SUPPORT FOR ECONOMIC PROJECTS BY FARMERS’ ORGANIZATIONS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE IMPROVEMENT OF FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN GRENADA, DOMINICA AND SAINT LUCIA

CALL FOR PROPOSALS GUIDELINES
The Farmers' Organizations for Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (FO4ACP) programme aims to increase the incomes and improve the livelihoods, food and nutrition security, and safety of organized smallholders and family farmers in African, Caribbean and Pacific countries by strengthening regional, national and local farmers’ organizations. The AgriCord Alliance is able to implement this programme, due to the financing received from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which also serves as the technical and administrative managing entity. Agriculteurs français et développement international (Afdi), along with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI), have partnered to implement an initiative under the FO4ACP titled, “Strengthening food sovereignty in the Eastern Caribbean by consolidating the structure of farmers’ organisations and reinforcing the role of young people in agricultural development” and through this initiative, have invited farmer organizations to respond to the call for proposals – “Support for Economic Projects by Farmers’ Organizations for the Sustainable Improvement of Food Sovereignty in Grenada, Dominica and Saint Lucia”.

This initiative is driven by the assumptions that (a) food sovereignty is a central issue for the authorities and the farming profession, (b) that the structuring of farmers' organisations is essential to consolidate local agricultural sectors, and (c) that the younger generations are the key players and driving forces behind the future of agriculture. Recognizing the economic potential of the Caribbean Community’s (CARICOM) agri-food sector and the need for a reduction of the Region’s food import bill, this project will build on an strategic approach which recognizes the need for partnerships which will entail all stakeholders, in particular the private sector, as the shift is towards full commercialization of the agri-food system involving realization of the potential of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), inclusive of the Region’s producers (farmers).

With funding from IFAD’s FO4ACP program, Afdi and its partner CARDI will provide financial and technical support for initiatives by farmers’ organizations from three countries of the Eastern Caribbean aimed at strengthening food sovereignty in a sustainable manner, through initiatives that enable:

- Strengthening the supply of domestic markets with quality local products from family farms;
- Consolidating the economy and organization of players in the agricultural and food sectors, while ensuring a fair distribution of added value along the value chain;
- Contributing to the integration of young people into the agricultural and food sector economy;
- Facilitating the implementation of resilient practices in the face of climate change.

1 A network of associations and member of the AgriCord Alliance, which carries out actions to promote exchanges between French farmers and farmers from southern countries (Africa, Asia, Caribbean)

2 “Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.”
**Targeted countries**

Afdi is targeting 3 countries in the Eastern Caribbean, namely:

- Grenada;
- Saint Lucia;
- Dominica.

**Timetable**

- **Publication date:** June 25, 2024
- **Deadline for application:** July 08, 2024
- **Selection of projects:** July 12, 2024
- **Tentative Start Date:** 19th July, 2024
- **End of program:** October 31, 2024

**Financing**

- **Financing support:**
  For Economic Projects, a minimum amount of 20,000.00 USD and a maximum amount of 60,000 USD of funding is established through this call for proposal.

- Cash Co-financing or a financial contribution of at least 10% of the total budget of each Economic Project is expected, which must be provided by the Farmer Organization.

- **Expense eligibility dates:**
  Eligibility start date: 19th July, 2024 or as indicated in the Letter of Agreement to be signed.
  Eligibility end date: 31st October, 2024

- **Eligible expenses:**
  Eligible expenses must meet the following conditions:
  - Be related to the project, be necessary for the realization of the project and be proportionate (reasonable);
  - Relate to activities carried out before 31st October 2024;
  - Be identifiable and verifiable (registered in the organisation's accounts, presenting proof of purchase and payment, attesting to actual attendance at training courses, workshops, payslips, time sheets, etc.);
  - Comply with the provisions of the tax and social legislation applicable in the country of implementation of the project.

  The main eligible expenses are those related to:
  - Carrying out studies;
  - Capacity building (training, support, etc.);
  - Direct costs of implementing the project (staff costs dedicated to the project [gross salary including social security contributions, in proportion to the time actually spent on the project], rental, consumables, communication costs, etc.);
  - Investments (constructions, equipment, etc.) in an exceptional manner and duly argued in the application form and provided that:
    - They are essential to the realization of the project;
The farmers’ organisation is able to demonstrate the coverage of operating and maintenance costs over time;
- They comply with the conditions of competitive bidding (comparison of a minimum of 3 bids).

*Note: Investment expenditure will be submitted to CARDI and Afdi who will have to validate it. They must be clearly presented and argued in the “application form”.

- **Ineligible expenses:**
  Ineligible expenses are those related to:
  - Expenses incurred before the start date of eligibility of the expenses, and after the end date of eligibility;
  - Debts and debt burden (interest, provisions);
  - Provisions for losses, liabilities or possible future debts;
  - Bank fees, interest due;
  - Loans, working capital, guarantee funds, individual and collective loans;
  - Costs related to foreign exchange rate fluctuations;
  - In-kind contributions;
  - VAT, other recoverable taxes and charges;
  - Purchases of land or buildings;
  - Expenses incurred during the suspension of the project;
  - Excessive or reckless spending.

*Note: All expenses related to the project must be presented in the budget, including ineligible expenses that must be covered by other sources of funding.*

**Eligibility criteria**

- **The structure**
  - Be a farmers’ organization and have proven experience in the agricultural and/or food field;
  - Have been in existence for more than 2 years;
  - Be registered and/or recognized in one of the three countries of the call for projects: Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, or engage in a formal recognition process during implementation;
  - Have their own financial existence and accounting. In the absence of accounting, the FO will undertake to enter into a process of formalization of its compatibility.
  - Have a financial report for year N-1 validated by the last General Assembly.

*Please note: Public institutions and local authorities are not eligible*

- **The project**

3 Farmers’ organizations are autonomous membership-based organizations of small-scale rural producers, formal and informal, including cooperatives and unions and they help address the challenges faced by individual smallholders and enable collective actions that benefit their members, facilitating a crucial role in improving access to inputs, knowledge, resources, finance, markets, and advocacy for rural producers.

4 Previous Year = “Present year minus 1”
• Be carried out in one of the following three countries: Grenada, Dominica and/or St. Lucia
• Have a reasoned project. A minimum duration of 60 calendar days and a maximum duration of 104 calendar days has been established for the implementation period for Economic Projects. The starting date of the implementation period of each Economic Project will be expressly indicated by a Letter of Agreement in the final formulation, and will have 31st October, 2024 as the termination date for all Economic Projects.
• Eligible themes:
  o Strengthening the supply of domestic markets with quality local products from family farming;
  o Consolidating the economy and the organization of actors in the agricultural and food sectors, while ensuring a fair distribution of added value across the value chain;
  o Contributing to the integration of young people into the economy of the agricultural and food sectors;
  o Facilitating the implementation of climate-resilient practices.

Note: Projects demonstrating an effective contribution to the creation of remunerative, fair and sustainable economic circuits will be preferred.

Selection criteria

Particular attention will be paid to the following aspects:
• Relevance of the project: project that meets the food sovereignty expectations of the countries concerned;
• Local anchoring: partnerships/collaborations between actors in the agricultural and food sectors, with NGOs and other local associations, articulation with local policies, etc.
• Commitment of the members of the organization and strong inclusion of the youth;
• Sustainability of the project: potential of the project to continue, expand, be reproduced, and become autonomous in the medium term;
• Cost-effectiveness
• Ability to measure induced changes
• Taking into account cross-cutting themes (Gender, Youth, and Environment).

Methods of response

◆ Time
The deadline for receipt of the application by email is Monday, 08th July 2024.
The deadline for responding to the selection of applications: Friday 12th July 2024
The deadline for accepting a Letter of Agreement (LoA) offer is Wednesday 17th July 2024

◆ Transmission of applications
The application must be completed in English and submitted by email to the following address: afdi@cardi.org

◆ Application form
Accessible via the following link: https://onlyo.co/4eDMA7d
Contact

If you have any questions about this call for projects, please contact:

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