



Call for Expressions of Interest – Innovative agriculture – second appraisal
of submissions received
Adopted on 26 November 2021

EB.2021.29

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 ;
- The [Terms of reference of this Eoi](#), especially :
 - The purpose of the Eoi is to identify a portfolio of innovative operational projects and the Board may approve several bids at different moments in time;
 - The assessment is based on the following criteria: “Proven experience and results in supporting farmers”, “Agency capabilities” and “Implementation approach”;
 - The two dates for the receipt of expression of interests: (i) May 31, 2021 for a first selection of proposals to be developed in priority and (ii) July 31, 2021 for a second selection of proposals taking into consideration first submissions received.
- The reception of 15 expressions of interest from: One Acre Fund (1), the FAO (5), Farm Africa (1), the UNDP (1), the CIFOR (1) and IIED (1) by May 30, 2021 and from CIFOR (1), Proforest (1), Rainforest Alliance (1), GIZ (1) and GRET (1) by July 31, 2021;
- [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 proposal each;
- The revised Terms of Reference and Manual of Operations of the CAFI Trust Fund, endorsed through

[decision EB.2021.01](#), establishing that eligibility of International non-governmental organizations - other than UN organizations, the World Bank and International Cooperation Agencies - will be confirmed following a HACT (Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer) Assessment and a low risk rating;

- The specific process associated with Innovative Agriculture EoI, that requires selected agencies to develop and submit technical and financial proposal to access the preparatory grants.

The CAFI Executive Board:

- 1) Recalls that, according to the terms of reference of the EoI, the EB may approve several bids;
- 2) Acknowledges that Proforest, GRET and CIFOR proposals have received a positive assessment based on all the EoI evaluation criteria:
 - a) “Proven experience and results in supporting farmers” to implement innovative models described in the implementation approach (criterion c);
 - b) “Agency capabilities” to undertake projects described in their expression of interest;
 - c) “Implementation approach”: Specific innovative models to be used to reach desired outcomes are relevant and have demonstrated results in other similar contexts.
- 3) Thanks the FAO, GIZ and UNDP for their expressions of interest and notes that proposals have not been preselected for lack of conformity with the assessment criteria of the call. However, the Executive Board notes the relevance of these expressions of interest in the upcoming regular country programming and encourages the organizations to assess whether the proposals respond to the evaluation criteria of the relevant country-level calls for expressions of interest and resubmit them accordingly.
- 4) Asks Proforest, GRET and CIFOR to develop and submit to CAFI a technical and financial proposal each no later than 31 January 2022. The technical and financial proposals must follow CAFI Feasibility Grants & CAFI budget program document templates and include resumes of key experts. The technical and financial proposal should address (i) gender inclusivity (ii) human rights and non-discrimination (iii) conflict prevention and resolution, especially in relation to land tenure, (iv) monitoring and evaluation (v) agriculture-forest protection nexus (vi) scalability and pathways towards it (vii) risks of corruption and conflicts of interest, as well as who stands to gain or lose from the initiative.
- 5) Request that each Technical proposal includes two phases: (i) pre-feasibility phase to develop and submit to CAFI a technical proposal including needs identification, best strategies to implement and costs estimation for program implementation (ii) Program document Elaboration based on CAFI EB orientations and estimated budget for the program;
- 6) Recall that the budget allocated to the feasibility study and program document elaboration shall not exceed 500,000 USD.
- 7) Asks Proforest to follow the mentioned guidelines mentioned below in the development of its feasibility study:
 - a) Integrate within the feasibility phase the HCV/HCS identification study;
 - b) Consider different financing mechanisms including CAFI direct support, Nature + Fund Accelerator support and CAFI support through the National Land Use Program implemented by the French Development Agency (AFD) in the Republic of Congo;

- c) Ensure compliance with milestones 2.5 of the Letter of Intent : the process to identify and delimit the new land reserve for palm oil development should be based on a preliminary mapping of the land and village boundaries and follow a FPIC process;
 - d) Integrate research and development activities on by-products valorization with universities (through internships for example) within the proposed program;
 - e) Reinforce APOI platform capacities through Monitoring and Evaluation activities.
- 8) Asks CIFOR to follow the guidelines mentioned below in the development of its feasibility study:
- a) Provide detailed information on Yangambi model, results achieved, lessons learned and conditions for successful replication in selected areas (including risks analysis and risks mitigation strategies)
 - b) Identify one or several sites for program implementation to be discussed with CAFI and the government;
 - c) Develop and estimate results to be achieved by the potential program;
 - d) Develop and propose mechanism to capitalize and share information on best practices and impact potential. The mechanism should describe strategies to ensure capacities building and ownership of national institutions.
- 9) Asks GRET to follow the guidelines mentioned below in the development of its feasibility study:
- a) Restrict the geographical scope of their intervention to Kinshasa and Lubumbashi supply basins. The prefaisability study should identify, at least, two options for program development: (i) focusing on Kinshasa Supply Basin and (ii) focusing on Kinshasa and Lubumbashi supply basins
 - b) Identify and develop synergies with the One Acre Fund program that could potentially be supported by CAFI (pending feasibility study). GRET should consider the option of developing a unique program with One Acre Fund.
- 10) Asks the implementing organizations and the CAFI secretariat to collaborate on the elaboration of technical and financial proposals;
- 11) Asks the CAFI secretariat to proceed with the HACT assessment to confirm implementing organizations' eligibility to access CAFI fund in accordance with CAFI revised terms of reference and manual of operation endorsed by the [decision EB.2021.01](#);
- 12) Asks the CAFI secretariat to engage CAFI country partners to confirm their interest and participation to the selected programs before grant appraisal by the CAFI Executive Board.