambia

Zimbabwe

South Sudan (B)

Countries for which bonus points are awarded are indicated with (B).