

Call for expressions of interest 2015

Promoting family farming in West Africa 2015

Feeding the towns through sustainable family farming

Deadline for the submission of outline dossiers: Thursday, 22 January 2015

Background

Although the number of persons suffering from hunger has fallen slightly (842 million people worldwide in 2013), the situation remains a cause of great concern. Malnutrition is an offence against 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.

National and international agricultural policies, mainly unfavourable to family farming, along with inadequate public budgets are major causes of hunger. Added to these are conflicts, climate hazards, impoverished soils and poor storage of crops. Other factors now further affect conditions for producers: less biodiversity, pressure on land and water resources, climate change.

Against a background of trade liberalization in agricultural products and the concentration of production on large farms in the North and South, the proportion of imported food has increased. In addition, food price volatility affects both urban and rural populations. Poor urban populations in Southern countries used to benefit from prices kept low as a result of imports, although this did not eradicate malnutrition. Following a sharp increase in food prices

aggravated by speculation on international markets, the Spring 2008 “hunger demonstrations” acted as a reminder that the social peace gained in towns and cities at the expense of farmers is fragile.

Faced with the rapid growth of towns and increasing demand from urban consumers, which change the town/country relationship, family farms must strengthen their capacity to feed the towns through local production.

West African farmers and their organizations therefore have a four-fold challenge to take up with their partner associations:

- guarantee the availability of locally produced foodstuffs;
- ensure farmers an income on which they can live decently;
- respond to the requirements of sustainable management of natural resources;
- influence public policies at a national and international level.

To support them, the Fondation de France and the Comité Français pour la Solidarité Internationale (CSFI) joined forces in 2009 to launch a new program to reinforce family farming in Sub-Saharan Africa. Since 2010, the focus has been on West Africa.

Objectives

The general objective is to boost local initiatives to increase access to food through viable and sustainable family agriculture in Africa and to share their knowledge and experience on a wider scale.

The specific objectives are:

- through concrete, innovative action, to improve and secure the production, processing, preservation and marketing of farm produce and to ensure that poor urban consumers have access to it;
- to share among local, national and international actors the knowledge acquired from concrete action under this program, and to draw comprehensive lessons.

What initiatives are being supported?

Themes

The program supports projects which take into account both the following themes:

- **feeding the towns through local production:** how can local family farming supply domestic markets and feed the cities –big or medium ones- and rural settlements? How can local family farming supply urban markets and feed towns? 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?
- **developing methods of sustainable agriculture:** is it possible to meet the challenge “Feeding the towns, now and in 2050, through family farming” by developing sustainable agriculture? How can family farming adapt to climate change? How can it contribute to preserving natural resources and biodiversity – whether in the phase of production, processing or marketing.

Priority questions

In 2015, only the projects addressing, in an innovative and precise way, one or both of the following **priority questions, will be selected:**

- ① Initiatives carried by women and youth : taking these initiatives into account does it allow family farming to better win back urban markets?
- ② How can family farming gaining weight in agri-food processing be a chief asset for winning back urban markets?

Actions

The program provides financial support for actions designed to give produce from sustainable family farms access to urban markets. This objective can be illustrated by such actions as:

- improvement and diversification of sustainable family farming production, its processing and marketing;
- strengthening family farming organizations committed to the approach proposed in the program;
- defence and promotion of family farming among consumers;
- capitalization on innovations bringing responses to the development of family farming;
- advocating sustainable family farming to deciders in the political field;

Important:

- projects aimed solely at purchasing equipment or inputs cannot be financed under this Program;
- the program grant committee will take care to select only initiatives showing real capacity to innovate in responding to the challenge of feeding towns through sustainable family farming. Accordingly, for example, a project designed solely to increase productions on farms will not be selected. Neither will be selected a project that does not address the priority questions listed here above.

A two-phases procedure

Phase 1: before Thursday, 22 January 2015, in the context of this call for expressions of interest – the submission of an outline dossier in the format below. A reply will be received by e-mail at the beginning of March 2015.

Phase 2: submission of a complete dossier between March and April 2015 if the outline dossier is pre-selected by the selection committee. The format and the precise submission date will be communicated at the beginning of March 2015.

To whom is this call for expressions of interest addressed?

To non-profit legal entities:

- West African farmers' organizations;
- "Support NGOs" active in West Africa or in Europe (to the extent that they work with local partners);
- research and/or training organizations.

Important: this call is reserved for proposals of partnership actions, formalized between African and European organization(s). The applicant organization can be African or European.

Selection criteria

The selection committee will make a selection of outline files according to the following criteria:

- admissibility of the dossier from an administrative point of view (complete dossier, correctly filled in and with the accompanying documents as requested, files correctly named, amount of the grant and duration of the project, no error in the budgets, etc.);
- eligibility of applicants, partners and projects;
- relevance of the innovation(s) regarding the dimension "Feeding the towns" put in place by the project and the extent to which they enable sustainable family farming production to have access to urban markets; relevance of the innovations regarding the priority questions listed here above;

- quality of the project (its impact on family farming and on access to food in towns and cities; preservation of natural resources and of biodiversity; adaptation to climate change; rural employment; governance; skill-based partnerships, at local and international level; etc.);
- feasibility (relevance of project's budget and action plan, coherence of the general objective, specific objectives, planned activities, expected results and the indicators of these same results; coherence between estimated budget and financial planning);
- criteria for inclusion of scaling-up (measures to ensure the continued benefits over the long run, capitalization, dissemination and valorization, replication of the innovations, advocacy, etc.).

How and for what are the support grants awarded?

In order to encourage applicants to develop diverse partnerships, particularly local ones, the fund will not finance the complete project (maximum is 80%). Financing plans will mention other financial partners approached and/or acquired, as well as the share of self-financing planned.

Two types of initiative will be supported:

- projects of short duration (one year), for an amount allocated of 10,000 to 15,000 euros;
- projects over more time (maximum three years), for an amount, over the whole period, of 50,000 euros maximum (paid in annual instalments according to the progress of the project).

Projects financed can be projects underway, or specific phases of much larger programs, underway or new. Actions financed must begin after 1 January 2015 and start before December 2015.

How to reply?

Please download the guidelines and the brief application file (Word and Excel files) on fondationdefrance.org (section “*Trouver un financement*”) or cfsi.asso.fr (section “*Actualités*”).

The outline dossier, completed in French or English, is to be sent by email only, to the following address: secr.aea@cfsi.asso.fr (a Word file, accompanied by the Excel file for the budgets, and the annexes requested). The documents may be sent in several emails, each not exceeding 4Mo.

The limit date for reception of the dossier by email is Thursday, 22 January 2015.

Applications will be examined by the program secretariat, put in place by CFSI.

A pre-selection committee will meet in March 2015. Each applicant will be notified of the decision (pre-selection or refusal) at the beginning of March 2015, by email only (no replies by telephone). Organizations pre-selected will proceed to Phase 2 of the selection. They will then complete the full grant application dossier.

Should you have any question left unanswered after having carefully read the guidelines, please send it by email only to: secr.aea@cfsi.asso.fr

Program managers

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