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Investing in rural people

President's report on a proposed grant under  
the regional window to the PROCASUR  
Corporation for the Development of Tools to  
Engage Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness

Note to Executive Board representatives

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For: Approval

## Recommendation for approval

The Executive Board is invited to approve the recommendation for the proposed grant as contained in paragraph 14.

## Proposed grant under the regional window to the PROCASUR Corporation for the Development of Tools to Engage Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness

### I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy for Grant Financing

1. The “youth bulge” is a problem that is unique to sub-Saharan Africa. Annual population growth rates in the region are at least 2.6 per cent – double that of the rest of the world.<sup>1</sup> In West and Central Africa, the population distribution skews younger than any other region in the world: 62 per cent of the population is 35 years old or younger. Young people in sub-Saharan Africa have limited access to land, financial resources and other productive assets. These young people represent an untapped resource with infinite potential and are key to all initiatives being implemented in the region.
2. The proposed programme is in line with the goal and objectives of the 2015 IFAD Policy for Grant Financing.<sup>2</sup> Its objectives respond to priority area 1.1: Rights and access to resources, since the grant will address youth access to tools that improve their: employment opportunities; rights and access to resources such as land; training; advisory services; and credit. The grant objectives of reducing poverty by improving the livelihoods of young men and women are fully aligned with IFAD’s vision in which youth are at the centre of its activities. They are also aligned with IFAD’s strategic framework in the areas of: (i) increasing rural people’s productive capacities; (ii) increasing rural people’s benefits from market participation; and (iii) strengthening the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of rural people’s economic activities. The grant-funded activities will compliment other youth initiatives being financed by IFAD. These activities will give youth the possibility of engaging in sustainable income-generating activities through the use of the tools disseminated by the grant.

### II. The proposed programme

3. The overall goal of the programme is to improve the livelihoods of poor young women and men in rural Cameroon, Mali, Madagascar, Nigeria and Senegal. The objectives are to identify (through stocktaking), further develop and improve supportive tools, and then test them with the rural youth to disseminate them and scale them up in sub-Saharan Africa through policies and the design of new investments. As a result of implementation, the grant will have: (i) identified tools relevant for targeted beneficiaries; (ii) tested and disseminated them through national alliances; and (iii) supported networks for further youth inclusion and greater well-being.
4. The target group will be comprised of 3,000 young rural women and men between 15 and 35 years in selected countries where IFAD projects are being implemented. This will enable their inclusion in value chains that are already being supported by ongoing projects. The targeted projects include: (i) Cameroon’s Youth Agropastoral

<sup>1</sup> IFAD Rural Development Report 2016, p 194.

<sup>2</sup> EB 2015/114/R.2/Rev.1.

- Entrepreneurship Promotion Programme; (ii) Madagascar's Vocational Training and Agricultural Productivity Improvement Programme; (iii) Mali's Rural Youth Vocational Training, Employment and Entrepreneurship Support Project; (iv) Senegal's Agricultural Value Chains Support Project; and (v) Nigeria's Climate Change Adaptation and Agribusiness Support Programme in the Savannah Belt.
5. The programme will be implemented over four years and will have the following components: (i) identification of supportive tools; (ii) testing of required tools; and (iii) grant management, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management.
  6. After an initial scoping and stocktaking phase to identify knowledge, best practices and tools in each of the countries, the collected knowledge will be further developed in tandem with: (i) specific measures for youth employment creation in line with their aspirations; (ii) investments in new and sustainable agricultural technologies; (iii) promotion of value chain development and public-private partnerships as interactive mechanisms to provide youth with access to training, technical and financial support, and ultimately land and other assets; (iv) opportunities for decent work and increased farm and off-farm economic participation; and (v) enhanced linkages with small and medium agro-enterprises to assist rural youth in reaching their aspirations for income generation through innovative entrepreneurship. With these objectives in mind, the next phase of the programme will test and audit the tools that are developed, then disseminate them to rural youth along with training on their use in achieving young people's aspirations, improving their livelihoods and decreasing poverty.

### III. Expected outcomes

7. The programme is expected to have the following outcomes: (i) better information on the situation of youth in rural areas through the production of country reports on youth; and (ii) the dissemination of supportive tools for youth inclusion and livelihoods that are scaled up into new investment projects and government policies.
8. Based on lessons learned in the region, this grant's major innovation is the testing and auditing of the tools identified through the participatory identification phase. The expected outputs are therefore the tools that have been identified, tested, audited and retained by young rural women and men. This process will ensure stakeholder ownership of the tools, promoting their use and dissemination among other young people. In addition to these tools, stakeholders will be sensitized to the importance and interests of rural youth, and will have access to information platforms and best practices documented throughout implementation. Other important lessons learned are: the importance of using multi-stakeholder approaches with partners (such as McGill University); and building a system of checks and balances into grant implementation to ensure thorough evaluation of activities and results. This will ensure robust results that can be scaled up in future IFAD-financed projects.

### IV. Implementation arrangements

9. The grant will be implemented by the PROCASUR Corporation, which will act as the facilitator for all activities and will coordinate activities with partners. In addition to working closely with IFAD projects and programmes, four main partners will participate in the implementation of grant activities: (i) the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at McGill University; (ii) the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN); (iii) Innovation, Environment, Development in Africa (IED Africa); and (iv) Agritools. Each of these institutions will enter into a service agreement with PROCASUR, which will ensure the flow of funds, overall coordination and consolidation of annual work plans. Partnerships with other organizations will be assessed as necessary during grant implementation.

10. PROCASUR was selected competitively through a call for proposals. During the evaluation process, IFAD noted the complementarity among the bidders. Subsequently, the different bidders were asked to merge their proposals. A partnership led by PROCASUR in collaboration with GLTN, McGill University and IED Africa was awarded the grant.
11. The grant will be implemented by a coordinator based in one of the five countries in the area of operations with support from PROCASUR's headquarters in Santiago, Chile and its decentralized offices in Nairobi, Kenya and Dakar, Senegal. PROCASUR and other partners will work closely with IFAD-financed projects in the selected countries. Country teams, IFAD country offices and technical specialists from IFAD's Policy and Technical Advisory Division, and Global Engagement, Knowledge and Strategy Division will be consulted throughout implementation regarding supervision of activities and publication of knowledge.
12. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audits.

## V. Indicative programme costs and financing

13. Overall costs amount to US\$2.5 million, of which IFAD is expected to finance US\$2 million. PROCASUR will provide cofinancing totalling US\$140,000 and an additional US\$360,000 will be provided by other partners, for a total of US\$500,000 in cofinancing.

Table 1

### Costs by component and financier

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| <i>Components</i>  | <i>IFAD</i>  | <i>PROCASUR</i> | <i>Other</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|--|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Identification of supportive tools                                | 502          | 47              | 143          | 692          |
| 2. Testing of required tools   | 931          | 73              | 169          | 1 173        |
| 3. Grant management, monitoring, evaluation and knowledge management | 567          | 20              | 48           | 635          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2 000</b> | <b>140</b>      | <b>360</b>   | <b>2 500</b> |

Table 2

### Costs by expenditure category and financier

(Thousands of United States dollars)

| <i>Expenditure category</i>       | <i>IFAD</i>  | <i>PROCASUR</i> | <i>Other</i> | <i>Total</i> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Consultancies                  | 534          | 31              | 112          | 676          |
| 2. Goods, services and inputs     | 164          | 20              | -            | 184          |
| 3. Salaries and allowances        | 200          | 20              | 20           | 240          |
| 4. Training and capacity building | 313          | 30              | 105          | 448          |
| 5. Travel and allowances          | 291          | -               | 17           | 308          |
| 6. Workshops                      | 350          | 39              | 107          | 496          |
| 7. Overheads                      | 148          | -               | -            | 148          |
| <b>Total</b>                      | <b>2 000</b> | <b>140</b>      | <b>360</b>   | <b>2 500</b> |

## VI. Recommendation

14. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed grant in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance, in part, the Development of Tools to Engage Youth in Agriculture and Agribusiness, shall provide a grant of two million United States dollars (US\$2,000,000) to the PROCASUR Corporation for four years upon such terms and conditions as shall be substantially in accordance with the terms and conditions presented to the Executive Board herein.

Gilbert F. Hougbo  
President

## Results-based logical framework

|                                    | Objectives hierarchy   | Objectively verifiable indicators  | Means of verification   | Assumptions   |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <b>Outreach</b>                    |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3,000 rural youth receiving services promoted/supported by the grant</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>  |
| <b>Goal</b>                        | <p>Livelihoods of young women and men in rural areas of selected countries are improved</p> <p>Better policy on how to address youth inclusion and youth income generating activities into investments</p>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>35% of grant beneficiaries/participants increase their income by 30% (disaggregated by gender)</li> <li>50% of new investments targeting youth will have consulted the knowledge produced by this grant</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baseline study</li> <li>IFAD-funded project reports and statistics</li> <li>Government reports and statistics</li> <li>United Nations and regional economic commission reports and statistics</li> </ul>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant objectives and activities have been adopted by rural youth and are actively participating in initiatives</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Objectives</b>                  | Increased sustainable opportunities for youth inclusion in value chains thanks to tools disseminated by grant activities   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2400 young people adopt the tools disseminated by the grant</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IFAD-funded project reports and mid-term evaluations</li> <li>Project progress reports</li> <li>Mid-term and final evaluation reports</li> <li>Supervision reports</li> <li>National government reports</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed tools are easily understood and used by participating youth</li> <li>Public and private sector stakeholders fully engage in the process and adopt measures for youth's inclusion and participation</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Outcomes/Outputs</b>            | <p>Tools disseminated contribute to policy dialogue</p> <p>Learning tools developed are included in design new rural development projects</p> <p>Better knowledge of the situation of young people in selected countries</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 of policy consultations held (one per country)</li> <li>5 of youth network organizations strengthened and involved in policy processes (one per country)</li> <li>5 rural development projects using identified and validated tools (at least one per country)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes of expert panels</li> <li>Project/grant quarterly reports</li> <li>Mid-term and evaluation reports</li> <li>Audit reports</li> <li>IFAD-funded project reports</li> </ul>                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfactory and timely tool-auditing reports</li> <li>Functional youth networks with significant membership</li> <li>Adequacy and acceptability of training materials</li> <li>Involvement of IFAD funded and government staffs of selected projects</li> </ul> |
| <b>Key activities by component</b> | <b>Component 1. Identification of supportive tools</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 stocktaking reports on youth needs and opportunities finalized (by PY2)</li> <li>200 relevant stakeholders sensitized</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quarterly progress reports</li> <li>M&amp;E reports</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Information and results regularly shared with key partners in target</li> </ul>  |

|  | <b>Objectives hierarchy</b>   | <b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>  | <b>Means of verification</b>  | <b>Assumptions</b>   |
|--|---|---|---|--|
|  | 1.1 Needs analysis and generation of practical knowledge<br>1.2 Preparation of an inventory of best practices<br>1.3 Stocktaking of existing tools                    | (50% women) in understanding the needs and interests of rural youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Internet based global catalogue</li> <li>• 1 Virtual library of guides and manuals of identified tools</li> <li>• 25 practical solutions published</li> <li>• 5 analytical reports on youth policies and youth empowerment projects</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical audit reports</li> <li>• Supervision report</li> <li>• Grant completion report</li> </ul>  | countries <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timely flow of funds</li> </ul>   |
|  | <b>Component 2. Tools Testing /auditing</b><br><br>2.1 Implementation of technical assistance and development of local capacities<br><br>2.2 Auditing of test results | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5 tools designed and pre-tested in key areas for scaling up</li> <li>• 5 Local training programmes (with provision of technical assistance) rolled out</li> <li>• 100 professionals and local talents (50% women) trained in managing new tools</li> <li>• 5 guides and operational manuals developed (one per country)</li> <li>• 1 Pilot system for determining efficiency and effectiveness of tools</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly progress reports</li> <li>• M&amp;E reports</li> <li>• Technical audit reports</li> <li>• Supervision report</li> <li>• Grant completion report</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Information and results regularly shared with key partners in target countries</li> <li>• Timely flow of funds</li> </ul> |