

**The SAB Foundation  
Innovation Awards  
2012**



## Objective

The SAB Foundation Innovation Awards has been established with the objective of rewarding and upscaling innovative sustainable solutions to the pressing daily challenges facing low-income people, specifically women, the youth, people with disabilities, and people living in rural areas in order to improve economic growth and prosperity and the quality of life of all South Africans.



*2011 Seed Grant Winner: Mthatha Agricultural , Airport Services (MAAS)*

## The award

The main award is a grant of R1 000 000.00 (one million Rand) to the winner, and there are 2 runners-up awards of a R500 000.00 (five hundred thousand Rand) grant each. In addition, several seed grants will be awarded. Additional categories of awards exist for entries from women, youth, people in rural areas and people with disabilities.

The grant includes funding for the upscaling and commercialisation of the innovation solution, a process which will be supported by the SAB Foundation over a period of two years or longer, as needed.

During the final application stage, shortlisted applicants need to present an indicative budget of how they would spend this grant money along these lines. The size of the grants is designed to allow for substantive progress to be made by the winners.

## Criteria

The SAB Foundation Innovation Awards will be specifically focused on innovation solutions which have progressed past idea stage, and have reached at least proof of concept stage and now need a strong focus on commercialisation or scaling-up. The SAB Foundation Innovation Awards is **designed to assist the applicants along the path towards commercialisation, scaling up and replication of their innovation solution – with the aim that it will reach and benefit significant numbers of the target beneficiary groups of the SAB Foundation.**

The grant will be awarded for either products or processes that present an innovative solution to the pressing challenges facing women, the youth, persons with disabilities and persons in rural areas.

- **Product innovation** covers innovations in both goods and services, which can again be divided into new or improved products. A new product has different characteristics and intended uses than existing products. It may use new technologies, knowledge and products or a combination of these. An improved product is an existing product whose performance is significantly increased; in terms of either increased output or a reduction in cost.
- **Process innovation** is the adaptation or creation of improved ways to deliver a product or service. It could come from changes in knowledge, perception and understanding. For poverty reduction, process innovations can increase the level of service delivery to beneficiaries, or enable practitioners to reach previously untouched groups or individuals.

## Eligibility Criteria

- The SAB Foundation Innovation Awards will be open to any innovation solution that offers a credible prospect of meeting a demonstrable social and/or economic need evidenced by the SABF's target low-income beneficiary groups (women, the youth, persons with disabilities and persons in rural areas).
- Entries are welcomed from (and not limited to) individuals, innovators, entrepreneurs, NGOs, corporate foundations, CSI professionals, consulting firms, university departments. Entrants may enter as individuals on their own, or as members of a team, in which case one individual team leader shall complete the application form. If a team is chosen as the winner or a runner-up, the award will go to the whole team, not to the individual team leader.
- The innovation solution must be precisely that: a product or process innovation – as explained earlier this could be a new business model, technology, product, service, production method etc.
- The innovation solution must have progressed past the “blue-sky” thinking stage: there must be some evidence of investment by the applicant. This means that applicants must be able to show proof that prior to applying, they have spent time and/or money developing the innovation: planning, developing & testing prototypes, market & industry research, developing a business plan. The innovation solution must have a demonstrable (potential) social and economic impact in the areas of poverty alleviation and/or improvement in quality of life and/or prosperity.
- Please see the “Participation Rules: The SAB Foundation Innovation Awards” for further guidelines.

## Impact Criteria

All applications will be evaluated according to:

- **Impact.** What is the nature of the problem which the innovation solution is addressing? Will the innovation solve a serious, long-standing problem which affects the target group?
- **Extent to which the innovation solution will potentially benefit the SAB Foundation's target beneficiary groups.** Key components are:
  - **Scalability**
    - The potential of the innovation solution to be scaled up in order to reach large numbers of the target group.
    - The number of potential beneficiaries i.e. the number of people who could ultimately benefit from the innovation solution if it was successfully scaled-up
  - **Replicability / demonstration value:** the extent to which the innovation solution may stimulate other players to undertake their own innovations, provide lessons, or provide examples of best practice.
- **Commercial viability.** To what extent is the innovation solution commercially viable, to ensure its sustainability? The specific subcomponents are:
  - Plan for Sustainability
  - Track record of applicant/s

## Process for applications

*See Participation Rules in Phase 1 Application Form for more detail.*

- Applications open on 7 June 2012, and end at 12 noon on 20 July 2012.
- Applicants must complete and submit a Phase 1 Application Form
- Applications can be submitted by email, in person or by post or courier.
- The SAB Foundation Innovation Awards are open to all applicants, and seek the best ideas to enhance the lives of disadvantaged South Africans. Specific consideration will be given during the judging process to the race, gender, age and disability status of applicants.
- Phase 1 applications will be screened against the Eligibility Criteria, and qualifying applications will then be assessed against the Impact Criteria
- A shortlist of up to 25 best innovations will be selected, and invited to attend a two-day workshop. The focus of the workshop will be on the steps necessary to upscale and/or commercialise the innovation solution
- Following this workshop, final Phase 2 Applications are submitted and assessed, resulting in the selection of the winners.