

PRESS RELEASE

Dar es Salaam, 23rd May 2011

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

Six proposals have been selected by Coop^{AFRICA} in the fifth call for proposals in 2011. Through this round, Coop^{AFRICA}'s Challenge Fund supported initiatives implemented by cooperative support organizations for the benefit of **women and/or youth**. The Call was open to 4 African countries - Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania Mainland and Uganda, and through it projects could be supported on a cost-sharing basis with grants of up to 20,000 USD.

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

1. **Kenya – Cooperative College – Empowering ‘Yatta South Women Help Group’ Through Capacity Building in Cooperative Management and Formation of Cooperative** (approved max. grant of 15,720 USD)

The project aims at empowering women's groups weaving baskets and selling them locally and internationally. Women will be assisted in registering a cooperative society to market their baskets and increase access to financial services. They will also be trained in pre and post cooperative business management education and value addition.

2. **Rwanda – Cooperative Training and Research Center (IWACU) – Women's empowerment income generating project in rural areas** (approved max. grant of 15,989 USD)

The project will support young women and men in Gicumbi District, in the Northern Province through training in poultry and managerial skills, technical capacity building and in-kind loans to enable them to run a home-based poultry business and breed chickens for sale.

3. **Rwanda – Trends-Pro Inc. – Coop Enterprise** (approved max. grant of 17,120 USD)

The project will focus on strengthening existing cooperatives especially in building up their capacities among others on Business plan development, Marketing of their products, Risk management, Basic book keeping and Risk management.

4. **Tanzania – Dunduliza** - Increased incomes of women and youth, cooperative members of Tandale SACCOS through steady creation of decent work (approved max. grant of 18,000 USD)

The project will train women and youth members of Tandale SACCOS (8032 members) in entrepreneurship to enable them to seize business opportunities. The project will through participatory approaches review any barriers that block women and youth from becoming members and accessing credit in Tandale SACCOS and develop suitable loan products.

5. **Tanzania – Kilimanjaro Co-operative Bank Limited** – Awareness Building and Economic Empowerment for Women in Kilimanjaro Region (approved max. grant of 18,000 USD)

The project will support 240 women from three districts of the Kilimanjaro region and provide them with the necessary knowledge and skills to produce more efficiently and to organize marketing through their co operatives, hence increasing production, incomes, and ultimately improve the livelihoods of their families.

6. **Uganda – Organisation for Rural Development** – Enhancing the soundness and efficiency of rural savings and credit associations (approved max. grant of 19,000 USD)

The implementation of the project shall mostly rely on building capacity of the 4 Sub-county saving and Lending Cooperative through trainings. The project will also ensure that clear systems, procedures, policies, regulations are in place and functioning efficiently and effectively. A number of trainings will be conducted for the different segments of members in the following areas: organizational/institutional development, team building and leadership, business planning and management, sustainability and growth, loan management and savings as well as enterprise development and farming as a business

Coop^{AFRICA} congratulates once again all successful applicants and would like to thank all national Focal Points and National Advisory Groups for their support.