FAQ – Lab Água Semiárido

1. What is Lab Água Semiárido?

Lab Água Semiárido is a free program by Votorantim Energia and Instituto Votorantim. The program's aim is to accelerate solutions addressing both water scarcity and quality of life in the semi-arid region of Serra do Inácio, located between the Brazilian states of Piauí and Pernambuco.

The program wants to identify solutions that improve the quality of life of people living in Serra do Inácio, guaranteeing access to water, health, annual food security. Solutions should match one of the solutions categories below:

a. 1. Effective water use in agricultural production

b. 2. Adaptive capacity to water scarcity

c. 3. Water reuse

d. 4. Future climate change scenario analyses

e. 5. Expansion of water infiltration

2. What's the program's added value?

The Lab offers personalized mentoring from experts and the opportunity to participate in training for product and solution development. These focus on refining the value proposition, business models, and business plans. Candidates will also be able to test their prototype in the field with the beneficiaries, enabling the ability to co-design the product with the end-user. In addition, the most suitable and best evaluated plans for testing will receive seed money for the Boot Camp.

3. What type of organization can apply?

The following organizations can submit their proposal: research projects, start-ups, social organizations and other types of ventures. All must **have a minimum viable product that** can be tested in the **field and be able to work with the beneficiary community.**

4. How do I sign up?

Through the registration link available on the **Lab Água Semiárido website**.

5. How much does it cost to participate in the program?

Lab Água Semiárido is a **free** program created by Votorantim Energia and Instituto Votorantim, with the possibility of seed money for the top five solution providers that best meet the community and regional needs.

6. If I have partnered with other organizations, how should we apply?

By accessing the registration form available on the website and including the name of one of those responsible for the partner initiative/solution.

7. What are the selection criteria?

Entries will be evaluated based on completing the entry form, the video pitch (mp4), and attached material (PPTx or PDF) in the selection process. The selection criteria will be as follows:

a. Alignment with one or more of the selection categories;

b. Product solution maturity;

c. Potential for innovation;

d. Social impact potential;

e. Ability to adapt to the specific regional challenges;

f. Product solution sustainability;

8. Can my business receive investments from the implementing organizations?

The accelerated process is free and does not guarantee any investments in the product. Lab Água Semiárido seed money will go towards the top five organizations based on the best performance observed during the Lab's training process and approved on Demo Day, to be held in September 2021.

9. What are the days and times of the accelerated and mentoring meetings?

During the accelerated period (July to September) mentorship and group training processes focused on acceleration will take place on **Mondays and Thursdays**. Participation in these sessions is mandatory.

10. Can I participate if I have already taken part in another accelerated program?

Yes, being accelerated onto another program does not limit you from participating in the Lab.

11. Does my business already need to be generating a positive impact to be able to participate?

To enroll in the Lab, it is only necessary to have a Minimum Viable Product validated, or under validation, that fits into one of the Lab's five priority categories.

12. Do I need to have a Brazilian Tax ID Number (CNPJ)?

Yes, the product must fit into one of the categories and be part of an organization. The details of the main point of contact responsible for representation and submission must be included.

Candidates registered outside Brazil must submit equivalent documentation that proves their partnership to a similar organization recognized under Brazilian law.

13. If my submission is selected, will I receive one-on-one support?

Individual support will be provided through mentoring with experts and volunteers who make up the Instituto Votorantim and Votorantim Energia team.

Further questions? Contact the Instituto Votorantim team by email: contato@institutovotorantim.org.br