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China-IFAD South-South and Triangular Cooperation Facility

Approved proposals: third call



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Supporting the Recovery of Priority Food Crop Value Chains from the Effects of COVID-19 to Strengthen Community Resilience, Markets and Trade Development in Tanzania

The COVID-19 pandemic has hurt the agricultural sector in Tanzania by disrupting global supply chains and international commodity trade. The project will address these challenges by strengthening value chains for three crops (beans, cassava and sunflower) that are in high demand from domestic and international markets. Supporting these value chains can help achieve gender- and youth-inclusive outcomes in Tanzania while enhancing resilience and mitigating the impacts of COVID-19. The project will also foster South-South cooperation through close linkages with partners from the Chinese private sector. Activities will include sharing knowledge about manufacturing and maintaining agroprocessing machinery as well as promoting the trade of beans, cassava and sunflower between the two countries.

Through this project, the productivity of farmers in five regions of Tanzania is expected to increase, together with processing and marketing opportunities for beans, cassava and sunflower. Initiatives will include: 1) scaling up state-of-the-art agronomy methods using a suite of digital tools in tandem with training programmes; 2) strengthening farmers' access to healthy seeds of the best varieties by reinforcing and extending networks of seed entrepreneurs; 3) introducing cost-effective processing machinery from China so that local public-private partnerships can provide new market opportunities for farmers; and 4) re-establishing the COVID-19 interrupted cassava dry chips trade with China.

The project will employ diversified and innovative channels for knowledge management. The use of digital platforms and tools will be prioritized to quickly disseminate knowledge and establish partnerships along value chains. High-quality Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials will be developed and distributed in aggregation centres for easy access by stakeholders. Workshops, meetings and learning events will be organized to share experiences from the project, thus ensuring a broader adoption of the innovations in Tanzania and within the region.

Total value: US\$489,417

Recipient:
International Institute of Tropical Agriculture

Focus country:
United Republic of Tanzania

Targeted beneficiaries:
20,000 smallholder farmers (50 per cent women and 30 per cent youth) in five regions (Dodoma, Geita, Manyara, Morogoro and Mwanza) of Tanzania and at least 10 trader/agroprocessor small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as direct beneficiaries; more than 100,000 smallholder farmers (40 per cent women and 20 per cent youth) as indirect beneficiaries

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Strengthening Agricultural Resilience through Learning and Innovation (STARLIT)

Total value: US\$483,470

Recipient:

ICCO part of CORDAID

Focus countries:

Rwanda and Kenya

Targeted beneficiaries:

2,800 smallholder farmers (45 per cent women, 40 per cent youth) working in cereal value chains in Rwanda and Kenya as direct beneficiaries; 9,000 family members in Rwanda and 3,600 family members in Kenya as indirect beneficiaries

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For most farmers in Rwanda's and Kenya's cereal value chains, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced production capacity and incomes while increasing food insecurity. STARLIT aims to support these farmers' recoveries and strengthen their resilience to the pandemic and other disasters by facilitating access to innovative financial and non-financial services. Access to these services will strengthen farmers' productivity and support them as they (re-)establish market access for their produce.

In cooperation with private-sector partner organizations, the project will build a market development system by developing and rolling out innovative agricultural solutions. These will include: 1) developing and implementing innovative leasing and asset financing models to enhance farmers' access to small-scale post-harvest and irrigation equipment; 2) facilitating access to relevant agricultural information (e.g. weather conditions, extension services, product traceability, mobile payments and digital market platforms) for agribusinesses and farmers; 3) de-risking agricultural finance for microfinance institutions by providing digital risk mitigating tools that facilitate smallholder farmers' access to financial services; and 4) promoting South-South knowledge exchange through digital information and communications technologies (ICTs) to support COVID-19 recovery initiatives for rural smallholder farmers in Rwanda and Kenya.

The COVID-19 crisis has re-emphasized the need for digital solutions for farmers. The project employs ICT solutions to connect rural smallholders to agriculture-related information. An innovative approach to facilitating South-South knowledge exchange, Program Embedded Reflection & Learning, will be used to capture learnings and adaptations. Targeted exchange activities between Rwanda and Kenya on innovative agricultural solutions, including digital access to agricultural information, finance and training, will be facilitated. These will increase smallholders' productivity and competitiveness in the value chain, therefore strengthening resilience in both countries.



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Supporting Local Solutions towards a More Resilient and Sustainable Food System in The Republic of Cuba

Disruptions in global supply chains due to the COVID-19 pandemic have significantly limited the purchase and sale of healthy and sustainable food in local markets, posing a severe threat to food security in Cuba. This project will increase the efficiency, resilience and nutrition-sensitivity of food systems in Cuba by scaling up local solutions implemented in the Gibara municipality and disseminating the results to other municipalities. The findings will inform national policies and programmes to benefit the wider population.

The project prioritizes the increase in yields, diversification, crop quality, risk-management capacities and resilience to climate change within the Municipal Food Self-Supply Programme, initially focusing on Gibara. Key activities will include: 1) improving the knowledge, skills and capacities of smallholder farmers and other value chain stakeholders to supply food to social protection programmes; 2) strengthening institutional capacity to implement select social protection programmes that promote a healthy diet of locally produced food, thus preventing malnutrition; and 3) strengthening climate risk management capacities, including early warning and data analysis, information management and monitoring of food and nutrition security.

The project will be supported by innovative tools generated and tested in Cuba, such as "Beans on the table", "Cooperative Mirror" and "Comprehensive risk management set". In addition, sustainable small-scale livestock production models will play a critical role in diversifying livelihoods and incomes for rural families, especially for women and youth. Cuba-China technical cooperation will be at the core of the initiative through the establishment of peer-to-peer learning, technical cooperation and South-South and triangular cooperation exchanges with selected institutions in China. In addition, exchanges will be fostered with countries in Central America to replicate decentralized school-feeding management models based on local food production.

Total value: US\$481,098

Recipient:

World Food Programme

Focus countries:

Cuba and other countries in Central America

Targeted beneficiaries:

4,000 rural people as direct beneficiaries, including smallholders, inputs and services providers and traders, national and local decision makers and experts, children in day-care centres and primary schools, elderly people assisted through community canteens (Family Support Systems); 71,500 rural people as indirect beneficiaries

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Promoting Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Livelihood Opportunities in Rural Mountainous Areas through Upgrading Cashgora Value Chains

Total value: US\$446,440

Recipient:

Aga Khan Foundation

Focus countries:

Tajikistan, Afghanistan

Targeted beneficiaries:

4,000 (50 per cent women and girls) cashgora fibre producers,

200 (75 per cent women)

farmers, spinners, knitters and weavers, 1,440 (50 per cent

women and girls) youth, farmer and female-headed households

as direct beneficiaries;

2,100 (50 per cent women

and girls) individuals as

indirect beneficiaries

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As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tajikistan is experiencing an unprecedented health and economic crisis that increasingly requires urgent international support and assistance. The objective of this project is to foster sustainable economic opportunities and livelihood development for vulnerable rural households by building strategic partnerships between Tajikistan and China. These households, mostly in the remote mountainous and border regions of Tajikistan and the Badakhshan province of Afghanistan, have been hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

The project aims to improve the livelihoods of rural people and returning migrant workers. Downstream facilities will be upgraded with the latest technologies to create value addition in the cashgora value chain. The project's interventions will include: 1) rehabilitating and scaling up the Gorno-Badakhshan fibre-dehairing facility; 2) improving the capacity-building of facility staff and cashgora value chain actors so that they can better manage fibre processing and waste recycling, improve safety and security and learn organizational, financial and marketing skills; 3) conducting an assessment, through rural community meetings, to identify villages and farming households eligible for subsidies; and 4) establishing a mobile team of trainers to provide capacity-building training and extension services to farmers and rural people in need of COVID-19 recovery support.

By creating an enabling environment, the project contributes to the attainment of gender equality, women's leadership development and the empowerment of young women and girls through the emergence of new businesses led by women. With the support of Chinese partners through business development assistance, tailor-made training programmes, extension services, strategic partnerships, the project will promote high-grade and advanced cashgora goat-breeding, and expand these solutions to other areas of the countries and beyond. Sustained knowledge application and replication will be ensured through a peer-learning approach and follow-up interaction with beneficiaries at all levels.



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