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Investing in rural people

President's Report on a Proposed Grant under
the Global/Regional Grants Window to the
International Potato Center for Strengthening
Nutrition in Agrifood Systems in East and
Southern Africa through Root and Tuber Crops

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 16.

President's Report on a Proposed Grant under the Global/Regional Grants Window to the International Potato Center for Strengthening Nutrition in AgriFood Systems in East and Southern Africa through Root and Tuber Crops

I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy on Grant Financing

1. This report proposes funding through a regional grant to enable IFAD investment projects in Eswatini, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania to capitalize on the potential of roots and tuber crops (RTCs). It builds on IFAD's successful partnership with the International Potato Center (CIP) in Asia. Since 2011, the grant-funded Root and Tuber Crops Research and Development Programme for Food Security in the Asia-Pacific Region (FoodSTART) and its successor project FoodSTART+ have demonstrated how IFAD investment projects can effectively promote RTCs to alleviate poverty and strengthen food security.
2. FoodSTART has highlighted the advantages of research-development collaboration in testing and scaling up RTC innovations, and building the capacity of investment projects in areas such as nutrition security, value chain methodologies and enterprise development. The project has enabled livelihood support groups to apply the FoodSTART farmer business school methodology and recorded high rates of women's participation. FoodSTART-Africa is designed to adapt and scale up the successes of FoodSTART to five countries in East and Southern Africa where IFAD country programmes and investment projects have expressed strong demand for this collaboration.
3. With the exception of Eswatini (where sugar cane production dominates the agricultural sector), RTCs are already well established in the target countries. In order to increase the economic and nutritional value of this production, FoodSTART-Africa will promote improved nutritious and market-preferred varieties, and link smallholder farmers with diversified uses of RTCs. Within these countries' food systems, this intervention will strengthen the diversification and climate resilience of smallholder farming, and contribute to national food security by complementing other ongoing efforts, including national food reserves.
4. The proposed project is in line with the goal and objectives of IFAD's Policy on Grant Financing (2015),¹ responding to three of this policy's objectives:
 - (i) Innovative pro-poor technologies and approaches promoted. The FoodSTART collaboration modality promotes research-investment partnerships that enable learning and innovation at the project level. This includes RTC-specific innovations for improved production and marketing such as soil preparation, crop rotation and planting techniques. Additional innovations will focus on diversification, reducing post-harvest losses, market development and strengthening the capacity of institutional partners. These innovations will be documented and made available to project staff, partner institutions and beneficiaries.

¹ EB 2015/114/R.2/Rev.1.

- (ii) Capacity of partner institutions strengthened. The project will build the capacities of partner institutions in the target countries (including national agricultural research institutes and IFAD-funded projects) to understand and utilize the best available locally adapted varieties, and improve agricultural practices in order to adapt to climatic changes and increase the resilience of their farming systems.
 - (iii) Knowledge generated and shared for development impact. FoodSTART-Africa will have a strong focus on knowledge exchange and learning within target countries as well as with complementary CIP-managed projects in Asia and Latin America. Project activities, methodologies, progress and results will be documented continuously. Information generated by the project will be disseminated by IFAD, CIP, national partners' online platforms and through knowledge-sharing workshops at the national and regional levels. CIP and its partners will share information and knowledge important for enhancing livelihoods in order to scale up innovations and promote modern agricultural techniques and best practices. In coordination with national partners, CIP will identify learning gaps, produce materials that can be used by project partners and promote learning platforms such as training of trainers.
5. The project is aligned with several commitments to the Eleventh Replenishment of IFAD's Resources (IFAD11). The project's target countries are among the poorest and most food insecure in sub-Saharan Africa, and its focus will be on provinces and districts with the highest rates of malnutrition and vulnerability to climatic change (commitment 2.1). Prioritizing opportunities for women and youth, the project will emphasize improving nutrition security by promoting biofortified RTC varieties and addressing key climatic constraints (commitment 3.3). The project's design was guided by ongoing IFAD-funded projects in the project area (commitment 3.4) and it aims to promote partnerships and generate knowledge, training and communication tools (commitment 3.5).

II. The proposed project

6. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the nutrition security and incomes of poor farming households in Eswatini, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, with a focus on young children, women and youth under increasing climate threats. Its objective is to enable stakeholders to fully realize the potential of RTCs for improving the nutrition and incomes of smallholder farming households in eastern and southern Africa. This will be achieved through partnerships between national and international research organizations and IFAD country programmes and investment projects.
7. The project will directly target 115,000 farmers in the five target countries. Its direct target group includes food- and nutrition-insecure rural households in areas identified through IFAD investment projects. The grant will support the investment projects in identifying target groups and work closely with these projects to increase the number and quality of benefits obtained by smallholder households with women of reproductive age and with children under 5 years of age. These demographic groups are particularly vulnerable to malnutrition and will especially benefit from the improved utilization and consumption of RTCs. Indirect beneficiaries will include: the staff of partner organizations involved in IFAD investment projects in the five countries; and small- and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) engaged in RTC value chains such as traders and food processors.
8. The project will be implemented over 36 months and will have the components given below.
- Component 1: Investment opportunities in RTCs verified and investments through IFAD's ongoing and planned projects increased. This component will raise awareness of important RTCs in each country and

identify unique investment opportunities that increase their development contributions. An analysis carried out in collaboration with IFAD investment projects will enable the project to identify particular areas of demand for research support. These areas will then be verified through in-depth analysis that will generate investment options for consideration by IFAD investment projects. FoodSTART-Africa will facilitate joint reviews of these options and provide technical guidance for IFAD investment projects to ensure effective planning and implementation. Annual RTC partnership events and regular sharing of monitoring, evaluation and learning data will ensure continued collaboration throughout project implementation and lay the foundation for long-term partnerships.

- Component 2: Impactful RTC technologies and value chains adapted and extended to smallholder farmers in participating countries and investment projects. Research on adaptive technologies will be prioritized as part of the diagnostic and partnership-building phase. Possible innovations include: (i) participatory evaluation of biofortified varieties in priority locations; (ii) seed system protocols for dissemination of biofortified and resilient varieties; (iii) improved agricultural practices that enable smallholder farmers to adapt to climate change and increase the resilience of their farming systems; and (iv) new processing and storage technologies such as potato stores, sweet potato puree and animal silage that provide new income opportunities and strengthen climate resilience in RTC value chains. These adaptive technologies will be scaled up through methodologies including: market and enterprise development; demand creation through nutrition education and consumer awareness; and improved information systems for rural advisory services.
 - Component 3: Knowledge management for RTC innovation strengthened and actively utilized by IFAD, national policymakers and other stakeholders serving smallholder farmers. This component recognizes knowledge management as a strategy for achieving impact at scale. Main activities will include: (i) rigorous monitoring, evaluation and learning; (ii) process and outcome documentation, and analysis across investment projects and countries; (iii) making available knowledge, methodologies and guidance from the knowledge base of the CIP-led roots, tubers and bananas research programme of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR); and production of technical and policy briefs and publications. The project will facilitate stakeholder participation in regional and national policy and investment forums to highlight RTC investment opportunities.
9. The expected outcomes of the proposed grant-funded project subdivided by component are as follows:
- (i) Component 1: Investment opportunities in RTCs verified and investments through IFAD's ongoing and planned projects increased:
 - At least two RTC investment plans verified by stakeholders in each country; and
 - At least US\$2 million in additional investments in RTCs by IFAD and other investors in each country.
 - (ii) Component 2: Impactful RTC technologies and value chains adapted and extended to smallholder farmers in participating countries and investment projects:
 - At least three RTC technologies (including RTC varieties) disseminated in each country;

- At least 115,000 farmers and 45 SMEs adopt improved RTC technologies and management practices; and
 - At least 200 farmers trained and engaged in small-scale commercial seed enterprises.
- (iii) Component 3: Knowledge management for RTC innovation strengthened and actively utilized by IFAD, national policy makers and other stakeholders serving smallholder farmers:
- At least 20 institutions, associations and programmes utilize knowledge platforms in each country.
10. The FoodSTART collaboration model emphasizes partnerships and learning, with pathways for scaling up through: (i) commercial processing, marketing and associated supply chains; and (ii) RTCs' inclusion in public-sector investments towards nutrition and food security in vulnerable areas. Beyond the selected countries, the FoodSTART approach can be applied in additional countries in east and southern Africa. These include Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Uganda and Zambia, which have similar agroecological conditions and nutrition challenges, and in which RTCs are also important but underutilized crops.

III. Implementation arrangements

11. CIP was directly selected as the grant recipient and main implementer of this project. A global leader in this area, CIP has a unique mandate in research and development on RTCs in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Implementation will be managed through CIP's Regional Office in Nairobi in consultation with IFAD country programme managers and project staff in target countries. The participation of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) providing technical and scientific expertise on cassava will guarantee comprehensive coverage of all RTCs by globally leading research organizations. CIP has successfully implemented IFAD-funded regional projects in Asia and in Latin America, offering multiple opportunities for sharing lessons and applying good practices developed through these projects. The main implementing partners at the country level will be national rural advisory and extension services, research institutes and selected NGO and private-sector partners.
12. The following partners have been consulted in the preparation of this grant proposal; additional partners will be identified before project start-up.

Country	Partner	Principal roles
Eswatini	National agriculture research and extension system	To be confirmed; but will be equivalent to other countries.
Madagascar	National Center for Applied Research on Rural Development Semi-direct Grouping of Madagascar	RTC seed system Extension and farmer training
Mozambique	Mozambique Institute of Agricultural Research provincial extension services	RTC seed system Extension and farmer training
Rwanda	Rwanda Agricultural Board IMBARAGA Farmers Organization	RTC seed system Extension and farmer training
United Republic of Tanzania	Mikocheni Agricultural Research Institute Kibaha Agricultural Research Institute Agricultural Extension Service Sokoine University of Agriculture Kizimbani Agriculture Research and Training Institute, Zanzibar	RTC seed system Extension and farmer training Food processing and entrepreneurship training

13. In each country, a project advisory committee will coordinate grant activities. These committees will include representatives from IFAD investment projects, implementing partners and CIP researchers. IFAD staff will not be directly involved in the management or execution of grant funds, but will be consulted on activities to be implemented at the country level. All procurement of goods and contracting for services will be undertaken by CIP. The main purpose of the proposed implementation approach is to provide knowledge support to IFAD investment projects through the provision of expertise by CIP personnel rather than through sub-contracted delivery partners.
14. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audits.

IV. Indicative project costs and financing

15. The total project cost is US\$1,626,000. Of this total, US\$1.5 million will be financed by a grant from IFAD and US\$126,000 will be funded in cash by CIP.

Table 1
Costs by component and financier
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>CIP</i>	<i>Total</i>
Component 1	126		126
Component 2	543		543
Component 3	56		56
Project management and coordination	636	43	679
Institutional costs	139	83	222
Total	1 500	126	1 626

Table 2
Costs by expenditure category and financier
(Thousands of United States dollars)

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>CIP</i>	<i>Total</i>
Salaries and allowances	453	43	496
Travel	26		26
Equipment and materials (including vehicles)	145		145
Operating costs	340		340
Workshops	156		156
Training	241		241
Sub-total project costs	1 361	43	1 404
Overhead costs	109	83	192
Total project cost	1 470	126	1 596
CGIAR system fee	30		30
Grand total	1 500	126	1 626

V. Recommendation

16. 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, Strengthening Nutrition in AgriFood Systems in East and Southern Africa through Root and Tuber Crops, shall provide a grant of one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,500,000) to the International Potato Center for 36 months 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
Goal	To contribute to nutrition security and incomes of poor farming households in the five target countries, especially for young children, women, and youth, under increasing climate change threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National malnutrition indicators, including child stunting and vitamin A deficiency Prevalence of poverty indicators in project areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National health surveys National poverty census 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued policy and investment support for agricultural diversification in the ESA region, including promotion of nutrition-sensitive and climate-smart agriculture by governments and other stakeholders
Objectives	To enable stakeholders to fully utilize the potential of RTCs for nutrition and income of smallholder farming households in the five target countries effective partnerships between national and international research organizations and IFAD country programs and investment projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of new and improved nutritious RTC varieties (at least 115,000 farmers; 25,000ha) Consumption of nutritious RTC foods by target groups (# meals per week) Agricultural income increases from RTC value chain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National agricultural surveys National food consumption surveys Impact assessment study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFAD investment projects continue to be willing and able to invest in RTCs as a vehicle for achieving smallholder development goals related to nutrition and climate resilience with additional contributions to raising farmer incomes RTC varieties promoted will perform at demonstrated levels across the five target countries and no major new disease outbreak or unprecedented weather event will affect their performance
Outcomes/ Outputs	1. Investment opportunities in RTCs verified and investments by IFAD's ongoing and planned projects increased and improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 RTC investment plans verified by stakeholders for each country At least USD 2 million increased investments in RTCs by IFAD and other investors in each country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFAD investment projects documents Ministries of Agriculture records 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFAD investment projects in the five countries will consider investing in RTCs on basis of evidence generated Continued policy support for investments in RTCs will provide enabling framework for private and public sector investors
	2: Impactful RTC technologies and delivery systems adapted and disseminated to smallholder farmers in participating countries and investment projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 3 RTC technologies (including varieties) disseminated per country At least 115,000 farmers and 45 SMEs adopt new RTC technologies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents Endline survey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural advisory services actively participating in project technology delivery and training Farmers and their associations willing and able to participate in project activities
	3. Knowledge management for RTC innovation strengthened and actively utilized by IFAD, national policy makers, and other stakeholders serving smallholder farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 20 institutions, associations and programs in each country utilizing knowledge platforms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge platforms accessible to stakeholders in participating countries
Key Activities by component	Component 1: Investment opportunities in RTCs verified and investments by IFAD's ongoing and planned projects increased and improved			
	1.1 Diagnosis of RTC food system and identification of IFAD investment entry points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 RTC diagnostic reports produced, identifying investment entry points (1 for each country) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFAD investment projects in the five countries willing and able to invest in RTCs on basis of evidence generated
	1.2 Establishing partnerships with IFAD investment projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 partnerships with IFAD investment projects formalized and operational in each country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued policy support for investments in RTCs
	1.3 Developing and reviewing RTC investment options based on in-depth analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 IFAD RTC investments undertaken in each country Annual review reports produced for each RTC investment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IFAD investment project reports 	
	1.4 Convening RTC partnership and investment forums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual RTC forums for public and private sectors held and reports produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published reports 	
	Component 2: Impactful RTC technologies and delivery systems adapted and disseminated to smallholder farmers in participating countries and investment projects			

Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
2.1 Promotion and farmer evaluation of released biofortified RTC varieties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 4 biofortified RTC varieties promoted and evaluated by farmers as part of broader RTC varietal evaluations in each country Farmer preferred varieties identified for each RTC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural advisory services actively participating in project technology delivery and training Farmers and their associations willing and able to participate in project activities
2.2 Strengthening seed systems for preferred varieties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Farmer access to planting material of preferred varieties improved over baseline Production of preferred varieties expanded by at least 25,000 ha 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Endline report Project annual reports 	
2.3 Improve agronomic and marketing practices to adapt to climatic changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidelines produced for RTC production and marketing under increased risk from drought, heat and floods At least 200 extension agents and NARS technicians trained in these improved agronomic management and marketing principles and practices Training of at least 115,000 farmers in improved RTC production in areas of climatic stresses facilitated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Published guidelines Project documents NARS and extension service records 	
2.4 Diversify post-harvest utilization of RTCs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 new RTC post-harvest utilization technologies adopted in each country At least 2,000 surplus producing farmers and traders trained in reducing post-harvest losses and waste At least 45 new SMEs operating in RTC post-harvest value chain Supply chains developed for these 45 SMEs linking smallholder surplus producers to these new markets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents 	
2.5 Market development for improved RTC technologies and products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTC demand creation campaigns implemented (at least 2 in each country) Field days and technology demonstrations held (at least 4 per year in each country) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents Project annual reports 	
2.6 Capacity strengthening of IFAD implementing partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical training held for extension staff, farmer associations, and other rural service providers (at least 800 stakeholders trained) Leaders and senior staff of IFAD implementing partners trained in market-led approaches to planning and delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project documents Project annual reports 	
Component 3: Knowledge management for RTC innovation strengthened and actively utilized by IFAD, national policy makers, and other stakeholders serving smallholder farmers.			
3.1 Implementing rigorous MEL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MEL Plan produced and implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project MEL reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge platforms accessible to stakeholders in participating countries NARS researchers available to contribute to publications
3.2 Comprehensive documentation of RTC innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 10 technical reports and 3 scientific publications produced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publications available 	
3.3 Publication and broad dissemination of findings and lessons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CGIAR and IFAD online platforms disseminate quarterly project updates and continuously post emerging stories Presentations of findings and lessons in at least 4 regional or global conferences All data transferred to Open Access in line with CGIAR regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online platform records Conference proceedings Open Access record 	