

# **Green Fertilizer Grant Fiscal Year 2025 Request for Proposals**

Applications due by 4 p.m. on March 18, 2025

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# **Grant Summary**

#### **Overview**

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is accepting applications for the Green Fertilizer Grant Program, authorized under Minnesota Law 2023 Chapter 60, Article 12, Section 76. The program provides funding to agricultural and rural electric cooperatives organized under MINN. STAT. 308A or 308B to invest in green fertilizer production facilities located in Minnesota. The program funds can be combined with available federal financial assistance programs, such as through the Inflation Reduction Act Green Hydrogen Tax Credit (45V) or Department of Energy loan programs.

Green fertilizers are nitrogen-based fertilizers produced from water, air, and renewable energy and have significant climate and sustainability benefits compared to conventionally made nitrogen fertilizers. Production and use of green fertilizers are one strategy to reduce upstream greenhouse gas emissions in the agriculture sector.

A successful grant application requires close collaboration between the cooperative and the green fertilizer producer. The application includes a pre-award risk assessment of the cooperative and requires detailed information about the green fertilizer production facility to ensure grant funds are invested in business-ready and shovel-ready projects.

# **Funding availability**

The MDA has approximately \$6.665 million available for eligible projects using a competitive review process. The minimum grant award is \$250,000 and the maximum grant amount is \$6.665 million. The total number of awards and the funding per award will be determined through the proposal review process. A cooperative may apply for funding to invest in multiple green fertilizer production facilities; however, the cooperative must submit an application for each production facility. This request for proposals (RFP) does not obligate the State of Minnesota to award contracts.

#### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this RFP, the following terms are defined as:

**Green fertilizer** – means a nitrogen-based fertilizer produced from green hydrogen.

**Green hydrogen** – means hydrogen produced by splitting water molecules using either 1) grid-based electrolyzers that have matched their electricity consumption with wind or solar, or 2) electrolyzers connected directly to a wind or solar facility. The green hydrogen must have a carbon intensity not greater than four kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of hydrogen produced. This carbon intensity threshold aligns with the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Clean Hydrogen provisions.

**Carbon intensity** – means a measure of lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions for the process to produce a unit of energy or product. Carbon intensity is a way to compare environmental impacts of different fuels, products, and activities. The United States Department of Energy (DOE) Argonne Laboratory GREET model assesses lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions of fuels and products like hydrogen.

**Grid-based matching** – means 100% of the grid electricity consumption required for producing green hydrogen is matched by procuring renewable energy credits (RECs). RECs must be sourced from wind or solar facilities within 100 miles of the green fertilizer production facility. The cooperative is required to annually provide REC procurement documentation to the MDA for annual reporting.

**Long-term offtake agreement** – means a legal contract between the cooperative and the green fertilizer producer where the cooperative commits to purchasing a portion of the fertilizer producer's future output. For the purposes of this grant program, the offtake agreement must be in effect through 2032 to align with the appropriation funding and the MDA's reporting requirements.

#### **Priorities**

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity, and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity and inclusion in grant-making.

<u>Policy 08-02: Rating Criteria for Competitive Grant Review (PDF)</u> sets up the expectation that grant programs intentionally show how the grant serves diverse populations, especially populations experiencing inequities or disparities.

This grant program will prioritize:

- Projects demonstrating strong business readiness.
- Projects demonstrating support through private financing, state loans, or federal sources.
- Projects <u>located in counties with a poverty rate greater than 9%.</u> (The average rate of poverty in Minnesota is 9.3% according to the <u>US Census Bureau's report</u>, "Poverty in States and Metropolitan <u>Areas: 2023"</u>).

# How to apply

- Apply for the Green Fertilizer Grant using our <u>online application system</u>.
  - o If you're a new user, you need to create an account first.
- Once you're logged in, select Green Fertilizer Grant.
- We must receive your application by **4 p.m. Central Time (CT) on Tuesday, March 18, 2025**, to be considered for funding. We will not accept late applications.
- Apply early so there is enough time to get help with the online application system if needed.
  - o It's best practice to submit your application at least 24 hours in advance.

The MDA is not responsible for any technical or logistical problems resulting in the MDA not receiving the application on time. It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that submission is received by the MDA before the deadline.

#### **Application guidelines**

- Use plain, easily understood language. Write for reviewers who have general knowledge but may not be experts in all areas related to your project.
- Answer all questions completely within the character limits specified in the grant application.
- Review the <u>Project Evaluation Profile</u> included in this document as it is used to score and compare the grant applications.

#### Questions

For questions on the grant program or application:

- Email your question to <a href="mailto:Energy.MDA@state.mn.us">Energy.MDA@state.mn.us</a> before 4 p.m. CT, February 13, 2025.
- We will publish answers to all submitted questions on our website after the question deadline has passed.

MDA employees are not authorized to give advice on applications. Applicants who solicit or receive advice from unauthorized MDA employees may be disqualified from eligibility for a grant award.

For help with the online application system:

- Call 651-201-6500, or
- Email <a href="mailto:Energy.MDA@state.mn.us">Energy.MDA@state.mn.us</a> with "Green Fertilizer Grant Application" in the subject line.

#### **Timeline and deadlines**

February 13, 2025, at 4 p.m. CT	Deadline to ask grant program questions.
March 18, 2025, at 4 p.m. CT	Applications due.
June 2025	Applicants notified of decisions.
July 1, 2025	Anticipated project start date for projects awarded funding.

# **Grant Eligibility**

# **Eligible applicants**

Applicants must:

- Be organized under MINN. STAT. 308A or 308B as an agricultural or rural electric cooperative.
- Intend to invest in a facility that produces green fertilizer.
- Commit to a long-term offtake agreement(s) with the green fertilizer production facility.
- Commit to provide training in fertilizer application best management practices and develop a program to share information with cooperative members.
- Be in good standing with the State of Minnesota:
  - No back taxes owed.
  - o No defaults on Minnesota state-backed financing for the last seven years.
  - Acceptable performance on past MDA grants.

Applicants should review the <u>conflicts of interest</u> section prior to applying. Grantees must agree to these rules as a part the grant contract agreement.

# **Eligible expenses**

Investments in green fertilizer production facilities located in Minnesota are the only eligible expenses.

# **Eligible production facilities**

Green fertilizer production facilities must meet the following criteria:

- Use renewable energy in the production of anhydrous ammonia, urea, or hydrogen.
- Hydrogen used to make the green fertilizer must meet the definition of green hydrogen outlined in the definitions section of this RFP.
- The renewable energy, hydrogen, and ammonia must be produced within 100 miles of the green fertilizer production facility.
- Produce final green fertilizer product in Minnesota.
- Be operational within five years of grant agreement effective date.

# **Matching funds**

The Green Fertilizer Grant program is a reimbursement grant. The cooperative must provide no less than 50% match towards their total investment. Grant funds may be used to reimburse up to 50% of the cooperative's investment in the green fertilizer production facility. Sources of funding for the cooperative's match may include cash, loans, or other grants. State grant funds cannot be used for the grantee match of the project, but non-forgivable loans from the state may be used as a match. Cooperatives must supply documentation showing payment for the full cost of the investment to receive the awarded reimbursement amount.

#### **Example:**

A cooperative invests \$10 million in a green fertilizer facility. The cooperative is eligible for \$5 million of grants funds; the remaining \$5 million must be paid for through other allowable sources.

# **Ineligible expenses**

Ineligible expenses include but are not limited to:

- Expenditures incurred before the grant agreement contract is signed by all parties.
- Permit applications and feasibility studies (pre-design or design).
- Accountant fees, attorney fees, consultant fees, lifecycle analysis, and transaction costs.
- Construction or other capital expenditures, such as manufacturing and processing equipment, shipping, labor, or material storage.
- General operations, overhead, and indirect costs.
- Donations and in-kind contributions, including property and services, made by the applicant (regardless of the recipient).
- Fines, penalties, and other settlement expenses resulting from failure of the applicant to follow federal, state, local, or Tribal nation laws and regulations.
- Lobbyists, including costs of membership in organizations substantially engaged in lobbying, and political contributions.
- Bad debts, late payment fees, finance charges, legal costs, or contingency funds.

# **Application Review Policies**

## **Review process**

A review committee, composed of MDA staff and external reviewers, evaluates all eligible applications based on the criteria in the Project Evaluation Profile. Reviewers may recommend whole or partial funding of a project. The commissioner of agriculture reviews the committee recommendations and makes the award decision. Both the review committee and commissioner may consider geographic distribution, applicant's history as a state grantee including progress made on previous grants, compliance with state rules and regulations, and capacity to perform the work.

The MDA will notify applicants, both successful and unsuccessful, in writing. Applicants may request a summary of reviewer comments.

#### **Conflicts of interest**

State grant policy requires that steps and procedures are in place to prevent individual and organizational conflicts of interest, both in reference to applicants and reviewers (MINN. STAT.16B.98 and Conflict of Interest Policy for State Grant-Making, 2022 (Word)).

Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- A grantee or applicant is unable or potentially unable to give impartial assistance or advice to the MDA due to competing duties or loyalties.
- A grantee's or applicant's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties.
- Applicants are an employee or spouse of an employee of the MDA.

In cases where a conflict of interest is suspected, disclosed, or discovered, the applicant or grantee will be notified and actions may be pursued, including but not limited to disqualification from eligibility for the grant award or termination of the grant agreement.

# Privacy notice and data classification

The information provided by an applicant will be used to assess the applicant's eligibility to receive a grant under this program. The decision to apply for this grant is voluntary, and applicants are not legally required to provide any of the requested information. Applicants may decline to complete this application without any legal consequence. However, only completed applications will be considered for a grant; incomplete applications will not be considered.

Data provided in this application is initially classified by the Minnesota Data Practices Act as private or nonpublic, although some or all the data will generally become public at various points of the application process unless the data are otherwise classified by state or federal law. Access to private or nonpublic data is limited to those authorized by law, including but not necessarily limited to MDA staff and contractors with a valid work assignment to access the data, parties authorized by the applicant, parties identified in a valid court order or federal subpoena, Minnesota Management and Budget, Minnesota Department of Administration, the state auditor, and the legislative auditor. If necessary, the MDA may also share the data with law enforcement or the Office of the Attorney General.

Per Minnesota's statute on grants (MINN. STAT. 13.599):

- Names and addresses of grant applicants, and the grant amount requested, will be public data once application responses are opened.
- All remaining data in application responses (except for data otherwise classified by law, including trade secret information, see below) becomes public data after the evaluation process is completed (for the purposes of this grant, when all grant agreements have been fully executed).
- All data created or maintained by the MDA as part of the evaluation process (except trade secret information, see below) will generally be public data after the evaluation process is completed.

#### Procedure for claiming protection of trade secrets:

• Trade secret information is classified as not public data. In order to qualify as trade secret information, the data in question must be provided to the MDA by the affected person (i.e. the data must be about the applicant) and otherwise meet the legal definition found in statute (MINN. STAT. 13.37, subd. 1(b)). In order for an applicant to assert trade secret protection for data submitted as part of this application: the applicant must: 1) clearly identify the specific formula, pattern, compilation, program, device, method, technique or process that the applicant believes to be trade secret information; 2) describe what efforts the applicant takes to maintain the secrecy of the data; and 3) adequately explain how the data derive(s) independent economic value from not being generally known to, and not readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons. Merely asserting trade secret protection does not, in and of itself, classify the data in question as not public; determining what data meet the definition of trade secret information is ultimately the legal responsibility of the MDA, and the MDA cannot guarantee that data identified as trade secret information by an applicant will be classified as such. If the MDA determines that data do not meet the definition of trade secret information, the data in question will be available to the public unless the applicant secures a court order saying otherwise.

All persons, businesses, and individuals applying for grants in the state of Minnesota must comply with applicable laws. Under the law titled Right of Setoff (MINN STAT 270C.65, subd. 3), a grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and state tax agencies, and to state personnel involved in the payment of state obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and state tax laws which could result in action requiring a grantee to file state tax returns and pay delinquent state tax liabilities, if any.

# **Requirements for Grant Recipients**

#### Pre-award risk assessment

Under <u>Policy 08-06: Policy on Pre-Award Risk Assessment for Potential Grantees (PDF)</u> the MDA is required to complete a pre-award risk assessment of grantees selected to receive a grant award of \$50,000 or greater. Applicants will be asked to submit documents relevant to their entity.

If the MDA determines that the awardee has substantial risks that inhibit its ability to perform the required duties under the grant contract agreement, then the MDA may either request more information for the purpose of satisfying the concerns, develop a risk mitigation plan to protect the interests of the state, or not award the grant.

#### For-profit cooperatives

- A copy of the cooperative's two most recent years of federal and state tax returns. If the business has not been in business long enough to have a tax return, then they must submit financial statements and documentation of internal controls.
- Annual financial statements including a balance sheet, income statement, and statement of cashflows
  for the two most recent business years, or for new cooperatives, actual financial statements for the
  periods that are available and pro forma financial projections for at least a two-year period.
- Confirmation that the business entity is not under bankruptcy proceedings or has disclosed any liens on assets.
- Confirmation that the business is in good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State.
- Confirmation that none of its current board members or staff with authority to access grant funds have been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last 10 years.

#### **Nonprofit cooperatives**

- A copy of the nonprofit cooperative's two most recent Forms 990 or Forms 990-EZ with the Internal Revenue Service. If the nonprofit has not been in existence long enough or is not required to file Form 990 or Form 990-EZ, then they must submit the following information:
  - Proof of its tax-exempt status
  - Board-reviewed financial statements for the two most recent business years, or for new cooperatives, actual financial statements for the periods that are available and pro forma financial projections for at least a two-year period.
- The two most recent certified financial audits if required to complete one under Section 309.53, Subd. 3.
- Confirmation that it is in good standing with the Office of the Secretary of State.
- Confirmation that none of its current board members or staff with authority to access grant funds have been convicted of a felony financial crime in the last 10 years.

# **Grant award agreement**

Grant contract agreement templates are available for review on the Office of Grants Management Forms and FAQs webpage.

Upon approval of an application, completion of the pre-award risk assessment, and before beginning work on the grant project(s) and receiving reimbursements, the applicant must:

- Complete an IRS W-9 form or register as a vendor in SWIFT, the state's accounting system, or confirm that the information in SWIFT is still correct.
- Submit other required documentation within 30 days of award notification.
- Sign a grant contract agreement showing their intention to complete the proposed tasks. This agreement must be signed within 30 days of being sent to the grantee.

Grant contract agreements will be for three years, with an expected start date of July 1, 2025, an expiration date of June 30, 2028. Agreements may be extended up to two additional years at the MDA's discretion. Grantees must notify the MDA if they would like to request an extension prior to the expiration of the contract.

# **Accountability and reporting**

Grantees are required to submit annual progress reports during the grant period and additional information about the long-term impact through 2032. The MDA commissioner reserves the right to modify reporting requirements at any time. These reports include but are not limited to the following:

- Summary of the green fertilizer facility's progress in raising capital, permitting, construction, fertilizer production, etc.
- Quantity and types of green fertilizer produced.
- Documentation of the carbon intensity of the green hydrogen feedstock, verifying it is not greater than four kilograms of carbon dioxide equivalent per kilogram of hydrogen produced.
- Documentation of the carbon intensity of the final fertilizer product.
- A copy of the enacted contract for the long-term offtake agreement of green fertilizer.
- A summary of the cooperative's fertilizer application best management practices training program required for cooperative members.
- Price and quantity of green fertilizer sold to cooperative members and comparative analysis to conventionally produced anhydrous ammonia and urea fertilizers.
- Quantity and sources of electricity consumed to make green hydrogen, and documentation of gridbased matching if necessary for the project.

Grant payments will not be made on grants with past due progress reports unless the MDA has given the grantee a written extension. If the green fertilizer production facility is not operating at commercial scale by July 1, 2030, the MDA has the right to recover grant funds from the cooperative investor. In the event the green fertilizer facility returns investment funds to the cooperative, the cooperative must return grant funds to the MDA.

Information reported to the MDA may be classified as public data. Failure to regularly report, respond to surveys, and promptly respond to information requests may impact the grantee's ability to secure future funding from the MDA.

## **Payments**

Eligible expenses may only be incurred after the grant contract agreement has been signed by all parties.

Grant funds are dispersed on a reimbursement basis. Grant payments are distributed after payment cycle thresholds have been met and financial reconciliation is completed by MDA grant staff.

Expected payment cycles:

- No more than 20% of grant funds will be reimbursed until the green fertilizer facility is fully permitted.
- No more than 40% of grant funds will be reimbursed until construction begins on the green fertilizer facility.
- No more than 50% of grant funds will be reimbursed until green fertilizer production begins.
- The final payment will not be made until the MDA receives evidence that cooperative members have purchased green fertilizer according to terms in the offtake agreement.

Actual payment cycles may be negotiated with the MDA during development of the final grant contract agreement.

The MDA will perform a financial reconciliation of at least one invoice on grants greater than or equal to \$50,000. Financial reconciliation may be performed on additional payment requests at the discretion of the MDA.

Grant payments may be used to fulfill federal and state tax liabilities or may be withheld until the grantee has paid any tax liabilities (MINN. STAT. 270C.65, Subd. 3 and other applicable laws).

#### **Site visits**

The grant agreement allows the MDA to monitor the progress of the project. The MDA will perform annual monitoring visits for all grantees. Additional site visits may be made at the MDA's discretion.

# Affirmative action and non-discrimination policy

The grantee agrees not to discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, status in regard to public assistance, membership or activity in a local commission, disability, sexual orientation, or age in regard to any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified (MINN. STAT. 363A.02). The grantee agrees to take affirmative steps to employ, advance in employment, upgrade, train, and recruit minority persons, women, and persons with disabilities.

The grantee must not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of physical or mental disability regarding any position for which the employee or applicant for employment is qualified. The grantee agrees to take affirmative action to employ, advance in employment, and otherwise treat qualified disabled persons without discrimination based upon their physical or mental disability in all employment practices such as the following: employment, upgrading, demotion or transfer, recruitment, advertising, layoff or termination, rates of pay or other forms of compensation, and selection for training, including apprenticeship (Minnesota Rules, part 5000.3500).

The grantee agrees to comply with the rules and relevant orders of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights issued pursuant to the Minnesota Human Rights Act.

# **Audits of project**

The grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the grantee or other party that are relevant to the grant or transaction are subject to examination by the granting agency and either the legislative auditor or the state auditor, as appropriate (MINN. STAT. 16B.98, subd. 8). This requirement will last for a minimum of six years from the grant agreement end date; receipt and approval of all final reports; or the required period of time to satisfy all state and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

# **Voter registration requirement**

The grantee will provide voter registration services for its employees (MINN. STAT. 201.162).

# **Project Evaluation Profile**

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Score
The cooperative's investment is realistic and appropriate for the size and scope of the project and its projected return for cooperative members.	20
The green fertilizer producer has secured a loan guarantee from private, state, or federal sources.	10
The green fertilizer production facility has nearly completed their capital stack, and if not, has a sound plan for completion.	10
Feasibility studies and/or front-end engineering design (FEED) studies have been completed for the green fertilizer facility and final product. These studies adequately address market, financial, technical, and economic feasibility.	15
The green fertilizer producer's business plan adequately addresses:  • Storage and transport of ammonia  • Permitting and/or environmental review that may be required for the project  • Fertilizer pricing structure and plan to mitigate pricing risks to shareholders  • Contingency planning for changes in federal tax credits	15
An electric utility partner has been identified and relevant documentation is provided (power purchase agreements, plans to directly connect to a wind or solar facility, or grid-based matching).	10
The green fertilizer producer obtained a preliminary third-party verified lifecycle assessment (GREET model or similar) of hydrogen feedstock confirming the hydrogen feedstock meets the definition of 'green hydrogen' outlined in the definition section of this RFP.	5
The cooperative commits to contributing matching funds beyond the minimum matching requirement.	10
The green fertilizer production facility is in a county with a poverty rate higher than 9%.	5
Total	100

# **Application Questions**

We are providing this preview of the application questions for your convenience. You will answer these questions in our online application system. Please log in and review the online application before preparing your answers. Additional instructions for the questions may be provided within the full application.

#### **Contact information**

# **Applicant information**

- Project name (name of cooperative and name of production facility)
- Cooperative mailing address
- Cooperative physical address
- Contact person (first and last name)
- Contact person's telephone
- Contact person's email address

### **Authorized representative**

- If awarded a grant, is the person authorized to sign contracts on behalf of the cooperative the same as the contact person listed above. (Yes or No)
- If no, please provide the following Authorized Representative information for signing any resulting grant contract agreement.
  - Name
  - Title
  - Mailing address
  - Telephone
  - Fmail

# **Eligibility**

Upload a copy of your cooperative's business filing with the Minnesota Secretary of State showing that your organization is established under MINN. STAT. 308A or 308B and In Good Standing. This document is available through the Minnesota Secretary of State's <u>Business Filings Online search box</u>.

Which type of cooperative is your organization?

- Rural Electric Cooperative
- Agricultural Cooperative

How is your cooperative organized (tax status)?

- Nonprofit organization
- For profit business

Confirm that the following statements apply to the cooperative.

- The cooperative does not owe State or Federal taxes, has not defaulted on Minnesota state-backed financing for the past seven years, is compliant with current state regulations, and has had acceptable performance on any prior MDA grants. (Yes)
- The cooperative is an agricultural or rural electric cooperative organized under MINN. STAT. 308A or 308B and has an active filing status with the Minnesota Secretary of State. (Yes)
- The principals of the cooperative are not MDA employees or spouses of an employee of the MDA. (Yes)

# **Grant request**

- Do you acknowledge that the MDA is unable to reimburse any investment(s) made prior to the start date of the contract (expected in Summer 2025)? (Yes)
- Cooperative's grant request (minimum is \$250,000 and maximum of \$6,665,000)
- Cooperative's total investment cost

#### Matching funds and payment cycles

Provide an overview of how the cooperative's investment will be financed, including the state's amount prior to reimbursement. Include sources of funding such as state, federal, or private loans, etc. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

Upload documents verifying investment costs and ability to pay for investment match. Example documentation includes:

- Term sheet from green fertilizer production facility verifying investment details.
- Letters of commitment written by financial institutions or other organizations that will be providing funding through loans or credit.
- Award letters or letters of credit.
- Letters from financial institutions demonstrating sufficient cash available to fund project. Redact any confidential information such as account numbers.

If the MDA's expected payment cycle outlined in the RFP is not ideal for the cooperative, please propose an alternative payment cycle. Reimbursement thresholds and payment cycles can be negotiated when finalizing the grant agreement contract. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

# **Green fertilizer production facility details**

- Business name of green fertilizer production facility owner.
- Location of green fertilizer production facility.
  - City or township
  - County
- Total anticipated cost of the green fertilizer production project.
- Total dollar amount the green fertilizer production facility owner has secured at time of grant application.

- Has the green fertilizer facility received any private, federal, or other state funding or funding commitments? (Yes or No)
  - o If yes, describe the funder(s), amount(s), and term(s). (2,000 characters, including spaces).
  - o If yes, upload supporting documentation.
- If the green fertilizer facility has not raised all the capital required for the project, how do they anticipate securing additional capital and what is their timeline for doing so? (4,000 characters, including spaces)

# **Business readiness and financial sustainability**

## Section A - Cooperative

#### **Cooperative summary**

Provide a summary of your cooperative (4,000 characters, including spaces). The summary should stand alone to describe:

- The mission and goals of your cooperative.
- The services and products provided by your cooperative.
- The leadership and membership of your cooperative.

#### **Cooperative business plan**

Provide a summary of your cooperative's business plan. Relevant information to include are descriptions of the financial and organizational health of the cooperative, plans for member engagement, market analysis, and funding strategy. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

Upload your cooperative's business plan.

Explain how the green fertilizer investment fits into your business plan and how this project will financially benefit the cooperative and members. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

#### Cooperative due diligence

Describe the due diligence work the cooperative has completed on its investment in the green fertilizer production facility. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

Have you finalized a long-term offtake agreement with the green fertilizer production facility? (Yes or No)

- If yes, please summarize the agreed upon terms for off-take agreement. (4,000 characters, including spaces)
- If no, please describe your plans and timeline to finalize the offtake agreement. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

#### Fertilizer best management practice training

Provide a summary of your plan to provide fertilizer best management practice training to cooperative members. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

# Section B – Green fertilizer facility

Provide a summary of the green fertilizer production facility project. Include information such as background of the manufacturing site, permit or environmental review requirements if applicable, ammonia storage plans, and anticipated volume of green fertilizer produced annually (4,000 characters, including spaces).

Is the green fertilizer production facility working with engineering and environmental consultants on the project? (Yes or No)

• If yes, who are their consultants and what steps have the consultants taken to secure necessary permits? If they have not started yet, what are their plans to do so? (4,000 characters, including spaces)

Provide a summary of the green fertilizer production facility's business plan. Include a description of the facility's business readiness, including financial health of the organization. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

Upload a copy of the green fertilizer production facility's business plan.

Has the green fertilizer production facility completed feasibility studies and/or front-end engineering design studies? (Yes or No)

- If yes, provide an executive summary of the feasibility study results. (4,000 characters, including spaces)
- If yes, upload a copy of the feasibility study and/or front-end engineering design study.

Describe the green fertilizer production facility's performance capacity to complete this project. This includes current staffing, funding, and previous experience. (4,000 characters, including spaces)

Has the green fertilizer production facility's owner received any grants from the MDA in the last five years? (Yes or No)

• If yes, briefly describe the previous grant project(s), including date(s), amount(s) awarded, and funding source(s). (1,000 characters, including spaces)

Has a preliminary carbon intensity analysis been conducted on the hydrogen feedstock? (Yes or No)

- If yes, upload a copy of the analysis report.
- If no, explain the plan and timeline to complete the preliminary analysis. (2,000 characters, including spaces)

Has the green fertilizer production facility identified an electricity source for hydrogen production? (Yes or No)

- If yes, describe the electricity source and any power agreements in place. For example, are the electrolyzers connected directly to a wind or solar facility? Are the electrolyzers connected directly to a wind or solar facility with supplemental grid-based matching? Are the electrolyzers using grid electricity and do they require grid-based matching? (4,000 characters, including spaces)
- If no, provide information on potential electricity providers and plan to secure access to renewable energy. (2,000 characters, including spaces)

# Workplan and timeline

Complete a workplan timeline for this project using the template in our online application system. An example is shown below. You should include major milestones for both the cooperative and the green fertilizer production facility. Example milestones include finalize long-term offtake agreement, cooperative makes investment, green fertilizer facility is 100% capitalized, construction begins, construction ends, fertilizer best management practice training begins, cooperative members purchase green fertilizer according to terms in the offtake agreement, etc.

#### **Example:**

Timeframe	Description of milestone	Responsible party
September 2025	Cooperative makes financial investment	Cooperative CFO
November 2025	Fertilizer facility 100% capitalized	Green fertilizer facility owner
May 2026	Construction begins	Green fertilizer facility
May 2027	Construction ends	Green fertilizer facility
July 2027	Production begins	Green fertilizer facility