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Investing in rural people

President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) for the Improving Agricultural Resilience to Salinity through Development and Promotion of Pro-poor Technologies Programme

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 10.

President's report on a proposed grant under the global/regional grants window to the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) for the Improving Agricultural Resilience to Salinity through Development and Promotion of Pro-poor Technologies Programme

I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy for Grant Financing

1. The population of Africa is expected to double by 2050, from the current 1.25 billion to 2.5 billion (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2017). As a result, it is expected that the demand for cereals will nearly triple in Africa over this period. However, despite the continent's abundant arable land and water resources, to date its agricultural output has been comparatively low, insufficient overall to meet its rapidly growing food needs. As a result, Africa has been a net importer of food since the mid-1970s, with adverse implications for other crucial economic sectors such as education, health, and infrastructure (African Development Bank, 2017). To overcome the shortfall in current food production and to meet future needs, African farmers must expand the area under cultivation, increase productivity per hectare and – crucially – reclaim land being lost to rising salinity.
2. The proposed programme is in line with the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (2015).¹ In addition, the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA) will align its project activities with those of IFAD's loan programmes in these countries, targeting the same areas and providing technical assistance to the loan programmes as required. The programme proposed by ICBA was selected through a competitive process. The grant will contribute to all four of IFAD's grant financing objectives:
 - (i) Promote innovative, pro-poor approaches and technologies with the potential to be scaled up for greater impact: ICBA will introduce salt-tolerant crops and appropriate land and water management practices and technologies for smallholder farmers;
 - (ii) Strengthen partners' institutional and policy capacities: ICBA will work with the respective agriculture ministries and national agricultural research and extension systems (NARES) to develop policy briefs, guidelines and extension materials to support the adoption and scaling up of salt-resilient and climate-smart agricultural production models;
 - (iii) Enhance advocacy and policy engagement: ICBA will organize high-level seminars on climate-smart agriculture to raise awareness and support for the scaling up of programme results among policymakers and decision makers;

¹ See EB 2015/114/R.2/Rev.1.

- (iv) Generate and share knowledge for development impact: ICBA will develop a robust knowledge management plan, including the creation of an information and data management system accessible to all programme stakeholders; programme findings and lessons learned will be shared through regular reports and various publications, as well as at workshops and seminars.

II. The proposed programme

3. The overall goal of the proposed programme is to improve the food security and reduce the poverty of poor smallholder farmers, particularly women, in salinity-affected areas in Botswana, The Gambia, Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal and Togo. The objectives are to increase agricultural productivity and incomes in salinity-affected agricultural areas, by:
 - (i) Introducing salt-tolerant crops and best agronomic management practices;
 - (ii) Developing value chains for the cropping systems introduced;
 - (iii) Building the capacity of farmers and extension workers in salinity-resilient and climate-smart agriculture; and
 - (iv) Advocating with national policymakers and decision makers for the incorporation of climate-smart and salinity-resilient agricultural models and approaches into national agricultural development policies and strategies.
4. The programme will directly benefit 11,550 smallholder farmers (of which 50 per cent women) in salinity-affected areas. The broader target group includes the members of the households in the target groups (80,000 individuals) and community-based seed enterprises. The indirect beneficiaries include:
 - (i) Traders providing agricultural inputs to the farmers, and farm produce buyers;
 - (ii) Small- and medium-scale food processing enterprises accessing farm-based raw materials for value addition; and
 - (iii) Consumers, who will access locally produced nutrient-rich products at affordable prices.
5. The programme will be implemented over four years and will have the following components:

Component 1. Salinity mapping and assessment. Key activities include the following:

- (i) Desktop study and comprehensive in-country assessments of salinity in target countries, in collaboration with national counterparts;
- (ii) Updating of salinity maps, using imagery and field data collected using traditional sampling methods for soil and groundwater; and
- (iii) Identification of areas and communities vulnerable to climate change-induced salinity.

Component 2. Improved salinity management practices. Key activities include:

- (i) Establishment of best practice hubs in each targeted area (three per country) for testing new crops, forages and integrated farming approaches under local conditions;
- (ii) Identification and testing of improved lines and varieties of local crops that are salinity- and drought-tolerant, and resilient accessions and forages for introduction in targeted areas;

- (iii) Introduction, testing and cost-benefit analysis of small-scale irrigation and other innovative intensification technologies;
- (iv) Development of training packages for farmers and extension workers, and technical guidelines for ministries of agriculture; and
- (v) Training of extension workers as training facilitators, followed by the commencement of farmer field schools in all programme areas.

Component 3. Scaling up of climate-smart and salt-resilient agriculture. Key activities include:

- (i) Establishment and/or strengthening of existing community-based seed production and processing units for newly introduced crops and forages;
- (ii) Establishment of new farmers' cooperatives and/or strengthening the capacity of existing cooperatives, particularly those with high representation on the part of women and young people; and
- (iii) Establishment of value chains by linking farmers' cooperatives, credit institutions, input suppliers, processors and local/regional markets.

Component 4. Knowledge management and policy dialogue. Key activities will include:

- (i) Development of a dedicated programme web portal for sharing data/information among programme stakeholders, and DVDs with educational video/audio in local languages for dissemination among farmers and extension workers;
- (ii) Assessment of existing irrigation and drainage infrastructure and proposals for optimal solutions for its rehabilitation and upgrading;
- (iii) Proposals for optimal irrigation and drainage allocation in irrigated areas, based on soil-water-plant modelling and ground truthing;
- (iv) Review of water use policies, laws and regulations and the associated institutions and practices; subsequently, development of policy white papers summarizing current conditions and recommending water management and salinity control strengthening actions; and
- (v) Organization of high-level seminars on climate-smart agriculture and salinity management for policymakers and decision makers so to facilitate scaling up.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

- 6. The programme is expected to have the following outcomes:
 - (i) 11,550 smallholder farmers, at least half of them women, adopt new crops that are resilient to salinity and climate change, and utilize innovative climate-smart intensification technologies and practices to increase productivity;
 - (ii) Productivity of saline lands is increased by 30 per cent and economic productivity is increased by 20 per cent; and
 - (iii) Climate-smart and salinity-resilient agricultural models and approaches are incorporated into national agricultural development policies and strategies in the seven target countries.

IV. Implementation arrangements

7. The proposed programme will be implemented by ICBA in partnership with the NARES of the agriculture ministries in the seven targeted countries. All programme target groups will also be closely involved in planning and implementation. ICBA will be responsible for overall programme implementation and for financial and technical reporting to IFAD and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). In each country, national agricultural research and extension systems will be responsible for coordinating programme activities at country level, in cooperation with farmers' associations, community-based organizations and/or local NGOs.
8. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audits. The recipient will keep separate accounts in line with international accounting standards and will submit a semi-annual statement of expenditures and yearly audit reports to IFAD, prepared on the basis of international auditing standards or the equivalent.

V. Indicative programme costs and financing

9. Total programme costs are US\$7.7 million, of which the IFAD contribution is US\$3.5 million and cofinancing breaks down as follows:
 - (i) ICBA cofinancing: US\$700,000 (all in cash)
 - (ii) BADEA cofinancing: US\$3.5 million (all in cash)

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

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>ICBA and BADEA</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salinity mapping and assessment	313	366	679
2. Improved salinity management practices	1 030	1 163	2 193
3. Scaling up of climate-smart and salt-resilient agriculture	492	556	1 048
4. Knowledge management and policy dialogue	493	614	1 107
Programme management	1 172	1 501	2 673
Total	3 500	4 200	7 700

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

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>ICBA and BADEA</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salaries and allowances	1 045	1 279	2 324
2. Equipment and material	28	27	55
3. Operating costs	25	20	45
4. Goods, services and inputs	710	710	1 420
5. Travel and allowances	602	602	1 204
6. Consultancies	628	628	1 256
7. Training	145	145	290
8. Workshops	59	59	118
Subtotal	3 242	3 470	6 712
9. Overhead/management fee	258	264	522
10. ICBA's uncovered overheads	-	466	466
Total	3 500	4 200	7 700

VI. Recommendation

10. 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 Improving Agricultural Resilience to Salinity through Development and Promotion of Pro-poor Technologies Programme, shall provide a grant of three and a half million United States dollars (US\$3,500,000) to the International Centre for Biosaline Agriculture for a four-year period, 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

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
Goal	Improve food security and reduce poverty of poor smallholder farmers, particularly women, in salinity-affected areas in Botswana, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Sierra Leone, The Gambia, and Togo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least two new food groups introduced in household diets 		
Objectives	Increase agricultural productivity and incomes in salinity-affected agricultural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Productivity of saline lands is increased by 30% Economic returns to smallholder farmers are increased by 20% 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reports End-term review (including a field survey and interviews with local authorities and communities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness of local authorities to support the project and scale up results Availability of necessary infrastructure Security conditions in targeted areas
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smallholder farmers in targeted areas, at least half of them women, adopt new cropping systems, technologies and practices Advocating to national policy- and decision-makers to incorporate climate-smart and salinity-resilient agricultural models and approaches into national agricultural development policies and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 11,550 farmers adopt new cropping systems, intensification technologies and practices At least 50% of farmers benefiting from project activities are women New approaches incorporated into national policies and strategies in 7 countries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maps presented to project partners Training packages with translated versions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Willingness of farmers to engage in the project Capacity of local partners
Outputs	<p>Output 1: Salinity-affected areas identified and assessed, and areas selected for project implementation</p> <p>Output 2: Appropriate salinity management technologies and practices identified and transferred to targeted communities established/ strengthened and linked to other value chain actors</p> <p>Output 4: Project web portal set up and maintained; extension materials and DVDs prepared, translated and distributed to farmers and extension workers in; policy guidance on water management and proposals for irrigation/drainage developed.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated salinity map for each target country A map of areas and communities particularly vulnerable to climate change-induced salinity for each target country Three (3) areas selected in each target country for project implementation 3 BPHs established in each target country 10 suitable salt- and drought-tolerant varieties of local crops identified 3 suitable non-conventional crops and forages identified 21 FFSE facilitators trained 11,050 farmers trained through FFSE More than 80,000 indirect beneficiaries between famers' household members Traders, small and medium-scale food processing enterprises and consumers involved50% trainees are women2 farmers' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge products developed and made available through the project web portal Trainee feedback forms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of information on salinity for the seven targeted countries Availability of national labs for soil and water analysis Willingness of country partners to select project sites based on vulnerability and complementarity with ongoing programmes Availability of lands to establish the PBHs Access to salinity- and drought-tolerant genotypes/improved lines Clear regulatory procedures for import of seeds