

Tree Production Innovation Fund

Application Form

Background and information about the grant can be found on the [Tree Production Innovation Fund \(TPIF\) gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk/tree-production-innovation-fund) page.

Guidance on completing your TPIF application can be found on the [Tree Production Innovation Fund Application Form page](#). Please read this before completing your application.

To apply, please complete a TPIF Application Form, Finance Spreadsheet and a Timeline or equivalent.

Forms must be submitted to tpif@forestrycommission.gov.uk by **11:55pm on Wednesday 9 July 2025**.

We will notify applicants of their TPIF funding decision by Wednesday 21 August 2025.

You must answer all questions on the application form. Incomplete applications will be returned. Please keep within stated word limits. Any information exceeding word limits may not be evaluated. Applications must be written in English and costs given in £ Sterling. The format of the forms must not be changed. Failure to comply with these requests may lead to your application being rejected.

If there are multiple organisations associated with the proposed project, please nominate an applicant organisation, with whom all correspondence should be conducted. The applicant organisation will be responsible for the undertakings and obligations detailed in any grant agreement, in line with Terms and Conditions of Funding. If your application is successful, the applicant organisation will become the grant recipient organisation. They will become the sole agreement holder and sole recipient of grant funding upon receipt of valid claims.

If you have any questions about the application process or need the form in a different format, please contact tpif@forestrycommission.gov.uk.

Part 1: Application Details

Title of proposed project:		
Legal name of applicant organisation:¹		
Legal name of partner organisation(s):		
Lead applicant full name:²		
Lead applicant position:		
Please provide <u>one</u> of the following: (if you have a Company Registration or Charity Number, please provide that)		
1. Company Registration Number:		
2. Charity Number:		
3. VAT Registration Number:		
4. Unique Taxpayer Reference:		
How many employees does your organisation have?	<input type="checkbox"/>	Under 250 employees
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Over 250 employees
Business type:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private limited company, public limited company
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Charitable company, registered charity, CIC
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sole trader, self-employed or private individual
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Trust, charitable trust, community group
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Local Authority
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public body
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Educational institution
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
If other, please specify:		
Telephone number:		

¹ Please give the legal name of the organisation to whom grant payments would be made. If this is different to how you are known publicly, include the public facing name in brackets.

² The lead applicant must be authorised to sign and submit this application on behalf of their organisation. They will be the primary point of contact during the application process.

Email:	
Postal address:	
Postcode:	
Country:	

	YES	NO
<p>The FC are creating a TPIF Directory to distribute to all TPIF grant recipients. This aims to facilitate collaboration and knowledge sharing between projects.</p> <p>Would you be happy for us to include the Lead Applicant's name and email address in the TPIF Directory?</p> <p>The Directory will only be shared with other successful TPIF grant recipients.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>If you do not wish to add the Lead Applicant's contact details, but still wish to appear on the TPIF Directory, please provide the relevant person's name and email address:</p>		
<p>Where did you hear about this grant?</p>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FC eAlert
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social media
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Press article
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Web search
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Word of mouth
	<input type="checkbox"/>	FC staff member
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Can't remember
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other
<p>If other, please specify:</p>		

Description of Project

In two sentences or less (50 words max.), summarise your project and its main objectives:

Please provide a description of the project that can be publicly shared
(300 words max.)

Funding period

Please select the financial year(s) in which the proposed project will take place:

- ☐ 2025/26 (activities complete by 27 March 2026)
- ☐ 2026/27 (activities complete by 27 March 2027)
- ☐ 2027/28 (activities complete by 27 March 2028)

Eligibility Criteria

Please answer all eligibility criteria questions. Mark "Yes" or "No" with an X. Question 11 only may be answered with N/A if it does not apply.

Eligibility Criteria	Eligibility Question	YES	NO
1) Scope - This grant is designed to support innovative projects that will address one of the challenges given below, with a view to enhancing the quantity, quality, and diversity of planting stock available for tree planting in England.	Is your project within scope?		
2) Innovation - This grant supports the development of technologies or approaches that are not currently used within tree nurseries/ production in England.	Is your technology/ approach currently unused in tree nurseries/ production in England?		
3) Programme Scope – The TPIF has been designed to support pre-commercial development and piloting of innovative proposals.	Is your proposal limited to activities ahead of launch to the market: such as prototyping, field testing, trials, demonstrations, and dissemination of knowledge obtained from the demonstration activity?		
4) Project Status – The Forestry Commission is unable to fund retrospective work on projects.	Can you confirm that your application does not seek retrospective funding for work already carried out on this project, or to be carried out before any grant agreement is signed?		
5) Additionality - Projects can only be funded if innovation would not be taken forwards (or would be taken forwards at a much slower rate) without public sector funding.	Can you confirm that this project would not be taken forward (or would progress at a much slower rate) without public sector funding?		

6) Project Lead - The Applicant Organisation must be an individual, registered company, academic, research, third sector or community organisation based in the UK.	Can you confirm that the Applicant Organisation meets eligible organisation requirements?		
7) Public Bodies - To be eligible for funding public bodies must partner with a third-party private sector organisation.	If a public body, can you confirm that you have partnered with a third party from the private sector? Applicants from the private sector should leave this question blank.		
8) Budget - Proposals, whether standalone or multi-year, must have a minimum total cost of £20K to be eligible for funding under the TPIF. Projects may be costed at up to a maximum of £200K in any given financial year (2025/6, 2026/27 and/or 2027/28). A full list of eligible project costs is set out in the TPIF gov.uk guidance.	Can you confirm that the requested project funding is within the eligible expenditure limits and is for eligible costs only?		
9) Timescales - Projects can span up to three financial years, ending 27th March 2028. All project activities must be completed and evidence of spend provided by 27 th March of the financial year(s) in which funding has been applied for (2025/6, 2026/27 and/or 2027/28).	Will the eligible project activities be completed and evidence of spend provided by 27th March of the financial year(s) in which funding has been applied for (2025/6, 2026/27 and/or 2027/28)?		
10) Risk-Benefit sharing - The sharing of risks and benefits is an important aspect to the Research and Development Grant approach. Projects receive financial support and retain any intellectual property generated, with certain rights of use retained by the Forestry Commission. Summaries of project	Have you accounted for risk-benefit sharing in the cost of your application?		

<p>outputs and outcomes are expected to be shared within the forestry press and project teams are not permitted to include profit in the eligible project.</p>				
Eligibility Criteria	Eligibility Question	N/A	YES	NO
<p>11) Delivering multiple projects</p> <p>If project team member(s) are part of multiple successful bids, then the Applicant Organisation must ensure that sub-contractors are able to deliver on them and they must not have applied for funding for the same piece of work more than once.</p>	<p>a) If you or your project team are part of multiple successful bids, would you be able to successfully deliver all projects if necessary?</p>			
	<p>b) If you or your project team are part of multiple successful bids, please confirm that you have not applied for funding for the same piece of work more than once? Yes = confirm.</p>			
<p>12) Terms and conditions</p> <p>The applicant must agree to the grant Terms and Conditions which can be found on .GOV at the same location as this application form.</p>	<p>Please confirm acceptance of the Terms and Conditions.</p>			

Part 2: Assessment Questions

Question 1: Challenge (20%)

- a) Explain how and to what extent the proposed innovation will overcome barrier(s) to domestic tree and seed production.
- b) Describe how the outputs of the proposal will:
 - i. address one or more of the TPIF Challenges
 - ii. result in enhanced quantity, quality and/or diversity of planting stock available for tree planting in England.
 - iii. enhance the resilience and productivity of domestic tree and tree seed production.
- c) Outline the specific need for and benefits of the proposed innovation in the context of current technologies/approaches.

(300 words max.)

Which TPIF challenge(s) does your project address? Tick all that apply.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	1	Efficient use of Forest Reproductive Material
<input type="checkbox"/>	2	Ensuring a diverse and resilient supply of Forest Reproductive Materials and saplings
<input type="checkbox"/>	3	Development and adoption of automation and other technologies to enhance productivity
<input type="checkbox"/>	4	Weed control
<input type="checkbox"/>	5	Sustainability
<input type="checkbox"/>	6	Weather
<input type="checkbox"/>	7	Biosecurity
<input type="checkbox"/>	8	Tree establishment

	What is the current Technological Readiness Level of the technology/innovation you are working on?	What is the estimated Technological Readiness Level of the technology/innovation by the end of the funding period?
1 Basic principle observed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Technology concept formulated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Experimental proof of concept	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Technology validated in lab	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Technology validated in relevant environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 Technology demonstrated in relevant environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 System prototype demonstration in operational environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 System complete and qualified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 Actual system proven in operational environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Question 2: Approach and Innovation (10%)

a) What approach will you take and where will the focus of the innovation be?

Approaches may include:

- i. application or development of existing practices or technologies used elsewhere in the world;
 - ii. application or development of existing practices or technologies used in other sectors;
 - iii. development of totally new practices or technologies.
- b) How will the project and its outputs compliment/ improve upon current practices or technologies?

(250 words max.)

Question 3: Team, Resources and Track Record (10%)

- a) Who is in the project team, what expertise and experience do they have, and what will be their roles within the project?
- b) How will you work with industry stakeholders to deliver the project?
- c) Describe the resources, equipment and facilities required for the project and how you will access them.
- d) Provide details of any external parties, including sub-contractors, who you will be working with.
- e) If collaborative, describe the current relationships between the project partners and if/how these will develop as a result of the project.
- f) Highlight any roles in the team that will need to be recruited and outline how you will ensure that posts are filled to meet critical project milestones.

(300 words max.)

Question 4: Market Awareness (10%)

- a) How will the project outputs benefit domestic tree and tree seed production?
- b) What are the expected impacts of the project? How will you ensure the outputs are widely beneficial?
- c) How have you engaged with industry stakeholders to develop your proposal?
- d) Will the outputs be practicable and widely accessible? What will the route to market look like?
- e) Will the project require or result in collaboration? What will this collaboration look like and how will it benefit the tree and tree seed production sectors?

(250 words max.)

Question 5: Deliverability (10%)

- a) Please provide an outline your project plan. How will you manage the project effectively and deliver to proposed timescales?
- b) What are the main work packages and milestones for the project? Identify who will be responsible for delivering each of these.
- c) How will you manage the project effectively? Please identify any major tools and mechanisms that will be used to ensure a successful project outcome.
- d) Outline any tangible outputs which will be delivered by March 2026. How might these be utilised / taken forward should TPIF funding for subsequent years be unavailable?

In support of responses to this question, applicants **must** submit a Gantt chart or equivalent outlining key activities, milestones and deliverables with your application. (250 words max.)

Question 6: Risks (10%)

- a) What are the main risks associated with the project and how will you mitigate these? These may include technical, commercial, managerial, and environmental risks. Highlight the most significant risks, providing a risk register if appropriate.
- b) How will you manage and mitigate the most innovative or uncertain elements of the project?

(250 words max.)

Question 7: Additionality (10%)

- a) What impact would an injection of public funding have on this project?
- b) Could the project go ahead in any form without public funding? If so, outline the difference the public funding would make. This may include a faster route to market, more partners or reduced risk.
- c) How would this project change the nature of the activities typically carried out by you and your partners?

(250 words max.)

Question 8: Costs and Value for Money (10%)

- a) How much will the project cost and how does it represent value for money for the Forestry Commission and the taxpayer? Please justify the total project cost and the grant being requested in relation to project goals.
- b) Will any financial contributions (match funding) be made by the lead or partnering organisations? *
- c) How will goods and services be procured to ensure value for money?
- d) Please justify the costs quoted for project partners and sub-contractors, explaining why they are critical to the delivery of the project.
- e) If you have received, applied for, or intend to apply for any other government funds, please declare it here.

*Match funding is not a requirement to be eligible for the TPIF. However, applicants are strongly encouraged to consider match funding where possible to demonstrate better value for money. Please reference your finances spreadsheet where appropriate.
(250 words max.)

Part 3: Work Packages and Outputs/Outcomes

Work Packages and Activities

Please provide a numbered list of work packages for your project.

FY 2025/26 Funded Activities

Please relate these to the work packages listed above.

FY 2026/27 Funded Activities

Please relate these to the work packages listed above.

FY 2027/28 Funded Activities

Please relate these to the work packages listed above.

What knowledge transfer and exchange activities do you have planned for the project?

Outputs

What are the expected outputs of the project? What will result from the completion of the funded activities? Please identify quantifiable milestones where possible.

FY 2025/26 (August/ September 2025 – 27th March 2026)

FY 2026/27 (April 2026 – 27th March 2027)

FY 2027/28 (April 2027 – 27th March 2028)

Long Term Outcomes

What do you expect the outcomes of the funding will be beyond the period of the grant award? Please identify quantifiable milestones where possible.

Part 4: Finances

You must provide full details of project costs and funding for each organisation involved in your project using a finance spreadsheet.

The template for this can be found at the [Tree Production Innovation Fund Application Form](#) page.

Part 5: How we process your application

Once we receive your application an Evaluation Panel comprising Forestry Commission staff and experts from the forestry sector will assess and score each question. We will notify all applicants of funding decisions by 21st August 2025, with successful projects starting shortly thereafter.

A diagram outlining the TPIF application process is available on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Part 6: Privacy notice

Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR)

Data protection

Please read the below statements and ensure you understand how the Forestry Commission (FC) will handle any personal information submitted.

If you are acting as an agent or lead applicant, you are responsible for informing any third parties of how the FC will handle any personal information relevant to them.

The FC will use any information you provide to support the administration of the scheme. Without your personal information, we will not be able to process your application.

The FC or its appointed agents may also use your data in the following ways:

- for communication with other organisations including the Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Natural England, other government departments and their agencies, and local authorities in the administration of the grant application and subsequent grant agreement;
- for assessment by an independent panel, referring to external technical experts where appropriate.

The FC may, on the basis of its legitimate interest, contact the Lead Applicant and Project Representative(s) in connection with occasional research about the sector and events and resources related to tree and tree seed production.

Your personal information will be stored securely in the UK or European Economic Area and will be kept for a period of 7 years after either final payment of Grant, the last financial transaction, or after the application if withdrawn or rejected.

Release of information

As a public authority the FC is subject to the provisions in the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and Freedom of Information Act 2000. This may result in the disclosure of information you provide to us including the applicant details, grant recipient organisation, type of grant and grant value. However, we will not permit any unwarranted breach of confidentiality, nor will it act in contravention of its obligations under the Data Protection Act/UK GDPR.

The Forestry Commission may also publish information on the assistance it has given on its own or other Government websites.

Details of the organisation, and the value and timing of grants applied for will be entered onto the Government Grant Information System and the UK Subsidy Database.

The Forestry Commission may carry out checks on each application using a variety of government tools including the Cabinet Office's automated grants due diligence tool called 'Spotlight' and Bank Account Verification software. As part of due diligence process, the Forestry Commission may share details of the organisations involved in applications with other parts of government.

Your Rights

The FC is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018 (Registration No: Z6542658). The FC's Personal Information Charter provides detailed information about how we process your personal data and your rights. You can read our Personal Information Charter on our website

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/forestry-commission/about/personal-information-charter>.

You have a number of rights under the Data Protection Act 2018, which are listed out in full on the Information Commissioner's website. You have the right to lodge a complaint with a supervisory authority, the Information Commissioners' Office <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Part 7: Intellectual property

Intellectual property shall remain with the grant recipient. The Forestry Commission reserves the right to publish a summary of project outcomes and outputs online and in relevant trade press articles.

Part 8: Declarations

Please check each box to show you have read, understood, and agree to each declaration.

Failure to comply with any obligations below could lead to elimination from the process.

1.	The Lead Applicant understands that this grant can only be used to cover agreed eligible expenditure.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	The Lead Applicant understands that any costs and liabilities of submitting this application are to be borne by the Applicant Organisation, regardless of the outcome of the award.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	The Lead Applicant confirms that they or any other person who has powers of representation, decision or control in the organisation have not been convicted anywhere in the world of any of the offences within those and listed here . If a conviction has been made, the Forestry Commission may choose to contact the Lead Applicant and/or eliminate the bid from the process.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	The Lead Applicant agrees to read, and sign and fully comply with all obligations detailed in the Terms and Conditions.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	The Lead Applicant agrees to comply with the Government Grant Recipient Code of Conduct .	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	The Lead Applicant confirms that none of the organisations' Directors or Executive Officers have been in receipt of enforcement/remedial orders in relation to the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) or equivalent body in the last 3 years? If action has been by the HSE or equivalent body the Forestry Commission may choose to contact the Lead Applicant and/or eliminate the bid from the process.	<input type="checkbox"/>
7.	The Lead Applicant confirms that no collusion has taken place with government employees associated with this grant.	<input type="checkbox"/>
8.	The Lead Applicant confirms that all activities undertaken as part of their project supported by this grant comply with current health and safety legislation. Where applicable, the Lead Applicant confirms that any forest operation undertaken will adhere to best practice developed by the Forest Industries Safety Accord.	<input type="checkbox"/>
9.	Where relevant, the Lead Applicant confirms that any claims of match funding secured to assist with furthering the project outcomes are true and correct.	<input type="checkbox"/>
10.	The Lead Applicant will ensure that delivery of the Funded Activities do not put the Authority in breach of the UK's international obligations in respect of subsidies.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Part 9: Communication and ensuring open and fair process

The TPIF team will maintain communications with the Lead Applicant via email to:

- notify you of changes to any part of the application process prior to application deadline
- provide clarification on significant application criteria to all Applicants to ensure a fair and open process
- provide timescales for a decision on your application
- notify you of the outcome of your application
- where successful, provide timelines and updates on the funding timetable and grant signing process
- where successful, provide other relevant communications relating to your grant including monitoring requests
- monitor progress of the project to help manage risks associated with delivery, contact will be made once a month
- carry out project evaluation to better understand the impacts of the work funded

If you wish to clarify anything about the application requirements or process, please email tpif@forestrycommission.gov.uk. If we consider information requests relevant to any Applicant, we will provide additional guidance to all Applicants to ensure a fair and open process. We may be unable to respond to other support requests as this is a competitive bid process.

Applicants must submit:

- a TPIF Application Form (completed and signed);
- a TPIF Finance Spreadsheet (completed);
- a timeline or equivalent;
- evidence of financial viability if applicable

Part 10: Authorisation

I confirm that I have read and understood the guidance, rules and Terms and Conditions relating to the Tree Production Innovation Fund, and that the information provided in this application form is accurate and complete.

I confirm that I am authorised to submit the above application on behalf of my organisation and have complied with all the requirements of the Invitation to Apply.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

The person signing this section must match the Lead Applicant named in Part 1 of this form.

The Forestry Commission is only able to accept digital e-signatures or 'wet' signatures. We cannot accept typed signatures.

Completed applications should be sent to: tpif@forestrycommission.gov.uk