



Call for Expressions of Interest

Fruits Research in India (2025)

About us

Center for Fruitful India (CFI) envisions a nature-positive solution to improve food and nutritional security by increasing access to diverse fruits among low-income families, while restoring local ecology and contributing to planetary health. Aligned with the Government's 2047 food production targets, CFI promotes fruit-tree cultivation through policy engagement, scientific partnerships and farmer-led initiatives. As a research catalyst, CFI fosters multi-stakeholder collaboration and funds evidence-based innovations that address affordability, accessibility and conservation of fruit diversity to improve community nutrition and ecological resilience.

We are pleased to announce the first round of **Expressions of Interest (Eoi)** to conduct baseline research aligned with CFI's mission. Selected projects may receive funding support between **US\$10,000 and US\$50,000** for 2–3 years.

Research focus areas

We are seeking Eoi to conduct the following baseline research studies under CFI's key theme "Advance fruit accessibility and affordability for low-income households through sustainable cultivation and research-driven innovation to improve nutrition equity".

1. **Create research-driven, innovative models for nutritional resilience** in rural communities by encouraging the cultivation of locally adapted fruit trees and implementing community-led processing initiatives for post-harvest management and value addition, to provide consistent and dependable dietary access for low-income families.
2. **Design climate-resilient, agro-ecologically informed and community-led models** to promote fair access to fruits through circular and decentralised resource-sharing systems for a local fruit value chain.
3. **Develop new cultivation methods through community participation** to improve nutritious fruit access for landless and marginalised communities in rural, peri-urban and urban landscapes.
4. **Assess prevailing market trends related to the diversity, availability and affordability of fruits**, with particular emphasis on identifying consumption barriers experienced by women and children in low-income families.
5. **Evaluate nutritional profiles for a wide range of indigenous and wild fruits**, identifying key gaps with recommendations for priority nutritional analysis that would accelerate availability and change behaviour on consumption.
6. **Develop a policy scoping study to support the prioritisation of incentives and rural policies** for the effective scaling of agroecological systems that incorporate diverse fruit production.
7. **Additional innovative research concepts** to accomplish the CFI key theme.

Who can apply

We invite proposals from legally registered Indian organisations with the capacity to conduct field-based agricultural research in close coordination with communities and local institutions. Eligible institutions include:

- Research institutes belonging to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR)
- State agricultural universities, central agricultural universities, horticulture universities
- Academic universities
- Research institutes affiliated to Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) and Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)
- Institutes affiliated with Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education under MoEF&CC
- Nonprofit organisations with research capacity and the ability to receive external funds

Eligibility criteria

- Be legally registered in India and eligible to receive funding from external sources in US\$.
- Having in-house capacity to conduct agricultural research if adopted on a large scale.
- Emphasise scientific innovation with practical, scalable applications for marginal and smallholder farmers.
- Important dates and key proposal requirements

Submission deadline: **30 August 2025**

Your proposal will be made up of responses to an online form, which covers the rationale, methodology, objectives, major outcomes/outputs and key deliverables that will support advancing the mission of CFI and partners, and a proposed budget with duration for completion.

We recommend preparing and saving your responses in an offline document first. There are character limits for the responses to each question, so please bear these in mind when preparing your answer.

The shortlisted proposals will be invited for an oral presentation during the CFI conference planned for **24–25 September 2025** in New Delhi.

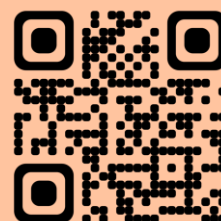
How to apply

Submit your detailed proposal using the form available at: cfi-india.org/grant-application-form/

For more information, please 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 alliancebioversityciat.org



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