



## Approval of preparatory grants to One Acre Fund and Farm Africa (Innovative agriculture in the Democratic Republic of Congo)

Adopted at EB 19 on 24 November 2021

### EB.2021.24

Considering:

- The CAFI Declaration and the persisting challenge of forest loss and food security in the region and existing cooperation frameworks with CAFI partner countries (including Letters of Intent, preparatory grants, and feasibility studies)
- [Decision EB.2021.03](#) on the launch of the call for expressions of interest (EoI) on Innovative Agriculture
- [Decision EB.2021.13](#) on the first appraisal of submissions received asking One Acre Fund and Farm Africa to develop and submit to CAFI a technical and financial proposals
- The revised terms of reference and manual of operation of the CAFI Trust Fund endorsed by the [decision EB.2021.01](#), establishing that eligibility of International non-governmental organizations - other than UN organizations, the World Bank and ICAs - will be confirmed following a HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer) Assessment and a low risk rating.
- Proposals for feasibility study grants submitted by One Acre Fund and Farm Africa
- The conclusions of the HACT Assessment for One Acre Fund and Farm Africa

The CAFI Executive Board:

1. Approves the preparatory grant and the transfer of up to US\$ 500,000 to One Acre Fund and US\$ 431,001 to Farm Africa.
2. Requests the Secretariat to ensure that the comments below are addressed in a revised version of the program document before it is submitted to the MPTF-O for fund transfer:

- a) One Acre Fund to:
  - i) Reduce the overall preparation grant's budget to keep with the USD 500,000 ceiling, while keeping the field trials;
  - ii) Correct the inconsistency in the timeline in the One Acre Fund proposal which runs over 12 months while the deliverables timetable is set for 10 months and reduce the 3-month Desk research period by at least half.
- b) Farm Africa:
  - i) Remove or significantly reduce the budget line for consultations with CAFI and CAFI program developers and strengthen instead the consultation budget with authorities and local stakeholders.
  - ii) Clarify the rationale for the biodiversity assessment and related potential PES scheme.
3. Asks the CAFI Secretariat and implementing organizations to develop an assurance plan that integrates recommendations for the HACT assessment
4. Requests One Acre Fund and Farm Africa to develop and submit to CAFI a detailed prefeasibility report (phase 1), before proceeding with the development of the Program document (phase 2). If the information and orientations in the prefeasibility report (phase 1) are deemed robust enough, a CAFI EB decision will be adopted to define program orientations, target budget and duration, on which basis phase 2 work will start.
5. Requests One Acre Fund and Farm Africa to present in the prefeasibility study report:
  - a. Needs identification and best strategies to address them (following a theory of change approach), quantified targets, program duration and estimated budget needs based on justified costs estimations.
  - b. Concrete synergies with existing programs during the implementation of the feasibility study. Activities should not be limited to activities funded by CAFI and should also support CAFI donors in their programming efforts in a consistent manner. In particular, in areas where integrated REDD+ programmes (PIREDD) operate, ensure that support is provided in priority where land use planning has been done, in line with the land use plans and in support of the related green development plans<sup>1</sup>.
  - c. Ensure, to the extent possible, a methodological alignment of planned remote assessment of land use changes (output 2 of Farm Africa program proposal) with the CAFI-funded regional study on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Ensure in both the feasibility study and programme design a strong focus on (i) gender inclusivity, including in terms of gender-disaggregated data, (ii) human rights and non-discrimination, (iii) conflict prevention and resolution, especially in relation to land tenure, (iv) monitoring and learning, while ensuring a strong alignment with CAFI's results framework, (v) analysing the agriculture-forest protection nexus, (vi) analysing opportunities for scalability and pathways towards it, (vii) analysing risks for corruption and conflicts of interest, as well as who stands to gain or lose from the initiative.

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<sup>1</sup> With explicit reference that support provided is directly linked to forest protection and the national REDD+ process.

6. Recalls that the implementing organization will have to report on progress toward both the objectives and milestones of the Lol as well as on indicators of the National REDD+ Investment Plan and CAFE results framework in accordance with CAFE guidelines and templates. In addition, they will have to provide to provide CAFE with all reports and raw data from household's surveys and other field studies including spatial information (i.e. GPS coordinates) and information on how their activities are addressing and respecting CAFE social and environmental safeguards
7. Recalls that, while respecting its rules and regulations, the implementing organization commits to zero tolerance for fraud, corruption and sexual exploitation and abuse; protection of whistleblowers, public disclosure, gender and social inclusion and use of adequate complaints mechanisms. In addition, the implementing organization commits to managing all other contextual and programmatic risks identified by the Executive Board with the outmost care. The implementing organization is expected to be proactive in reporting those risks to the CAFE MPTF in respect to CAFE Trust fund Terms of reference.
8. Request the CAFE Sec to sign the project documents on its behalf.