

COSTEA Collaborative Action

"Call for innovation identification"

The COSTEA (Comité Scientifique et Technique Eau Agricole – Scientific and Technical Committee on Agricultural Water) was created in 2013 by the AFD (Agence Française pour le Développement – French Development Agency) and AFEID (Association Française pour l'Eau, l'Irrigation et le Drainage – French Association for Water, Irrigation and Drainage), in order to support states of Southern countries in their investments in irrigation.

The COSTEA is a group of experts in the field of irrigation, bringing together consulting firms, NGOs, research institutes, institutional actors and civil society. It brings together in its network French actors and AFD intervention countries, particularly in North Africa, West Africa and South East Asia. It aims to contribute to improving irrigation policies and projects for the realization of sustainable systems, taking into account the imperatives of productivity and all dimensions of economic, social and environmental sustainability.

It carries out a number of knowledge acquisition, capitalization and valorization actions to make this knowledge available to the actors involved in irrigation policies and projects. <https://www.comite-costea.fr/>

The "Innovations" Collaborative Action was launched in 2021 and aims to identify and capitalize in a homogeneous manner on innovations in the field of irrigation, whether they are scientific, technological, social or economic, recent or old.

From invention to innovation

Innovation can be defined as an invention that has found its users through its testing in the field. Akrich et al (1988) put forward the criterion of use, as innovation requires the positive approval of the user ("to adopt it is to adapt it").

Innovation in irrigated systems

Innovation is one of the driving forces behind the economic development of territories. It is often the result of a local initiative resulting from a response to a constraint (adaptation/resilience) or to an economic opportunity and has the effect of improving the performance or resilience of the irrigated production system. It can thus take the form of a technical, economic and/or social innovation endogenous to a territory or a local appropriation/adaptation of an exogenous technology or good practices. On another scale, we can also consider institutional innovations that have had direct positive consequences (observable or measurable) on irrigated systems.

This first call for contributions ("call for innovation identification") is launched in order to collect a first batch of innovation proposals that will be analyzed by a review committee made up of COSTEA members. The authors of the selected proposals will be asked to present and illustrate an innovation sheet in French or English according to the attached model (*INNOVATION description sheet*). A grant of 500€ may be granted to the authors for the finalization of the sheets which will be published on the COSTEA website in order to be shared with the whole network.

Process of the 1st call for innovations:

- Early September 2021: launch of the call for innovation
- October 15: deadline for sending applications to COSTEA
- November 2021: review committee: selection of the most interesting innovation sheets.
- November-December 2021: support for the finalization of the selected innovation sheets. The COSTEA will be able to mandate one of its members to accompany the finalization of certain sheets.
- January 2022: Validation of the finalized sheets and dissemination by COSTEA.

How to apply:

This call for innovation identification is open to the entire irrigation community, regardless of the country, the only constraint being that the application must be written in French or English.

Without necessarily being the inventor or the bearer of the innovation, each bidder must be able to testify faithfully to the innovation in question with precise field elements.

Each applicant should send the application form and the completed innovation form by email to the COSTEA Permanent Technical Secretariat: camille.ayala@inrae.fr

The deadline for submission is **October 15th, 2021**

Following the review committee, the authors of the selected proposals will be invited to finalize their files by giving more details on certain aspects if necessary so that they can be published.