

Call for Proposals – Innovative Fund

Food Security and Rural Entrepreneurship Fund

Background

The Food Security and Rural Entrepreneurship Fund (FSRE-Fund) is financed by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (EKN) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and managed by ICCO on behalf of Agri-ProFocus and the Agri-Hub Ethiopia. ICCO's portfolio in Ethiopia is managed by its Regional Office in Kampala, Uganda. The Regional Office for Central and Eastern Africa is contractually responsible for the implementation of this fund. Agri-ProFocus (APF) is a Dutch-rooted partnership promoting farmer entrepreneurship and food security. Agri-ProFocus has 34 network members in Ethiopia including producer organisations, financial institutions, private agri-business, NGOs and government institutions.

The Food Security and Rural Entrepreneurship Fund (FSRE-Fund) is set up to *finance* activities that improve the food security of farming families and enhance income, investment and jobs in smallholder farmers, Producer Organisations (PO) and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) linked to smallholder farmers.

Call for Proposals – Innovative Fund

This call for proposals aims to receive innovative projects which have a potential to contribute to improve food security and rural entrepreneurship in rural Ethiopia. The innovative fund is supporting innovations in agricultural production and value chains that put a new idea or technology into use. An invention in this context implies a new knowledge, a new product, the use of new equipment, new ways of organising work processes or structuring business relations, etc. and becomes an innovation when it improves how things are done, is economically viable and is applied by a significant number of people/organisations.

In its first call for proposal FSRE-Fund support 13 competitive project proposals that have a potential to sustainably improve any of the following intervention areas: food security, investment, job or income of smallholder farmers in rural Ethiopia. The planned duration of a project is for a maximum of 12 months.

Eligible applicants for Innovative Fund

Eligible organisations for Innovative Funds are Producer Organisations (POs), Business Development Service suppliers, Cooperatives, NGOs, Micro Finance Institutions, Research Organisations (e.g. Universities), Chambers of Commerce and Business Associations legally registered and operational in Ethiopia.

FSRE-Fund support

The FSRE-Fund will finance projects up to 100,000 Euro, equivalent in Ethiopian Birr 2,372,000 per proposal. All applicants will be required to request a grant amount within the ceiling and provide detailed budget breakdown on how the grant and their own contribution to the proposed project will be spent. There should be clear and strong evidence of the applicant's side contribution to complement the grant.

For interested applicants, ICCO will organise a short public seminar to give further details about the FSRE-Fund. For those who express interest, an application guideline will be provided during or after the seminar time. If you wish to attend the seminar, please send an email to confirm attendance stating the name and type of the organisation/institution, venue would like to attend and the name of the person attending the seminar. Please send your message to fsref@iccokia.org with in the subject line: attendance FSRE-Fund seminar.

Schedule and application deadline:

- Applicants express their interest to attend the public seminar before April 5, 2013.

- The public seminar will be held:
 - In Bahirdar on April 7, 2013 at 9:00AM at Bahirdar Management Institute.
 - In Addis Ababa on April 10, 2013 at 9:00AM at CCRDA.
 - In Hawassa on April 13, 2013 at 9:00AM at Hawassa Management Institute
- Application guideline (in soft copy) can be requested from April 1, 2013 using the email address mentioned above.
- The closing date for concept document submission is April 20, 2013 4:30 PM
- Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted by FSRE-Fund and requested to submit a full proposal before May 20, 2013 4:30 PM.

The concept document and full proposal hard copies shall include financial and technical proposals sealed in separate envelopes and softcopy submitted to our Ethiopia agent Fair & Sustainable BDS PLC office located at 4th or 6th Floor of Arsho Laboratory Building on the road between Olympia to Meskel Flower Hotel near by the Dreamliner Hotel.

Kampala, Uganda