Areas of support

- Initiatives that reach smallholder farmers to improve agricultural productivity, market access, post-harvest handling, food safety or any other impact.

- Initiatives that support the management, operations and business processes that are directly linked to improving the integration of smallholder farmers/pastoralists within the supply chain of a business and improve on their inefficiencies.

For more information, contact:
Self Help Africa
Bank of Africa House, Karuna Close
off Waiyaki Way, Westlands
P.O. Box 14204 - 00800, Nairobi
info@agrifichallengefund.org

AgriFI Kenya Challenge Fund
www.agrifichallengefund.org
Overview
The AgriFi Kenya Challenge fund is a European Union Initiative to support productive and market - integrated smallholder agriculture through the provision of financial support worth EUR 18,000,000 to agri-enterprises. The aim is to contribute to improvements in the capacity of smallholder farmers/pastoralists to practice environmentally sustainable and climate-smart agriculture as a business in inclusive value chains. The Challenge Fund is funded by the European Union and co-funded by SlovakAid. The European Investment Bank (EIB), under the AgriFi Kenya Programme, has provided long term currency financing to Equity Bank (Kenya) Limited for on-lending to eligible food and agriculture sector projects. This facility is also available for match funding to the applicants.

Self Help Africa and Imani Development Limited are the Fund Managers for the programme.

The Challenge Fund is part of the wider AgriFi programme funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) to unlock, accelerate and leverage investments within value chains.

Objectives
- To improve the capacity of 100,000 smallholder farmers/pastoralists to practice environmentally sustainable and climate-smart agriculture as a business in inclusive value chains.
- Support and enable at least 50 agri-enterprises to increase their turnover (by at least 25%).

The Programme in Numbers

- 5 years programme implementation period
- 100,000 smallholders/pastoralists integrated in various agricultural value chains
- 20,000 hectares under climate-smart land management practices
- 10,000 net equivalent jobs created
- €18 million fund size
- 50 agri-enterprises receive financial support
- 15 trade associations strengthened

Impact

600,000 livelihoods transformed

The Challenge Fund will offer:

Financial support
The Fund will award an indicative amount of EUR 18,000,000 to agri-enterprises as financial support through three separate calls for applications. The third call will be administered in two windows with Window 1 focusing on established medium-sized agri-enterprises that meet the core AgriFi eligibility criteria while Window 2 will specifically focus on smaller agri-enterprises in selected counties in Western, Nyanza, North Rift, South Rift, Northern and Coastal regions. Applicants for Window 1 will receive financial support between €200,000 and €750,000 while applicants for Window 2 will receive between €100,000 and €200,000.

Value chain integration
The Challenge Fund will support investments in areas where agri-enterprises have blockages or weak links as they work with smallholders or pastoralists. These may include insufficient quantity or quality of raw materials, inefficient processing and production systems, or lack of consumer demand for a particular nutritious product. As a result, smallholder farmers/pastoralists will either directly or indirectly improve their competitiveness and participation in the respective value chains.

Technical assistance
The Challenge Fund will provide the selected enterprise with targeted and needs-based technical assistance to improve their business capacities to support overall business growth and to improve service delivery to farmers for sustainable production and adaptation to climate smart farming.

Learning opportunities
The Challenge Fund will adopt a Collaboration, Learning and Adaptation approach to incorporate knowledge, experience and learning from agri-enterprises, smallholder farmers/pastoralists and other value chain actors.

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