

Document: EB 2019/LOT/G.4
Date: 8 November 2019
Distribution: Public
Original: English

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President's report

Proposed grant under the global/regional grants window to the Stichting Wageningen Research for the project:
Towards Inclusive, Sustainable, Nutritious and Efficient Food Systems

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 13.

I. Background and compliance with IFAD Policy for Grant Financing

1. The proposed project is in line with the goal and objectives of the IFAD Policy for Grant Financing (2015).¹ The partnership between IFAD and Stichting Wageningen Research partnership contributes to policy priorities in the fields of: (i) strengthening institutional and policy capacities; (ii) enhancing advocacy and policy engagement; and (iii) generating and sharing knowledge for development impact. IFAD's global grants are driven by thematic and regional corporate-level strategic priorities for partnership, research, policy engagement and capacity-building, and innovative responses to rural and agricultural challenges being faced by three or more partner countries. The focus on food system transformation enables IFAD's engagement in policies and programmes that link agriculture, nutrition and health. Food system approaches are considered of critical importance for overcoming trade-offs in agricultural and rural development, and to support broad engagement of multiple stakeholders in food innovations and policies.
2. The selection of Stichting Wageningen Research as grant recipient was through direct selection, given its holistic approach to food systems, its commitment to science-based solutions with a clear focus on impact at scale, and the outreach of its network of partners, which extends beyond the academic community.

II. The proposed project

3. The overall goal of the project is to generate and share systematic insights and peer-reviewed information about different strategies for supporting improvements in agrifood systems performance to render them nutritious, inclusive, sustainable and efficient (NISE). Through this grant, pathways for change will be outlined that present the potential effects of interventions, innovations and incentives on food systems interactions, with possible trade-offs or synergies being identified between food systems outcomes. This will pave the way for a comprehensive and systematic analysis of robust evidence available from key international sources providing insights into the impact of different types of innovations and investments on multiple food system dimensions and for specific target groups (children, women and youth).
4. The grant will generate evidence papers that will inform the design of rural development investments, policies and programmes, and engagement with private and civic stakeholders in food systems innovations. They will contribute to outlining the agenda for filling knowledge gaps with real-time impact studies.
5. The objectives are to: (i) enhance thorough understanding of different dimensions for food systems performance (nutritious, inclusive, sustainable and efficient); (ii) assess prospects for effective scaling up or leveraging and governance of food system change; (iii) deliver an integrated analysis of policies and investment for overcoming trade-offs and enhancing synergies in food systems development in facing the triple dimensions of malnutrition; (iv) identify key opportunities for private sector partnerships in food systems transformation; (v) outline major differences in food systems pathways between regions (Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa);

¹ See EB 2015/114/R.2/Rev.1.

and (vi) identify key knowledge gaps (i.e. strategic research and innovation agenda).

6. The direct target group is made up of decision makers (in governments, civil society and the private sector) who have an influence over the transformation of global and national food systems. This work will aim to inform their decisions. The indirect beneficiaries are the rural producers (smallholders, small and medium-sized enterprise owners, and employees) and consumers, who will benefit from improved decisions in food system transformation. The project will reach both target groups through their direct involvement in regional seminars, expert workshops and case clinics. The nature of the grant does not allow estimation of the number of beneficiaries.
7. The project will be implemented over two years and will have the following components:
 - (i) Stakeholder and expert workshops: Three workshops with the participation of representatives of governments, the private sector, civil society and the research community will be held: (i) at inception to identify key issues; (ii) at mid-term to provide feedback on the initial analysis; and (iii) at the draft synthesis report stage, to provide feedback on the proposal;
 - (ii) Background evidence papers: Analysis is envisioned of thematic issues around nutritious, inclusive, sustainable and efficient food systems, including potential trade-offs in these areas. Approximately 20 background papers are planned. In addition, regional issue studies on food systems will be completed for the four developing regions (Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, and sub-Saharan Africa);
 - (iii) Food systems trade-off modelling, using simulations to generate insights on potential system-wide outcomes: Approximately eight different regional/subregional simulations are to be undertaken, to assess prospects for scaling and to identify trade-offs between food health and safety, inclusiveness, sustainability/resilience and food system efficiency;
 - (iv) Case clinics and regional reports: Five case clinics (one per region) will be undertaken, in which one government approach in the region – including policies and investments – will be analysed through a food system lens, with the output being reports on the results of the case clinics; and
 - (v) Synthesis and peer review: Using feedback from the stakeholder workshops and case clinics to drive the analysis and final conclusions from the thematic and regional background papers, a team will synthesize the results of the analysis in a comprehensive report. The final draft will be peer-reviewed in order to get constructive recommendations to enhance the soundness, relevance and quality of the report.

III. Expected outcomes/outputs

8. Key outcomes include:
 - (i) Insights on drivers of change for food system transformation towards safe and healthy diets, inclusive food governance, and sustainable/resilient and efficient food supply;
 - (ii) Identification of leverage points for interventions, innovations and investments that can overcome trade-offs in food systems performance.
9. The project is expected to have the following five outputs:
 - (i) Stakeholder and expert workshop reports;
 - (ii) 20 evidence papers on key food systems transformation strategies;

- (iii) Simulation modelling results that generate potential system-wide outcomes;
- (iv) Four regional assessment papers; and
- (v) A synthesis paper, to feed into the IFAD 2021 Rural Development Report.

IV. Implementation arrangements

10. Implementation will be undertaken through the various management units of the Stichting Wageningen Research. Involvement of external international experts is based on service contracts for the delivery of (contributions to) the papers. External reviewers (with more than 20 years of experience) will be involved for peer review and quality control.
11. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audit.

V. Indicative project costs and financing

12. The total project cost is estimated at US\$1,290,000, to be financed in part through an IFAD grant of US\$1,190,000. Stichting Wageningen Research will contribute cash resources in a total amount of US\$70,000. In addition, in-kind co-funding in a total amount of US\$30,000 will be provided by the Dutch Science Foundation.

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

<i>Components</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Stichting Wageningen Research</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Stakeholder and expert workshops	100		100
2. Background evidence papers	700	50	750
3. Food systems trade-off modelling	80	20	100
4. Case clinics and regional reports	120		120
5. Synthesis and peer review	120	30	150
6. Project management and communication	70		70
Total	1 190	100	1 290

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

<i>Expenditure category</i>	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Stichting Wageningen Research</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Consultancies	835	70	905
2. Salaries and allowances	120	30	150
3. Travel and allowances	110		110
4. Workshops	55		55
5. Operating costs	70		70
Total	1 190	100	1 290

VI. Recommendation

13. 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 project entitled Towards Inclusive, Sustainable, Nutritious and Efficient Food Systems, shall provide a grant of one million one hundred ninety thousand United States dollars (US\$1,190,000) to the Stichting Wageningen Research for a two-year project, 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	Generate and share systematic insights and peer-reviewed information about strategies to support improvements in agri-food systems performance	Pass by external peer-review of evidence papers; positive review by sounding board	Timely delivery of Synthesis report for IFAD's 2021 Rural Development Report	
Objectives	Comprehensive and systematic analysis of robust evidence available from key international sources that provides insights in the impact of different types of innovations and investments on multiple food system dimensions and for specific target groups.	Adequate reporting on food systems performance & change in each of the NISE dimensions in evidence papers Stakeholder participation and feedback in regional workshops. Significant model simulation outcomes	Expert peer-review process for journal publication. Regional workshop reports. Food System Visualizer	Timely delivery of review reports. Availability of relevant data and information. Clear delimitation of instruments and outcome variables.
Outcomes/ Outputs	Stakeholder/expert workshops (3)	Inception , mid-term progress and draft synthesis report discussion (December 2020)	Quality surveillance; participants feedback	Periodical feedback on progress; support with literature & linkages
	Evidence papers (20);	By April 2020 final report delivery (several iterations of drafts); quality on delivery; relevance of finding.	Quality surveillance	Periodical feedback on progress; support with literature & linkages
	Regional assessments (4)	Meetings held in April-August 2020; timely delivery of reports	Quality surveillance; participants feedback	Periodical feedback on progress; support with literature & linkages
	Model Simulations (8)	By August 2020, 8 different (sub)regional simulations are made	Quality surveillance	Periodical feedback on progress; support with literature & linkages
	Synthesis report	By December 2020 report delivery (several iterations of drafts); quality on delivery; relevance of finding	Quality surveillance	Periodical feedback on progress; support with literature & linkages
Key Activities by component	Selection of key topics ToR for Engagement of expert teams Feedback/peer review Reporting	Maintenance of time frame; progress in reporting	Consultation with IFAD staff (monthly) Frequent contacts with expert teams.	Clear expectations on deliverables