

ELIGIBILITY & SELECTION CRITERIA

STARTUPS TRACK

A On a personal level

- The representative participating in the programme must be an Algerian national or legal resident of Algeria.
- Only founders, co-founders, or key team members (CEO, CTO, etc.) may apply.
- You commit to actively participating in project activities and strengthening your business's capacities.
- You commit to regular reporting on progress and milestones.
- You comply with all obligations set out in the participation agreement.

B On a business level

- Hold a valid "Innovative Project" or "Startup" label issued by MECSME, per Executive Decree No. 20-254 (15 September 2020).
- Operate in agriculture, agrifood, agritech, or a directly related value chain.
- Demonstrate initial traction (prototype, first sales, partnerships, or pilot results).
- Must not have previously received a grant for this specific startup from any source.

Restrictions

- Purely conceptual startups (no traction) are ineligible for this track.
- Startups without a valid MECSME label are automatically disqualified.

C Application and Selection Process

Applications are open from **3 August 2026** to **10 September 2026**. The first-stage online form takes approximately 10–15 minutes to complete and is reviewed on a rolling basis. Eligible candidates receive an invitation to a second stage by 17 September 2026 and then have 72 hours to submit additional information.

Second-stage documents required:

- ID card or passport
- Valid MECSME label certificate
- Development or growth roadmap (if available)
- 1–2 minute presentation video
- Any additional documents requested as part of the selection process

Applicants may be invited to a brief clarification interview. Results are communicated to all applicants during the first week of October 2026.

D Selection Criteria

Selection criteria are scored 1-5 independently by two reviewers; the average of both scores determines the final rating, with a maximum base score of 100 points.

- S1: **Clarity & relevance of the solution (25%)**: assesses whether the applicant articulates a clear, specific problem and a coherent, sector-relevant solution.
- S2: **Innovation & differentiation (20%)**: assesses whether the approach is genuinely novel or meaningfully adapted to the Algerian agritech context.
- S3: **Potential impact (15%)**: assesses articulated social, environmental, or economic impact (food security, climate adaptation, income generation).
- S4: **Motivation & commitment (10%)**: assesses clarity, specificity, and authenticity of the applicant's reasons for applying.
- S5: **Traction & proof of concept (15%)**: assesses depth and quality of demonstrated traction beyond holding the MECSME label.
- S6: **Economic viability & business model (10%)**: assesses coherence and plausibility of the revenue model.
- S7: **Team strength & operational maturity (5%)**: assesses complementary skills and relevant experience of the team.

E Bonus Criteria

Bonus points are added after averaging reviewer scores.

- B1: **Woman-led venture (+10 points)**: applies when the startup is founded or co-led by a woman.
- B2: **Rural or peri-urban targeting (+10 points)**: applies when the startup is based in or primarily targets a rural or peri-urban area of Algeria.
- B3: **Candidate who has completed a full incubation or acceleration programme in agritech (programme completed, with supporting certificate) (+10 points)**: University programmes are not counted.
- B4: **Candidate whose project lead is under 40 years old (+10 points)**.

Maximum total score (base + bonus): 140 points.