

THE GUYANA INNOVATION PRIZE

The **Guyana Economic Development Trust** (GEDT) is a U.S. based, independent philanthropic initiative that incubates and supports startup enterprises to boost the private sector of Guyana.

The **Guyana Innovation Prize**, a project of the Trust, will provide pre-seed funding to commercially viable and scalable ideas in tech and agro-processing borne from the work of **University of Guyana** (UG) students, faculty, and alumni. The Prize is awarded on a competitive basis, and requires participation in the Trust's year-long mentoring program to help founders succeed in their efforts to commercialize their research ideas.

PROGRAM DETAILS

The Guyana Economic Development Trust pairs selected students, faculty and alumni of the UG with Guyana and U.S. based mentors to help develop business plans and revenue models to launch commercially viable, scalable businesses. Participation in the mentoring is a requirement for UG students, faculty and alumni wishing to access the Guyana Innovation Prize. Mentoring culminates in a showcase of their businesses by finalist applicants to a panel of judges that will award the Guyana Innovation Prize to the winning individual or team. The Prize is awarded to the finalist with the vetted research idea and business plan that has the highest likelihood of securing customers and generating revenue.

The Guyana Innovation Prize leverages several mechanisms to help startup founders and teams succeed:



Mentorship

Founder Coach mentors will provide regular advice and support for participants to grow and scale their ideas



Knowledge & Tools

Participants will be provided with resources to help transform ideas into commercial enterprises



Network

Participants will be exposed to the GEDT community of professionals and their U.S. and global contacts

APPLICATION OF INTEREST

University of Guyana students, faculty, and alumni with selected projects are welcome to apply for the Guyana Innovation Prize and Founder Coach program. A link to the online application is shared with interested parties separately.

CANDIDATES SHOULD

- Be current UG undergraduate students, faculty, or be alumni living in Guyana
- Have a well-researched and commercially viable tech or value-added agriculture product/idea
- Be “coachable” (willing to take direction) in order to build a business case that will be unveiled at the Innovation Prize Showcase