

Call for proposals 2013

Promoting family farming in West Africa

Feeding the cities through sustainable family farming

Deadline for the submission of project proposals: Thursday, March 28th 2013

Backgrounds

Although the number of persons suffering from hunger has slightly decreased (870 million people worldwide in 2012), the situation still remains concerning. Malnutrition is an offence to human rights and dignity. Africa is the only continent where chronic undernutrition has grown over the past twenty years, reaching 239 million people in 2012.

Due to trade liberalisation in agricultural products and the concentration of production in large farms in the North and in the South, the share of imported food has increased. In addition, food price volatility affects both urban and rural population. Poor urban people in Southern countries used to benefit from relatively low prices thanks to importations, but malnutrition is still rampant. The 2008 “hunger demonstrations” that occurred following a sharp increase in food prices, aggravated by speculation on international markets, acted as a reminder that the social peace gained in cities at the expense of farmers is fragile.

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

Hence West African farmers and their organizations have a three-fold challenge to take up alongside with their national and international partners: improve food availability, ensure a decent income for farmers and address the need for sustainable management of natural resources.

Faced with the rapid growth of cities and with an increasing demand from urban consumers that transform rural-urban configuration, family farms must strengthen their ability to feed the towns with local production.

To support them, the Fondation de France and the Comité Français pour la Solidarité Internationale joined forces in 2009 to launch a new Program for strengthening family farming in sub-Saharan Africa. In 2010 this Program focused on West Africa.

Objectives

The general objective is to promote local initiatives aimed at reinforcing access to food through a viable and sustainable family agriculture in Africa and to share their achievements on a wider scale.

The specific objectives are to:

1. improve and secure production, processing, preservation and marketing of farm produce and ensure that poor urban consumers have access to it through concrete and innovative actions;
2. share among local, national and international actors the knowledge acquired from tangible actions supported under this Program, and draw overall lessons.

What initiatives are being supported?

The Program supports projects that fall under these two themes:

- feeding cities through local production: how can local family farming supply urban markets and feed cities? How can it compete with imported products? How can the rural population live decently from family farming activities? How can producers and consumers cooperate for mutual benefits?
- agriculture and environment: can family farming produce enough in a sustainable manner? How can family farming adapt to global warming? How can it contribute to preserving natural resources and biodiversity? Etc.

The Program to promote family farming in West Africa provides financial support to the following actions:

- improvement and diversification of production, processing and marketing of family farm produce;
- management of natural resources in a sustainable way, in the framework of family farming production;

- strengthening farmers' organizations;
- defence and promotion of family farming among the consumers and decision makers;
- capitalisation upon innovations addressing family farming development;
- better attention to gender issues and support to women farmers.

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

Eligibility of applicants

Applicants must be non-profit legal entities:

- West African farmers' organizations;
- "support NGO's" active in West Africa or in Europe, provided they work together with local partners;
- training or research organizations.

Important: this call for proposals is reserved for actions based on formal partnership between African and European organizations. The project implementing organization can be either African or European.

Selection criteria

The selection committee will evaluate projects according to the following criteria:

Quality criteria:

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

Innovation criteria:

Innovative nature of the project regarding one or several of the following items:

- preservation of natural resources and of biodiversity; adaptation to climate change;
- marketing methods, rural employment and creation of economic activities;
- participation of citizens in local governance and participation of family farmers in the “production-processing-preserving-marketing” chain management;
- facilitation of skill-based partnerships, at local and international level.

Financial allocations provided

To encourage applicants to develop diversified partnerships, notably at local level, this Program will not fund an entire project (maximum 80%). The applicant’s financing plan must therefore give details of other financial partners that have been approached or have already granted financing, as well as the amount of self-financing.

We support two types of project:

- short term (one year), fund allocation between €10,000 and €15,000;
- longer term (maximum three years), for a maximum of €50,000 over the entire period (paid in yearly installments according to the advancement of the project).

We can fund projects that are already underway or specific areas of much larger projects, whether existing or new ones. Only actions starting after 1st January 2013 will be funded.

How to apply?

Please download the applications for grants (Word and Excel files) from one of the following websites: fondationdefrance.org (section “Trouver un financement”) or cfsi.asso.fr (section “Actualités”).

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 reception of applications via email is **Thursday, March 28th 2013**.

The Program’s secretariat, managed by CFSI, will review the applications received.

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 to send by email within ten days the scanned copies of all administrative documents that are requested in the application form. The final selection will be made in July 2013 and applicants will be informed of the results by email in the course of the month.

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

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