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President's report

Proposed regional grant

Association One Million Cisterns Programme to the Semi-Arid Region

Dryland Adaptation Knowledge Initiative

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.

I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy for Grant Financing

1. The dryland areas of Latin America are affected by widespread poverty, hostile and fragile environments and the effects of climate change, which include decreasing precipitation, rising temperatures and evapotranspiration. While the key climate change expectations in north-east Brazil and in the Gran Chaco are rainfall reduction and temperature increase, respectively, the Republic of El Salvador is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to climate risks worldwide. There, projected increases in the variability of rainfall, temperature, and the occurrence of extreme rainfall events threaten the food and water security and livelihoods of family farmers living on heavily deforested and degraded hilly lands.
2. The proposed project is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (2015). By virtue of its competitive selection of the implementing agencies and the decentralized implementation structure, it complies with the principles for efficient grant management. It is also oriented towards the achievement of results, and generating and sharing knowledge.
3. The recipient and subrecipients were identified through a competitive selection process, which was approved by the Director, Latin America and the Caribbean Division, and was followed by a thorough due diligence review.

II. The proposed project

4. The overall goal of the project is to develop institutional capacities to help the three dryland regions of Latin America adapt to climate change. The objectives are to develop appropriate technical assistance and rural extension capacities to address these challenges using climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) courses, teaching materials and knowledge products to support instructors in disseminating successful practices and experiences. To this end, the project will apply a South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) approach to facilitate the exchange of applied knowledge between the three main dryland areas of Latin America.
5. The target group will be composed of public officials, technical assistance staff, family farmers and students of rural schools. The project area consists of: the Chaco region of Argentina (the provinces of Salta, Santa Fé, Santiago del Estero and Jujuy), the dry corridor in El Salvador, and the semi-arid north-east of Brazil.
6. The project will be implemented over four years with the following components: (i) climate-resilient agriculture analysis, to identify, analyse, and register best CRA practices from semi-arid regions; (ii) capacity-building for public and private extension technicians and reference farmers in the use of best CRA practices from the three dryland regions in an active application of the SSTC approach; and (iii) project management, monitoring and evaluation, communications and knowledge management, to provide cross-cutting implementation support.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

7. The project is expected to produce the following outputs: (i) a complete database of selected best practices in CRA; (ii) 50 thematic videos to be used for training; (iii) 1,700 persons trained in CRA techniques, (iv) 300 students from agricultural and rural schools trained through CRA learning units; (v) development of a bilingual web-based portal; (vi) design of a mobile application to exchange experiences and practices on CRA techniques; and (vii) 3 web-published studies on CRA methods and techniques.

8. Its outcomes will include: (i) a high approval rating by at least 80 per cent of the persons taking the courses; and (ii) an annual increase of 50 per cent in access to the online platform content.

IV. Implementation arrangements

9. The implementing agency is the Association One Million Cisterns Programme to the Semi-Arid Region, a Brazilian civil society organization created as the legal entity of Networking in Brazil's Semi-Arid Region (ASA). ASA, in consortium with the Foundation for Development in Justice and Peace (FUNDAPAZ) and the National Foundation for Development (FUNDE) will be responsible for overall project execution.
10. ASA, the consortium leader, will be responsible for planning and implementing the project activities in Brazil; coordinating project activities implemented by FUNDAPAZ and FUNDE in Argentina and El Salvador, respectively; and managing financial resources and reporting to IFAD on physical and financial progress. For this, ASA will establish a project management unit comprising: a coordinator; two technical component managers; a monitoring and evaluation, knowledge management and communications officer; and an administrative assistant. ASA will sign subsidiary agreements with FUNDAPAZ and FUNDE to operationalize their participation as institutional partners.
11. For project coordination and management, a consultative steering committee will be formed by the consortium.
12. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audit.

V. Indicative project costs and financing

13. The total cost of the project over a four-year period is calculated at US\$1,924,240, with an IFAD grant of USD\$1.5 million, equivalent to 78 per cent of total costs and a recipient contribution of US\$424,240, equivalent to 22 per cent of total costs (see table 1). The subrecipients are expected to receive about US\$450,000 (FUNDAPAZ) and about US\$225,000 (FUNDE). The counterpart financing will be provided by ASA and FUNDAPAZ.

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

<i>Component</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>ASA</i>	<i>FUNDAPAZ</i>	<i>Total</i>
CRA analysis	461	-	39	500
CRA capacity-building	809	-	191	1 000
Project management, M&E, communication and knowledge management	230	144	50	424
Total	1 500	144	280	1 924

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

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>ASA</i>	<i>FUNDAPAZ</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Salaries and allowances (including operating costs)	161	138	50	348
2. Consultancies	672	6	-	678
3. Travel and allowances	29	-	-	29
4. Goods, services and inputs	105	-	5	110
5. Workshops (including training)	533	-	225	758
Total	1 500	144	280	1 924

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 Dryland Adaptation Knowledge Initiative, shall provide a grant of one million five hundred thousand United States dollars (US\$1,500,000) to the Association One Million Cisterns Programme to the Semi-Arid Region for a period of 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
Goal	Develop institutional capacities to assist with the adaptation to climate change in three rural dryland areas of Latin America	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2.000 people benefited from the project's actions; - 20.000 people indirectly benefited, enrolled in a distance course from non-direct project target countries. 	Project M&E System; and access to online platform information.	
Objectives	Develop adequate extension capacities to be prepared for adaptation challenges, in the form of course materials and knowledge products on CRA and strengthened capacity of master trainers to disseminate their application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Technicians and farmers implement on the field the knowledge acquired on the courses (50% of students). 	Project M&E System; and results evaluation studies.	Public policies are fostering the development of CRA in Family units.
Outcomes/ Outputs	Component 1	<p><i>Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 document show-casing good practices; - 50 thematic videos elaborated. <p><i>Outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Products elaborated by the component are accessed by Latin American countries via an internet platform (100% of the countries). 	Project M&E System; and access to online platform information.	Setting criteria for good practices selection.
	Component 2	<p><i>Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1.700 people implement CRA techniques. - 300 students in agricultural schools participated in CRA learning units. - 1 online platform elaborated. <p><i>Outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A high pass rate of people taking the courses (at least 80%). 	Project M&E System; and results evaluation studies.	Public and private entities provide time for students dedicate to courses.

Outcomes/ Outputs (continued)	Component 3	<p><i>Outputs:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a phone app for knowledge dissemination designed - 3 studies registered and other KM and M&E products produced and published in the online portal. <p><i>Outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing access to the online platform content (50% increase per year). 	Project M&E System; and access to online platform information.	Contracted consultants perform the service according to ToR.
Key activities by component	Component 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Holding an initial workshop with representatives of 3 countries; Fieldwork survey in the 3 countries for information gathering; - Workshop for presenting best practices. 	Project M&E System; and component coordinators.	Establishing criteria for good practices selection.
	Component 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Preparing courses curriculum; - Elaborating distance and classroom courses; - Holding the courses; - Creating an online platform; - Identifying 3 Agricultural Family Schools for implementing learning units. 	Project M&E System; and component coordinators.	Contracted consultants perform the service according to ToR. Establishing criteria for selecting schools.
	Component 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of a mobile application for knowledge dissemination - Conducting studies, systematic procedures and other KM products; - Conducting results evaluation studies. 	Project M&E System; and component coordinators.	Contracted consultants perform the service according to ToR.