

PRESS RELEASE

Dar es Salaam, 16th September 2008

Ten Project Proposals Selected for Funding by Coop^{AFRICA} Challenge Fund

Ten proposals have been selected by the selection committee among 145 project proposals received for the first call for proposals in 2008. For this round, Coop^{AFRICA} will provide funding worth USD 361.354.

A challenge fund is an open financing mechanism that allocates grants funding through a competitive process. The funds are set up to meet specific objectives such as extending financial services to the poor. Bids are assessed against transparent criteria. The Selection Committee then awards grants to the projects that best meet the aims of the Challenge. The Selection Committee is assisted by panel of experts on specific fields of expertise.

The list of approved projects, under certain conditions is as follows:

1. **Ethiopia - Ambo University College - Feasibility and organization of Health Coops** (approved max. grant USD 50.000)

The Ambo University College will undertake a feasibility study on the successful introduction of health cooperatives in Ethiopia thereby improving the provision of social protection.

2. **Kenya - CIC LTD - Co-operative Insurance Company - Sensitize Cooperatives on risk Management** (approved grant USD 33.668)

The project aims to evaluate the kind of risks facing co-operative organizations in Kenya through the collection and distribution of relevant information about risk affecting especially cooperatives thus promoting sustainable enterprise development.

3. **Kenya - KNFC - Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives - Co-operative Governance Project (CGP)** (approved max. grant USD 20.000)

The Cooperative Governance Project (CGP) will improve development of an effective cooperative movement while strengthening the cooperative governance, transparency and accountability in cooperative leadership.

4. **Kenya - Uiri farmers Co-operative Society LTD - Soy Beans Production and Value Chain Addition** (approved max. grant USD 30.000)

The project aims to transform livelihood across Southern Nyanza region by diversifying and introducing new crops, creating new income generating activities and employment opportunities for local farmers.

5. **Tanzania - Dunduliza Company LTD - Implementation of an Interconnection System in the Dunduliza SACCOS Network** (approved grant USD 52.686)

Through this project a communication tools will be introduced that will facilitate the monitoring of cash balances on a daily, weekly and monthly basis for all SACCOS organized through Dunduliza. This project will help to increase the reach and effectiveness of SACCOS, provide microfinance for the poor and contribute to reduce poverty.

6. **Uganda - Uganda Crane Creameries Cooperative Union - Cooperative Dairy Processing Project** (approved max. grant USD 70.000)

The project aims at allowing the dairy farmers to play a bigger role in the dairy value chain. The outcomes of the project will be increased employment and incomes, stronger cooperative organisations and quality improvement of the products.

7. **Zambia - Monze Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society - Dairy Animal Restocking Program** (approved max. grant USD 30.000)

The aim of this project is to reduce poverty and increase the food security of targeted member smallholder farmers in Monze and part of Choma Districts.

8. **Zambia - Twatasha Multipurpose Cooperative Society - Sanitation management of refuse & garbage collect** (approved max. grant USD 15.000)

The project will provide quality service in terms of collection of litter, garbage and refuse for their disposal in Mansa town, while providing the cooperative members with sustainable employment and incomes.

Two projects have also been selected though funding will be realeased if significant amendments are undertaken.

9. Swaziland - SICALO SABOMAKE Association (approved max. grant USD 10.000)

The projects aim is to expand production and increase marketing of the local products produced by the women association to the local community, and hence create new employment opportunities for unemployed women.

10. Zambia - Zambia Cooperative Federation - Mapping a Comprehensive Strategy of Cooperative development in Zambia (approved max. grant USD 50.000)

The project will address the re-structuring of the cooperative movement in order to make it possible for cooperatives to provide improved and competitive services as well as creating sustainable cooperative enterprises.

The second round for proposals will be held in the second half of November. Coop^{AFRICA} congratulates all successful applicants and would like to thank the national focal points for their support.