Announcement for Business Incubation Support, 2026

Submission deadline (extended): October 04, 2026

Background

The Agriculture and Forestry University-Business Incubation Center (AFU-BIC), established with the financial support from the University Grants Commission (UGC), has been implementing comprehensive capacity-building programs to develop entrepreneurial competencies among students, including business incubation bootcamps, business plan development, and operational management of the agribusinesses. The AFU-BIC provides a platform for undergraduate and postgraduate students to develop entrepreneurial skills while translating academic research into practical innovations. This support will cultivate innovation and entrepreneurship by providing business incubation services, facilitating knowledge creation, and translating business ideation into real businesses.

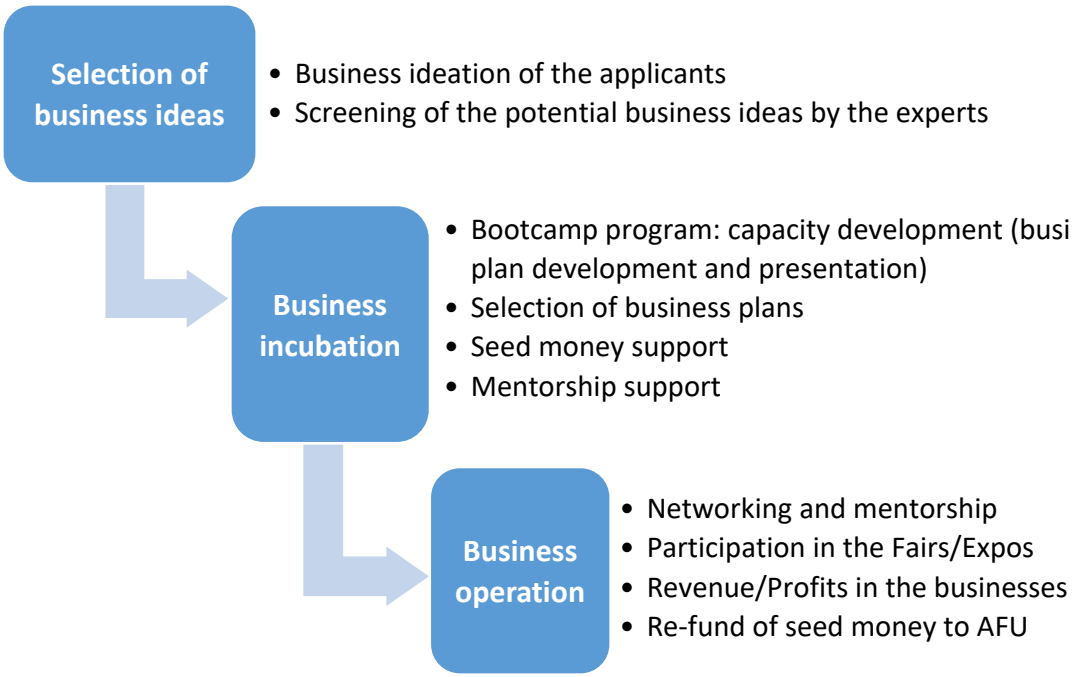
Participants – Business Incubation Bootcamp I (May 5-8, 2025)

Till its establishment, the AFU-BIC has supported thirteen student groups to start up their businesses. The center has built the capacity of selected student groups through a four-day business incubation bootcamp, seed money support (up to NPR 500,000), and mentorship support by the AFU faculty members and the experienced entrepreneurs. The Chambers of Commerce and Industry-Chitwan (CCI-C) has been supporting AFU-BIC in the business incubation bootcamp as well as in developing coordination between the AFU's student groups (startup groups) and the experienced entrepreneurs. Further, the AFU-BIC has been coordinating with allied stakeholders, including financial institutions, for further strengthening of its activities and capacitating the startup groups.

Participants – Business Incubation Bootcamp II (Dec 11-14, 2025)

This announcement is open for the innovators (AFU students) with potential business ideas to participate in a four-day **Business Incubation Bootcamp III**. The AFU Business Incubation Support offers a platform for undergraduate and postgraduate students of all AFU colleges, including constituent colleges, to start their entrepreneurial journey by fostering innovation through capacity development, startup support (refundable seed money), and mentorship.

Business Incubation Support Procedure



The AFU Business Incubation support process includes:

a. Application of the student teams for the Bootcamp program along with the concept of the innovative business ideas and motivation to participate in the business incubation program. The applications will be evaluated and selected based on their motivation and the business concepts, and the shortlisted teams will participate in the Bootcamp program.

b. The Bootcamp will be conducted for four days to develop the business development capacity of the aspiring student groups. The Bootcamp program includes different sessions contributing to developing entrepreneurship skills of participants and enabling them to develop and pitch their business plans.

c. The trainees (student groups) will develop the business plans (draft) of the respective enterprises during the Bootcamp program. Upon the feedback provided by the experts in the training and post-training period, the entrepreneurs will submit the final business plans in the prescribed format/outlines to AFU-BIC for further consideration.

d. The selected teams will receive the refundable seed money (maximum of NPR 500,000); the amount will depend on the enterprise development cycle and the duration needed to reach market readiness, as determined by the expert reviewers and the demand for funds by the selected incubatees. In the special business case (invention-oriented business), with assessing the investment requirement in the business and feedback from the reviewers/experts, one business can receive the refundable seed money up to NPR 1,000,000).

e. The selected teams can get mentorship support, as well as encouraged to participate in different networking events, including trade fairs/expos, throughout the incubation period.

Who can apply?

The applicants should be:

- A team of three to five interested students with one of them identified as team leader (at least one female student in the group). The team can also include one farmer (entrepreneur) of the business location in the group.
- The team members should be students currently pursuing bachelor/master degree at AFU's colleges.
- The teams are encouraged to have members from different disciplines and different semesters.
- The team can also propose/include one AFU faculty member (with his/her consent) as a mentor during the submission of the business ideation or later in the stage of business plan submission.
- Students who are not in any startup group already supported by the AFU-BIC.

How to apply?

- Interested teams are requested to submit the application in response to this announcement, with innovative business ideas, to email (**bic.dorex@afu.edu.np**).
- Send the application document, considering the outlines mentioned below, by the deadline (extended) of **October 04, 2026 (Ashwin 18, 2083 B.S.).**
- Applications must be prepared and presented in English.

The application document (a single pdf file) should include:

a. A cover letter, including motivation to start up the business.
b. Business concept identified by the team that needs incubation support (≤300 words)
c. Commercialization of the concept
    - Objective and scope of the proposed innovative business (≤200 words)
    - Description of the business operation (≤200 words)
    - Technology/Innovation source details (≤100 words)
    - Product development cycle for readiness to market (≤200 words)
d. Market commercialization potential and target customer (≤200 words)
e. Team profile (including semester information of all members) and designated roles of each team member in the business (≤200 words).

For further information, please contact the Directorate of Research and Extension (DoREX) via **bic.dorex@afu.edu.np**.