

This document is designed to assist you during your application process. It includes answers to frequently asked questions directed to the program by small and medium enterprises and members of the public.

No	Questions	Answers
1	What is the SME Technical Assistance Facility for?	The Circular Food Systems for Rwanda SME Technical Assistance Facility provides a unique opportunity to access the support, education, technical assistance, and networking needed to create and implement successful and sustainable circular business models.
2	Can I apply to the SME TA facility when I am not yet registered in Rwanda?	<p><b>No.</b> The SME Facility is open to SMEs with valid registration documents operating in the food sector in Rwanda that are driving progress towards a circular economy.</p> <p>SMEs can be involved in any stage of the food system, including agricultural inputs, production, storage, processing, packaging, or distribution of food. They may work in any agricultural value chain, but priority is being placed on horticulture, grains, aquaculture, and livestock value chains, as well as circular innovations that can be applied across the food system.</p>
3	Can one SME meeting all eligibility criteria submit more than one application?	<b>No.</b> We encourage the potential applicant to submit only one application form. If you happen to submit more than one application form, only one will be assessed.
4	If I missed applying for cohort one, can I apply for the next cohorts?	<b>Yes.</b> We encourage you to apply for cohort two from 15th February 2024. The application deadline is 23rd March 2024.
5	Where will the applicants submit the filled application forms?	Applications will be completed and submitted online via the website.

6	How long will a cohort last?	The Technical Assistance program will be an average period of 3 months, however, the timeframe from the application, acceptance into the program, and market linkage activities after the Technical Assistance may vary.
7	Can an SME request for equipment or financial facility to enhance its Circular Economy business in addition to technical assistance?	The program cannot provide equipment, operational transport, or any grant/financial support. <b>No equipment, operational transport, or any grant/financial support will be provided by the facility.</b> The program aims only to provide technical assistance to the SMEs that are in the agri-food circular business space value chain.
8	Can a business change the operational site after applying?	<b>No.</b> A business must not change its operational site after applying and during the period of receiving the technical assistance.
9	Can a modern garage or any other initiatives that are not within agri-food practices scope but aimed to reduce carbon emissions by putting emphasis on eco-system, electric car repair, use of solar panels and green sounds qualify for technical support under this program?	<b>No.</b> The CIRF program aims at fostering the growth of circular food practices in Rwanda. We are therefore now accepting applications for the second cohort of agri-food SMEs working to adopt or scale circular business models. Unfortunately, such initiatives are out of the program scope.

Potential applicants and the public are encouraged to keep asking questions whose answers need to be provided above. This document will be regularly updated based on the new questions continuously coming to the program managers' attention.

Any queries can be sent to [CircularFoodSystemsRwanda@wri.org](mailto:CircularFoodSystemsRwanda@wri.org)