

## Call for Proposals Best Climate Practices Contest 2015

# Climate Change and Water Availability for Food Production

In the context of its Best Climate Practices observatory, the International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG – [www.iccgov.org](http://www.iccgov.org)) invites you to submit innovative proposals focusing on **Climate Change and Water Availability for Food Production**.

The ICCG is a think tank active in the field of climate policy design and governance. Based in Venice, Italy, the ICCG was established jointly by [Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei](#) and [Fondazione Giorgio Cini](#) in collaboration with the [Euro-Mediterranean Center on Climate Change](#).

### The Best Climate Practices observatory

The Best Climate Practices (BCP - [www.bestclimatepractices.org](http://www.bestclimatepractices.org)) is the ICCG observatory for **practical projects and initiatives tackling climate change** that deserve attention for their **originality and effectiveness**.

The platform was designed to build a network among researchers, institutions, businesses and political actors, while providing meaningful information to the general public. All the best practices collected on the website have been submitted and/or chosen based on their capacity for implementation and potential for replicability.

### Water Availability for Food Production

The focus of the 2015 contest is **Climate Change and Water Availability for Food Production**.

Water is a resource that is **essential to all aspects of life**. The UN choice to dedicate 2015 to “*Water for Sustainable Development*” highlights how water links to all areas needed to build a sustainable future for communities and the environment: health, nature, food, energy, urbanization, industry and equality. However, only a very small fraction of world's freshwater resources is available for human uses.

Food production plays a major role in water issues. Currently **agriculture accounts for 70 percent of all freshwater withdrawn** around the world. The world population is predicted to grow to 9.1 billion in 2050 and **by 2030 food demand is predicted to increase by 50 percent** (70 percent by 2050).

Demographic growth and the impacts of climate change are expected to add **further stress to water availability**, leading competition for water to increase and water supply to become less reliable in several areas of the world. Inefficient and **unsustainable use of water for agriculture and food production** carries significant detrimental effects for both ecosystems and populations: it depletes aquifers, impacts on natural habitats, increases

water pollution and impoverishes communities, especially where freshwater resources are already scarce.

Current water use systems and prospective future water demand raise the **challenges of providing solutions to use water more efficiently and to guarantee food security under changing climate conditions.**

Local experiences and initiatives have a substantial role in **advancing improvements from the bottom up**, leading to sharing and spreading practices and methods to ensure the best use of available water resources in meeting food demand.

The Best Climate Practices Contest of 2015 aims to **showcase innovative solutions** to improve efficient water management and “water smart” food production, and to **help the winner/s in scaling up existing projects or implementing ground-breaking ideas.**

## Eligibility criteria

### Who can participate

The contest is open to **anyone**, regardless of nationality or expertise in the field.

Proposals can be submitted by **individual users** or **teams**.

**Submitters can be the authors of the practice or they can submit a third party’s practice.** However, it is strictly forbidden to submit someone else’s practice/idea as one’s own. Where intellectual property owner’s authorization is needed, it is the responsibility of the applicant(s) to obtain such authorization prior to submitting the final materials.

**Projects previously exhibited or published may be resubmitted**, as long as they conform to the rules and the entry guidelines of the previous competition. For practices/ideas that have been exhibited or published elsewhere, we request to be informed through the **Note section** in the *ad hoc* web form.

### Eligible practices

The contest is open to practices (projects, initiatives or ideas) **that implement, promote, or develop “water-smart” solutions, sustainable and climate-resilient water management systems, strategies for better use and conservation of water resources under climate change in agriculture and food production.** Submissions not consistent with the 2015 BCP Contest theme, even if commendable projects themselves, will not be taken into account.

Admitted practices can present:

- a **brand new idea** or
- an **already existing project** (in its preliminary phase, under way or already concluded).

Proposals must refer to **concrete ideas or projects**: generic papers or dissemination initiatives will not be taken into account.

Practices must be submitted according to the rules explained in this call for proposals.

To understand what can be considered a **best practice** read the definition on the [About page](#).

## Submission procedure and rules

In order to submit a proposal, participants need to be registered on the BCP platform at [www.bestclimatepractices.org](http://www.bestclimatepractices.org). Participants are required to complete the entry form on the [Submit a Practice](#) webpage by following the instructions given. Each registered user may submit one or more practices.

No application fee is required.

## Contest Dates

- **Open for submissions:** March 30, 2015 (5.00 pm CET)
- **Submission deadline:** July 10, 2015 (5.00 pm CEST)
- **Online polls:** September 01, 2015 – September 15, 2015 (5.00 pm CEST)

Submissions and votes received after the deadline will not be taken into account.

## Evaluation procedure and criteria

Admitted practices are graded with a score equally weighted between the public online poll's results and the assessment by the international Expert Panel. However, proposals that do not meet the minimum score by the Expert Panel cannot receive the award.

The author<sup>1</sup> of the practice receiving the highest score is awarded the prize.

### Stage one: Expert Panel Assessment

The practices/ideas submitted will be evaluated by a panel composed of five high-profile experts from international universities and organisations, chaired by ICCG Director Carlo Carraro.

The Expert Panel for the 2015 BCP contest on Climate Change and Water Availability for Food Production features:

- **Michel Camdessus**, Chair of FEEM advisory board;
- **Carlo Carraro**, ICCG and Ca'Foscari University of Venice;
- **Raffaello Cervigni**, World Bank;
- **Frank Convery**, University College Dublin;
- **Alberto Garrido**, Universidad Politécnica, Madrid.

[Visit the website](#) for the biographies of the BCP 2015 Expert Panel members.

---

<sup>1</sup> The author is to be understood to mean the physical person, the association or the organization that invented, created, designed the submitted practice.

The panel performs its assessment according to the following criteria:

- **feasibility** of the actions proposed;
- **replicability** potential of the practice;
- **originality** of the practice;
- potential or proven **impact** of the practice in advancing “water-smart” solutions for agriculture and food production.

### Stage two: public online poll

Registered users on the Best Climate Practices website can **rate the contestants’ practices and share them on the social networks**, increasing their chance of winning. In order to vote for the practices, users need to register and/or login to the BCP website.

Each registered user can vote only once for each practice. Users can assign between one and five points for each of the following criteria:

- **feasibility** of the actions proposed by the practice;
- **replicability** potential of the practice;
- **originality** of the practice;
- potential or proven **impact** of the practice in advancing “water-smart” solutions for agriculture and food production.

All the practices admitted to competition will be shown on the **Contest** webpage when the submission stage closes.

**The public online polls are open from September 01, 2015 to September 15, 2015 (5.00 pm CEST).**

### Award

**The winning practice of the 2015 BCP contest will be awarded 10000 euros<sup>2</sup>.**

Moreover, ICCG will promote the winner and other notable projects from the competition through its communication channels.

The winner will be announced in early October and the prize awarded during a ceremony organized in the framework of Expo Milano 2015 Universal Exhibition.

### Contacts

International Center for Climate Governance (ICCG)  
Island of San Giorgio Maggiore 8  
I-30124 Venice, Italy  
Mail: [info@bestclimatepractices.org](mailto:info@bestclimatepractices.org)

---

<sup>2</sup> Gross amount subject to withholding tax.