



partageons les connaissances au profit des communautés rurales
sharing knowledge, improving rural livelihoods



CONTEST and CALL FOR INNOVATIVE PROPOSALS TELECENTRES, BRIDGES TO RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE CARIBBEAN

Contest's announcement and rules

www.taigüey.org/cta-contest

1. General description
2. Categories, sub-domains and awards
3. Eligibility
4. How to participate
5. Selection criteria
6. Dates
7. Awarding the prizes
8. Contact information
9. Additional Terms

The new deadline for the submission of your propositions is January 13th 2011 at midnight Caribbean time.

1. General description

The Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) in partnership with Fundación Taigüey, is launching a contest on the applications and services offered in Caribbean Telecentres for the agricultural and rural development sector.

a) Objective

The contest « **Telecentres, bridges to rural development in the Caribbean** » has for objective to promote innovative services implemented in the Caribbean telecentres to support agricultural and rural development.

b) Contest's subjects

The term "**service**" refers here to any application, usage, process, content or intervention methodology implemented in, or in collaboration with, a telecentre to either facilitate the access, sharing and management of information, or to facilitate the empowerment in the use of ICT by stakeholders of agricultural and/or rural sector (in particular farmer, women, youth organizations, cooperatives, small businesses, agricultural extension services or other services supporting rural development).

It's an activity developed in the telecentre using ICT and which allows to people – as women, young people, farmers, artisans, small or medium-sized enterprises, communities or organizations outside of the telecentre- improve their daily lives, increase their knowledge, their level of information, their productivity, their results, to preserve their health, their resources. The service is an factor of development for these people, organizations or communities.

This can be for example special training, technical support (software, computer, know-how), exchange et dissemination of information, but not only: any ICT use that enables enhanced efficiency or effectiveness of a person an organization or an activity.

Examples of services

Example 1: A telecentre sets up a community radio for disseminating agricultural information and health information. Specific programs have been created

Example 2: A telecentre is working (or wants to work) with a school installed in rural areas, and form regularly its teachers or students to new technologies

Example 3: Officers of a rural extension structure regularly uses the telecentre to document to do their work of agricultural popularization.

Example 4: A telecentre is working (or worked) with rural youth that regularly use the telecentre to animate their website

Example 5: Telecentre of a district had formulated a special mentoring plan supporting women members of a cooperative for using ICT for the creation and monitoring of their agro-transformation project.

Example 6: Officers of a health centre follow courses remotely with an organization located in the capital to strengthen their capacity

The "**telecentre**" (also called Community Access Point or CAP) is understood here as a non-profit public access centre to Internet and / or to Information and Communication technologies (ICTs), especially servicing rural communities. Commercial Internet cybercafés are not concerned.

2. Categories, sub-categories and awards

a) Categories

The competition is launched in two categories: one category for outstanding services already implemented (**category 1 "Initiatives in operation"**) and another dedicated to small innovative projects that will receive small grants for their implementation (**category 2 " Innovative Projects"**).

- **Category 1 «Initiatives in operation»**

This first category targets services that have already been developed by telecentres or by partner organizations either public or private, supporting agricultural and/or rural development, in collaboration with a community or rural telecentre. The service must be operated in or from a telecentre.

That service should have a web presence (web page, blog, etc..) for its evaluation by the jury members. If it is a product on electronic support other than a computer, the content should be accessible, visible or posted online for the purposes of the competition, fully or partially.

The winning services will be those that demonstrate innovation and/or great impact.

- **Category 2 «Innovative Projects»**

This category is for projects of innovative services to be implemented in telecentres to support agricultural and/or rural development; best projects will be rewarded with small grants for their implementation. These services can be planned in collaboration with organizations either public or private, supporting agricultural and/or rural development.

A detailed project document, including detailed information on the project owner, its relevance and justification, its specific objectives, its implementation methodology, the expected results, a realistic budget, plans to sustain the service beyond the small grant provided by CTA, its envisaged potential partners and their roles.

The acquisition or purchase of equipment for the usual telecentre services are not eligible budget costs.

Awarded projects will have one year to implement their service. They commit to report on the use of the granted small grant to CTA.

The winners may be invited to share their experiences during meetings to be organized by the CTA or its partners.

b) Targeted areas of rural development

The telecentre services to be presented are classified in two sub-categories: "agricultural services" and "non-agricultural services".

For **activities and services directly linked to the agriculture** you will have to precise:

- the sub-sector : agriculture fishing, forestry, livestock, other.
- the "service's function": training, tutoring or mentoring, networking, knowledge dissemination, marketing, market information systems, processing, production, counselling and advisory services, other.
- the kind of tools used for the service: online services, multimedia product, web site, database, other.

For **non-agricultural services** you will have to precise:

- the sub-sector : education, health, culture, natural resources management, heritage management, industrial activities, tourism, gender, other.
- the "service's function": training, tutoring or mentoring, networking, knowledge dissemination, marketing, market information systems, processing, production, consulting and advisory services, other.
- the kind of tools used for the service : online services, multimedia product, web site, database, other.

C) Awards

For each category, 3 prizes will be awarded.

- For the category "Initiatives in operation", each winner will receive a financial award of 3,000 EUR; the objective of this award is to encourage the consolidation of the award-winning service.
- For the category "Innovative Projects", each winner will receive a reward amount ranging between 3,000 and 5,000 EUR, determined according to the relevance and the budget of project submitted.

3. Eligibility

The contest is open to telecentres from all Caribbean states (ACP) signatories to the Cotonou Agreement : Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago.

Telecentres may collaborate or have collaborated with an organization that supports agriculture or rural development to implement the services.

Telecentres or organizations that have put them in place must be legally constituted and must be able to submit proof of their legal existence.

For the "Innovative projects" category, proposals that only include purchase of equipment are not eligible. Recurrent salary payment is neither eligible cost.

4. How to participate

To participate, telecentres will present their application / service, through a form available online at:

<http://taigüey.org/survey/index.php?sid=33825&newtest=Y&lang=en>) and attach (using this form here <http://www.taigüey.org/cta-contest/uploaded/?lang=en>) a scanned copy of a document proving the legal existence of the telecentre or of the institution that has put the telecentre in place.

Please make sure to include accurately the organisation or telecentre name, the contact person details, and eventual partners' contact details. A document presenting the telecentre (creation date, place, objectives, etc.) can also be attached/uploaded. The category and the sub-category in which the service falls in has also to be specified.

A detailed description of the service, the procedures used or planned for its implementation, service outcomes, results (either completed or expected) and lessons learned (if already implemented), must be specified.

When the service is available online, the address (URL) to access to it shall be mentioned. If it is an electronic product available only on computer (no web connexion) or on CD-ROM, its relevant content must be put online fully or partially, so that the jury can appreciate it.

In the case of a new service proposal a project document should be attached.

Technical support may be requested if you have problems submitting your application/service (write to the address listed below). The application can be submitted in French, in English or in Spanish. A confirmation email will be sent after filling the online form. In the case you do not receive the confirmation email, please contact us at caritelecentre-en@cta.int

5. Selection criteria

The main criteria to assess the submissions will be:

- the relevance of the service for the promotion of agricultural and rural development in the target region,
- innovativeness of the service,
- quality of submitted application documents.

For the category "**Innovative Projects**", additional criteria for selection will be used, such as:

- clarity of the description of the service and its implementation methodology,
- possibility of replication of the service (by others),
- relevance of the budget,
- sustainability perspectives

6. Dates

Applications must be submitted at the latest on **January 13th 2011 at midnight Caribbean time.**

7. Awarding the prizes

An international jury of experts in development and ICTs will be formed to independently evaluate the contest submissions. The best services will be promoted by the CTA and its partners

An award ceremony will be held in March 2011.

8. Contact information

All requests for support or clarifications must be sent to the following address: caritelecentre-en@cta.int

9. Additional Terms

- a) The organisers reserve the right to reject any application that do not meet the contest criteria and the present regulations.
- b) Participation in the competition implies an explicit agreement given to the CTA to make public, as needed, the experiences and services described, as well as the identity and participants' contact details. Moreover, it constitutes an agreement given to the CTA to use the experiences described in its publications and for promotional activities.
- c) CTA will not return to the participants the applications submitted.
- d) All local taxes on prizes are the sole responsibility of the winners.
- e) If, for any reason, the contest cannot be conducted as planned, the CTA reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel, close, change, or suspend it.
- f) Decisions taken by the jury and the CTA are final and are beyond dispute.
- g) All contest participants implicitly accept the rules presented in this document.

More information

Telecentres in ACP countries, particularly in rural areas, are still facing critical issues that threaten their sustainability and hinder their full potential to impact on

rural development. These difficulties are related to technological aspects (insufficient infrastructure, energy problems, etc.), but also, in many cases, to the low level of community ownership, inadequate services, the costs of connectivity, deficits in managerial skills.

The relevance of proposed services is recognised as one of main challenges for their sustainability and impact. Since 2008, CTA has facilitated various activities to support these initiatives in rural areas, to contribute to improved livelihoods of rural people.

This contest will provide better knowledge on the potential of telecentre services to support agriculture and rural development in the Caribbean; it will promote innovative experiences and help identify relevant areas of future actions.

For more information on CTA telecentre related activities in the Caribbean contact Ken Lohento, ICT4D Program coordinator at lohento@cta.int