

Call for proposals: Research on growing fruit trees



The **Centre for Fruitful India (CFI)** promotes widespread cultivation of fruit trees to gain nutritional security and ecological benefits. We aim to improve access to nutritious fruits for low-income families in rural and urban areas. We do so by incentivising research on growing fruit trees in ways that are resource-efficient, climate resilient and ecologically beneficial.

We invite proposals to conduct baseline research aligned with our mission. Selected projects will receive research grants between INR 10 and 50 lakhs over 2–3 years.

Research areas

We aim to promote research in the following areas. For each of these areas, we are looking to identify suitable tree species and cultivars, and devise resource-efficient and eco-friendly methods for planting, irrigation, fertilising, protection and maintenance. We value both positive (what worked well) and negative results (what did not work well).

1. Unconventional modes of growing fruit trees that make efficient use of land, e.g., planting on wasteland, field bunds, community land, forest fringes, rooftops and roadside.
2. Climate resilience, including drought tolerance.
3. Disease and pest tolerance.
4. Providing high nutrition and yield.
5. Intercropping of diverse species for year-around fruit production and other benefits.
6. Community-led initiatives for post-harvest management, sharing and value addition.
7. Policies and incentives to promote widespread cultivation of diverse fruit trees.

The research may focus on any geographic location in India.

Who can apply

Registered Indian organisations with the ability to conduct research may apply. These include:

- State and central agricultural universities, horticulture universities and academic research organisations.
- Institutes affiliated with ICAR, CSIR, ICFRE, ICMR, etc.
- Nonprofit organisations with research capacity and the ability to receive foreign funds.

How to apply

Submit your proposal using this online form: cfi-india.org/grant-application-form/

The deadline for submission is **20 October 2025**. Selected proposals will be invited for an oral presentation during the proposed CFI conference in **November 2025** in New Delhi. A subset of these will receive research grants.

For more information, contact

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To learn more about CFI, visit cfi-india.org

To learn more about the Alliance of Bioversity International & CIAT, visit alliancebioiversityciat.org

