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Investing in rural people

## **President's report**

## **Proposed global/regional grant**

## **International Institute of Tropical Agriculture**

## **Agricultural Transformation in Nigerian Federal States and Togolese Regions Towards Achieving Zero Hunger**

### **Note to Executive Board representatives**

#### Focal points:

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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 12.

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

1. "Zero hunger" is among the key aims set out within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. It commits governments and other actors to ensure universal and year-round access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food through the promotion of sustainable agriculture. To maximize the productivity of the agricultural sector, agricultural policy packages need to be holistic and consistent, and to encompass productive support and social protection systems, as well as partnerships, multi-stakeholder participation and inclusive governance. To address this challenge, this project focuses on providing both technical and policy-based support for zero hunger programmes, both country owned and driven, in Nigeria and Togo.
2. The proposed project is in line with the goal and objectives of the 2015 IFAD Policy for Grant Financing.<sup>1</sup> It addresses the mainstreaming themes of nutrition, gender, youth and climate, and is thus in line with the goals and objectives of the IFAD grant financing procedures and the strategic guidance note for IFAD grants 2019-2021. Additionally, the project contributes to the strategic objectives (SOs) of IFAD's Strategic Framework 2016-2025: SO1 – increase poor rural people's productive capacities; SO2 – increase poor rural people's benefits from market participation; and SO3 – strengthen the environmental sustainability and climate resilience of poor rural people's economic activities.
3. The recipient was identified through direct selection, approved at the Operational Strategy and Policy Guidance Committee meeting of 10 July 2019. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) was selected as the institution best positioned to provide both technical and structural support, and will thus lead implementation of the project. The IITA has a strong international profile, an active West Africa hub, ample technical expertise on the cassava value chain, and proven operational competence. AfricaRice will support the IITA on the technical components related to rice. The project will leverage partnerships at the state, regional and national levels, and will strengthen synergies between lending and non-lending IFAD engagements in Nigeria and Togo.

### II. The proposed project

4. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the zero hunger initiatives within the rice and cassava value chains in Nigeria and Togo. The objectives follow the twofold structure of the project, which pursues leverage on two focuses: "technology and innovation" and "policy analysis and engagement for technology uptake". The objectives of the policy focus are to: (i) review agricultural policies and policy frameworks that are relevant for agricultural transformation, including farm input access by farmers at country level; (ii) facilitate policy engagement and dialogue to promote public investments and partnerships with the private sector and to identify and address bottlenecks, gaps and challenges to the scaling up of technologies; (iii) use the suggested policy options to influence the existing seed policies; and (iv) enhance the participation of farmers in seed production. The objectives of the technology and innovation focus are to increase the productivity of rice and cassava farming systems and to improve nutrition, through the

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

adoption of: (i) locally developed and tested agricultural technologies and (ii) innovative crop management practices.

5. The direct target group will be composed of: 200 policymakers at the regional, state, federal and central levels in both countries, involved in policy review, analysis and enhancement; 35,000 smallholder farmers (45 per cent women; 20 per cent youth); 100 agricultural extension and advisory service personnel; and six small and medium-sized enterprises in rural and urban areas (millers, retailers, etc.). This project will indirectly benefit over half a million rural and urban dwellers who will have increased access to information, practical knowledge, and high-quality foods for consumption.
6. The project will be implemented over three years and will have the following components:
  - (i) **Policy instrument assessment.** Activity 1.1: Institutional mapping and review of the zero hunger policies, gathered in a comprehensive list of the existing initiatives to fight hunger in the target countries. Activity 1.2: Field surveys, technical assessment and analysis to identify the opportunities, resources, livelihood options and challenges in local farming systems.
  - (ii) **Productivity increase for rice and cassava farming systems.** Activity 2.1: Genetic gain initiatives (laboratory and on-station testing) to exploit the gains of the most promising elite lines of cassava and rice that are ready or nearly ready for field testing. Activity 2.2: Production of basic seeds and then certified seeds for selected rice and cassava varieties, followed by promotion of their adoption.
  - (iii) **Capacity-building and policy engagement.** Activity 3.1: Capacity-building for farmers, who will receive training on the adoption of agronomic technologies and practices, mechanized equipment, value addition and product processing. Activity 3.2: Capacity-building for extension agents and advisory service providers, consisting of training on site-specific agronomic practices for enhanced productivity and post-harvest crop management. Activity 3.3: Identification and testing of policy options, originating in the critical issues of the existing seed policy, used as a starting point to explore and formulate policy options to strengthen agricultural transformation through the uptake of technologies and innovations. Activity 3.4: Control and assessment based on the development of a common evaluation framework to guide the alignment of existing zero hunger initiatives with government goals and a learning agenda.

### III. Expected outcomes

7. The project is expected to have the following outcomes under each focus:

#### **Technology and innovation**

- (i) Improvement of rice and cassava farming systems through scientific innovation and capacity-building;
- (ii) Development of more effective seed systems that bring together community seed producers and the private sector;
- (iii) Increased income and improved nutrition of smallholder farmers, including women and youth.

#### **Policy analysis and engagement for technology uptake**

- (i) Establishment of a policy environment conducive to technology uptake;
- (ii) Development of new policy options conducive to the implementation of zero hunger initiatives at state and regional levels;

- (iii) Sensitization and engagement of policymakers and national agricultural research and extension systems in the formulation and implementation of policy options and in promoting public investments and partnerships with the private sector.

#### IV. Implementation arrangements

8. The IITA is the grant recipient, responsible to IFAD for both fiduciary and technical reporting, and will lead the policy review and the research on enhancing cassava farming systems. AfricaRice will be a grant subrecipient and will provide technical support on rice farming systems. The project will be implemented in partnership with the Nigerian and Togolese governments.
9. There are no deviations from the standard procedures for financial reporting and audits. The IITA shall keep separate accounts, in line with international accounting standards, and submit a statement of expenditures to IFAD every six months, consolidating the expenditures incurred by the IITA and AfricaRice. Yearly audit reports shall be prepared, based on the international auditing standards or equivalent. Funds will be channelled to the IITA through the World Bank, as Trustee of the CGIAR Trust Fund.
10. In order to mitigate the risk of implementation discontinuity related to the COVID-19 emergency, after project start-up the IITA and its partners will be requested to prepare an action plan based on the prevailing situation, informing IFAD how project activities will be implemented. Depending on the prevailing restrictions, appropriate working modalities will be explored and implemented, such as: increased online work; online training events and coaching; and use of ICT tools, radio, social media, television, discussion groups, survey tools and webinars. Information management tools and e-learning materials will be developed to facilitate interaction with partners and capacity-building activities.

#### V. Indicative project costs and financing

11. The total project budget is US\$2,820,000, of which US\$2,000,000 is a grant from IFAD. Of the remaining US\$820,000, US\$300,000 is cofinanced in kind by IITA and AfricaRice, through linkages with complementary resources. The governments of Nigeria and Togo are contributing in kind the amounts of US\$377,000 and US\$143,000 respectively. Tables 1 and 2 below provide a breakdown of budgeted costs by activity and category.

Table 1

**Project costs by component and financier**

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Components	IFAD	Cofinancing	Total
1. Policy instrument assessment	448	240	688
2. Productivity increase for rice and cassava farming systems	594	203	797
3. Capacity-building and policy engagement	531	210	741
4. Project management	241	167	408
5. Overhead	145	-	145
6. Cost sharing percentage (2%)	40	-	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 000</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>2 820</b>

Table 2

**Project costs by expenditure category and financier**  
(Thousands of United States dollars)

Expenditure category	<i>IFAD</i>	<i>Cofinancing</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Consultancies	134	-	134
2. Equipment and materials	211	125	336
3. Goods, services and inputs	163	200	363
4. Operating costs	107	49	156
5. Salaries and allowances	618	250	868
6. Training and workshop	303	165	468
7. Travel and allowances	279	31	310
8. Overhead	145	-	145
9. Cost sharing percentage (2%)	40	-	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>2 000</b>	<b>820</b>	<b>2 820</b>

**VI. Recommendation**

12. I recommend that the Executive Board approve the proposed financing in terms of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: that the Fund, in order to finance in part the "Agricultural transformation in Nigerian federal states and Togolese regions towards achieving zero hunger", shall provide a grant of two million United States dollars (US\$2,000,000) to the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture 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
	<p><b>Goal</b></p> <p>Contribute to the zero hunger initiatives within rice and cassava value chains in Nigeria and Togo</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% increase in income of participating households in the targeted action areas.</li> <li>• 15% increase of small-scale farmers in targeted areas reporting adoption of: improved management practices; improved rice and cassava varieties (high yielding, biofortified, etc.); and improved mechanization and processing technologies (disaggregated by gender).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project based impact evaluation study</li> <li>• Project based household survey</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Objectives (technology and innovation)</b></p> <p>- Increase rice and cassava farming system productivity and improve nutrition through the adoption of:</p> <p>a) locally developed and tested agricultural technologies;</p> <p>b) innovative crop management practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35,000 small-scale farmers and private sector actors (agro dealers, seed agents, service providers) reached with improved technologies, Good Agronomic Practices (GAP) and mechanization (45% women, 20% youth).</li> <li>• 100 agricultural extension, advisory service personnel and NARES scientists trained in relation to technologies and processes.</li> <li>• 6 small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in rural and urban areas (millers, retailers, etc.) supported in agro-business along the targeted value chains.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project based household survey</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of smallholder farmers remaining on the project continuously</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Objectives (policy analysis and engagement)</b></p> <p>-Review agricultural policies, policy frameworks and initiatives relevant for agricultural transformation, including farm input access by farmers at country level.</p> <p>- Facilitate policy engagement and dialogue to promote public investments and partnerships with the private sector and to identify and address bottlenecks, gaps and challenges to scale up technologies.</p> <p>-Use the suggested policy options to influence the existing seed policies and finally enhance the participation of farmers in seeds production.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 200 policy makers at the regional-, state-, federal- and central levels in both countries involved in policy review, analysis and enhancement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Analysis Report</li> <li>• Copies of policy documents</li> <li>• Memorandum of understanding for partnership</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued political stability across the main project sites</li> </ul>

	<b>Objectives-hierarchy</b>	<b>Objectively verifiable indicators</b>	<b>Means of verification</b>	<b>Assumptions</b>
	<p><b>Outputs (technology and innovation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Distribution of ready-to-use, biofortified, high yielding cassava and rice varieties seed to farmers and farmer organizations;</li> <li>- Productivity increase achieved through the adoption of enhanced cassava and rice varieties and refined crop management practices;</li> <li>- Development of seed systems based on technology uptake, increased accessibility of seed varieties and farm mechanization options;</li> <li>- Knowledge on agronomic practices, seed production, mechanization and so on built through capacity building training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 3,000 bundles of stems of high yielding, resistant/tolerant, biofortified cassava varieties distributed to farmers.</li> <li>• 60,000 kg of high yielding, resistant/tolerant rice varieties distributed to farmers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Performance data on the KPIs collected &amp; reported</li> <li>• Monthly, quarterly and annual project reports</li> <li>• Annual Projects/technical Report</li> <li>• Project and Partner progress reports</li> <li>• Project Training Reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Absence of serious environmental events (drought leading to food shortage, flooding), crop shocks in project countries</li> <li>• High level of acceptance among the population that perceives the training as relevant for their need</li> <li>• Availability of smallholder farmers remaining on the project continuously</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Outputs (policy analysis and engagement)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reports documenting the findings of the situation analysis on zero hunger initiatives and the results of the review and assessment of policy instruments;</li> <li>- Tested policy option proposals aimed at promoting policy enhancement through technology uptake.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At least 8 policy instruments of government on agriculture in Nigeria and Togo reviewed and analysed.</li> <li>• At least 10 projects/initiatives in ZH states in Nigeria and 4 projects/initiatives in Togo reviewed, analysed and aligned to government agricultural policy goals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Reviews</li> <li>• Reports on Monitoring/field visits</li> <li>• Baseline Reports</li> <li>• Institutional mapping reports</li> <li>• Policy briefs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government commits to the transformation of agriculture in the state/provinces</li> <li>• Government policy remains positive to private sector participation in the agricultural sector.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Outcomes (technology and innovation)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improvement of rice and cassava farming systems through scientific innovation and capacity building;</li> <li>- Development of more effective seed systems that bring together community seed producers and the private sector;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30% increase in yield for rice among participating smallholder farmers (including women and youths).</li> <li>• 40% increase in yield for cassava among participating smallholder farmers (including women and youths).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project based household survey</li> <li>• Project M&amp;E reports</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of smallholder farmers remaining on the project continuously</li> </ul>

	Objectives-hierarchy	Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumptions
	Increased income and improved nutrition of smallholder farmers, including women and youth.			
<b>Outcomes (policy analysis and engagement)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of a policy environment conducive to technology uptake;</li> <li>- Newly developed policy options conducive to the implementation of zero hunger Initiatives at state and regional levels;</li> <li>- Sensitization and engagement of policy makers and NARES in formulation and implementation of policy options and in promoting public investments and partnerships with private sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20% increase of extension agents, advisory service personnel, and agro-dealers utilizing acquired skills to support the smallholder farmers.</li> <li>• 20% increase of NARES scientists utilizing acquired skills to promote genetic gain technology.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy workshop report</li> <li>• Policy stakeholder satisfaction survey</li> <li>• Project based household survey</li> <li>• Project progress report</li> <li>• Project evaluation report</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducive policy and suitably prepared economic environment for agriculture development</li> <li>• Absence of serious environmental events (drought leading to food shortage, flooding), crop shocks in project countries</li> </ul>