

Reference No: IISFS-RC03

Title: INVESTING IN SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION

Overall objective:

To enhance the (environmental and social-economic) resilience and the sustainability of food systems in the Caribbean, in order to promote food and nutrition security, particularly among vulnerable communities and marginalised groups.

Specific objectives:

- (a) Enhanced sustainability, resilience, nutrition and gender sensitivity of food production systems (agricultural and fisheries), for local and regional markets.
- (b) Improved processing and regional distribution systems of food products.

Project background: The Caribbean Development Bank and the European Union has entered into a contribution agreement as part of a broader response to address the food security crisis in the Caribbean Region and to promote food and nutrition security, particularly among vulnerable groups.

The programme focuses on partnerships that build short-term and medium-long-term responses to help the most vulnerable cope with the crisis while contributing to sustainable and resilient food systems at the national and regional level. Over the short term, assistance will be provided to support farmers and producers to purchase inputs, protect livelihood assets, manage risks and continue production, while ensuring that the most vulnerable groups have access to sufficient food that is safe, nutritional, and healthy.

Scope of the Financing Window: The resources will be used to finance actions aimed at developing sustainable channels for distribution of food products at a regional level. In this regard support will be provided to initiatives which improve logistics and enhance the efficiency of the intra-regional maritime transport sector. This could include enhancing the regional regulatory harmonization framework; support to improving customs procedures and trade facilitation; enhancing agri-food value chain and agriculture health food safety (*e.g. cold storage capacity*); interoperability of Caribbean ports; maritime safety regulations; improve energy efficiency and the greater use of renewable and low-carbon fuels in the sector; as well as facilitate EU investments in the sector.

Financial Allocation: The overall indicative amount made available under this Call for Proposals is € 1,378,273. Resources will be allocated on a competitive basis and based on the assessed value of the intervention following an appraisal report to be presented to the *project steering committee*. Individual country project grant contributions may range between €400,000 – €570,000; regional projects covering more than two countries may benefit from grant resources ranging up to €670,000.

Project requirements: The call is open to distributors, customs and excise departments, port authorities, maritime operators, Small-holder farmers and fisherfolk, academic and research institutions. Agri-food stakeholders and associated support institutions within CARIFORUM member states. ***All projects to be financed under this window are expected to provide counterpart financing of up to 30%.***

Qualifying requirements: Proposals will be assessed and selected by the Evaluation Committee based on the established following criteria: ***Relevance to Objectives, Design, Effectiveness, Feasibility, Sustainability, Cost effectiveness.*** (Further details on the Evaluation criteria is found at Appendix 1/via link provided): successful proposals should align with the following key features of this programme as follows:

- i. **Counterpart financing:** applicants (whether private sector or government agencies or similar development support organizations) are required to provide a minimum of 30% counterpart financing to the overall value of the intervention. For the purpose of streamlining meaningful interventions, applicants are encouraged to streamline their counterpart contributions towards initiatives which contribute directly to the core project objective. Counterpart resources representing in-kind resources placed towards the payment of salaries, computer, office equipment or similar expenses will not be considered core project-based activities. However, interventions in which counterpart resources are used directly towards the achievement of core project objectives, these will be scored more favourably as outlined in the evaluation criteria for this window.
- ii. **Blended financing:** in duly justified cases blending with other commercial based funds is possible, however, applicants proposing the use of grant resources to compliment such financing schemes should be able to demonstrate that the intervention will not duplicate or is at cross-purposes with previous interventions from CDB and/or other development partners.

Also

The intervention should not attempt to seek financing for actions for which: a profit is expected, already completed or for which an activity has already begun.

- iii. **Private sector enterprises:** would be required to provide a record of the last five years audited financial statements. **Entrepreneurs** should provide a credit history report covering the management of debt repayments over the past 5 years.

- iv. **Cost effective:** proposals should be designed to foster competitive development and demonstrates cost effectiveness and the ability to reach scale to satisfy market demands.
- v. **Institutional capacity:** applicants will need to demonstrate that the executing/implementing agency is adequately resourced and must agree to adhere to business formalisation and support programs being implemented including the implementation of financial management systems. Also, applicants will need to prove they have the capacity to assign a dedicated project coordinator to ensure of the successful implementation of the project.
- vi. **Eligibility:** Only interventions benefitting clients within CDB's Borrowing Member Countries and CARIFOURM member States will be eligible for financing.

Submission of Application Form

Application Forms must be submitted electronically via a designated web page included in the specific Call for Proposals. A paper version is not required.

Where applicants submit more than one application form, each one must be submitted separately.

Submissions must bear the reference number and the title of the call for proposals, together with the full name and address of the applicant.

Deadline for submission of project concept form is December 9, 2024.

The project submission template and budget template, can be downloaded via link here:

<https://www.caribank.org/publications-and-resources/resource-library/guides-and-toolkits/concept-note-template-eu-cdb-food-security-project>

All proposals should be forwarded to cyril.gill@caribank.org and copied to malcolm.wallace@caribank.org.

Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria to assess proposals under the EU-CDB Food Security Programme is captured in the table below.

CRITERIA	WEIGHT ^{1/}	DETAILS
Relevance	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) consistency with CDB's strategic objectives, its corporate objectives, and agricultural development strategy, (3) b) alignment with CDB's Gender Equality Policy and Operational Strategy as well as the Youth Policy and Operational Strategy (YPOS). (3) c) Alignment with the EU-Caribbean Partnerships for cooperation and the EU Global Gateway Investment Priorities in the Caribbean. (3) d) consistency with country developmental priorities client country development plan (3) e) Applicant satisfies the following eligibility conditions (3) f) TA does not duplicate or was at cross-purposes with previous TAs from CDB and/or other development partners (builds on a coordinated framework, scales up good practices or structured around short-term consulting inputs and reporting) (5) g) The intervention does not attempt to seek financing for actions already completed or finance an activity that has already begun or for which a profit is expected; (5) Counterpart Resources h) The intervention does not attempt to place counterpart resources to towards in kind resources representing: the payment of salaries, computer and office equipment or similar expenses (5) in kind resources greater than 30% of total project cost considers in kind contributions (3) in kind resources greater than 10 % considers in kind contributions (1) i)
Design	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Adequacy of problem analysis i.e. analysis establishes the rationale for the project (3) b) Consistency with the objectives of the Call for Proposal (3) c) Extent to which project analyses highlights likely constraints to achievement of planned results (3) d) Extent to which project has been informed by lessons learned from similar projects or current best practices (3) e) Evidence of key stakeholder ownership and commitment project (3)
Effectiveness	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Is the role of the implementation/coordination agency clearly defined? (3) b) Is the agency adequately resourced (human and financial resources) to implement its core functions? (4) c) Is there an approved and robust work plan to guide the implementation of the agency's core functions? (4) d) Are mechanisms in place to mobilise donor resources to support the implementation process? (3) e) Are major assumptions valid and are they likely to remain valid over the life of the project? (3) f) Is the implementation schedule results focused? Are monitoring and evaluation activities included in the project? (3)
Feasibility	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Are planned results clearly stated? (2) b) Are inputs adequate (quality and quantity) to achieve planned outputs? (2) c) What is the likelihood that a contributor will default on funding obligations? (2)

^{1/}Weighting can be adjusted on a case by case basis subject to the specific Call for Proposal.

CRITERIA	WEIGHT ^{1/}	DETAILS
		d) Are the major risks identified and are measures in place to mitigate these risks? (2) e) The objectives to be realized within the proposed intervention are expected to be completed within the time frame for the conclusion of the Contribution Agreement: (2)
Sustainability	15	a) What mechanisms are in place to obtain buy-in from and to hold key implementation partners accountable for achieving planned implementation targets? (3) b) Has counterpart resources been allocated for the project at recommended level and how reliable is the source of the funding for the agency's operations? (3) c) What is the likelihood that benefits generated by the project will be sustained in the longer-term (due to manifest changes in key structures/institutions that are responsible for producing the results)? (3) d) Does the client has enough, sufficiently trained staff and adequate resources (physical and financial) to utilise or operate the strategic plans/facilities/equipment provided through the TA intervention, and to ensure their proper maintenance (if/where applicable)? (3) e) Is there a positive influence of cross-cutting themes (poverty, gender, environment, DRM and citizen security on TA outcomes (where applicable) (3)
Cost effectiveness	10	a) proposal designed to foster competitive development and demonstrates cost effectiveness and the ability to reach scale to satisfy market demands. (10)