



Call for proposals

2011

Promoting family farming in Western Africa

**Program supported by
Fondation de France in partnership
with Comité français pour
la solidarité internationale (CFSI)**

Deadline:

- 31 March 2011

Background

At a time when malnutrition is affecting more than one billion people worldwide and is gaining ground in Western Africa, support for viable and sustainable family farming is absolutely vital.

Malnutrition is an offence to human rights and dignity. Sub-Saharan Africa, where one person in three goes hungry, is one of the world's worst-hit regions.

The trade liberalization of agricultural produces and the concentration of production in big farms in the North as well as in the South, increase in the share of food which depends from on importation, as well as the impact of international food price fluctuations.

Poor urban people in Southern countries have benefitted from relatively low prices thanks to importations, although malnutrition is still rampant. The 2008 "hunger demonstrations" that occurred following a sharp increase in prices on international markets aggravated by speculation, act as a reminder that the social peace gained in cities at the expense of farmers is fragile.

Conflicts, climatic conditions, soil erosion or poor crop preservation are well-known causes of hunger. Other threats are now further weakening production conditions: reduction of biodiversity, pressure on water resources and climate change.

Hence Western African farmers and their organisations have a three-fold challenge to take up with their partner associations: reduce malnutrition, ensure a decent income for farmers and address the need for sustainable management of natural resources.

To help them, Fondation de France and Comité Français pour la Solidarité Internationale joined forces in 2009 to launch a new programme for bolstering family farming in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010 this programme refocused on Western Africa.

Objectives

The general objective is to promote local initiatives to reinforce access to food through a viable and sustainable family agriculture in Africa and share its benefits on a wider scale.

The specific objectives are to:

- improve and safeguard the production, processing, preservation and marketing of

farm produce and ensure that poor urban consumers have access to it through concrete and innovative actions;

- share among local, national and international actors the knowledge acquired from tangible actions supported under this programme, and draw global lessons.

What initiatives are being supported?

The programme to promote family farming in Western Africa will provide financial support for the following actions:

- improvement and diversification of family farming, the processing and marketing of family farmed produce;
- management of natural resources in a sustainable manner, in connection with family farms;
- strengthening farming organisations.

Special attention will be provided to projects that respond to the following two themes:

- **feeding cities through local production:** how can local family farming supply

urban markets and feed cities? How can it compete with exported products? How can the rural population live decently from family farming activities? How can producers and consumers organise themselves to improve their response to their mutual needs? Etc.;

- **agriculture and environment:** can family farming produce enough in a sustainable manner?

Important: projects aimed solely at purchasing equipment or inputs cannot be financed under this programme.

Who is this call for proposals aimed at?

At non profit legal entities:

- Farming organisations in Western Africa;
- supporting NGOs active in Western Africa or in France provided they work together with local partners;
- public institutions (research, education etc.);
- networks of organisations or individuals (Western Africa and Europe) working on

a shared project or approach to develop family farming in Western Africa.

Important: this call for proposals is reserved for formal-partnership-based actions between African and European organisations. The organisation putting forward the project can be either African or European.

Selection criteria

The selection committee will evaluate projects according to 2 types of criteria:

Quality criteria:

- the quality of the project, its relevance and its impact on family farming or on food access in towns and cities;
- the feasibility of the project's budget and plan of action, and coherence between the planned activities and expected results;
- budget/financing consistency;
- measures to ensure project sustainability.

Innovation criteria:

- on a local scale regarding measures to take into account to climate change, preservation of natural resources and biodiversity, marketing methods and actions aimed at rural employment and creating economic activity;
- innovative actions to ensure that citizens are organised in terms of local governance and economic subsectors;
- innovations regarding skills' partnerships at local and international levels.

How and for what will grants be made?

To encourage applicants to develop diversified partnerships, notably at local level, Fondation de France never funds an entire project (maximum 80%). The applicant's financing plans must therefore give details of other financial partners that have been approached or have already granted financing, as well as the self-financed portion.

We will support two types of project:

- short term (one year), for a total of between €10,000 and €15,000;

- longer term (maximum three years), for a maximum of €50,000 over the entire period (paid in yearly instalments according to the advancement of the project).

We can fund projects that are already underway or specific segments of much larger projects, whether existing or new ones.

How to apply ?

Please download the applications for grants (Word and Excel files) from one of the following websites:

www.fondationdefrance.org or
www.cfsi.asso.fr

The application form must be completed in French or in English and sent **by email only** to the following address:

secr.aea@cfsi.asso.fr

[Word file, together with an Excel file for the project budget, maximum of 4 Mb]

The deadline for email applications is **Thursday 31 March 2011**.

The applications will be examined by the programme's secretariat, managed by CFSI.

A jury will draw up a shortlist before the end of April. Applicants will be informed of the results by email in early May.

Shortlisted applicants will have ten days to complete their application form by sending scanned copies of all administrative documents: articles of association, list of board members, bank account details, latest minutes of the Annual General Meeting, latest balance sheet and annual report, letters of commitment of each partner.

The final selection will be made in July 2011 and applicants will be informed of the results by email in the course of the month.

Any questions concerning this call for proposals may be sent by email to the following address secr.aea@cfsi.asso.fr

Programme managers:

Martin Spitz (Fondation de France)
and Jean-Baptiste Cavalier (CFSI)



32 rue Le Peletier - 75009 Paris
Tél. + 33 (0)1 44 83 88 50

www.cfsi.asso.fr



40 avenue Hoche - 75008 PARIS
Tél. + 33 (0)1 44 21 31 00

www.fondationdefrance.org