



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – GRANTS REVIEW COMMITTEE (GRC) MEMBERSHIP

Country : Malawi
Name of Project : Transforming Agriculture Through Diversification and Entrepreneurship (TRADE) Programme
Assignment Title : **Recruitment of Grants Review Committee (GRC) Members**
Reference No. : TRADEMW/2024/08/GRC/001
Date of Issue : 20th May 2024

1. Background

Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship (TRADE) Programme is a Government of Malawi 6-year initiative funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID). The overall goal of this programme is to contribute to improved sustainable livelihoods of rural people in Malawi through *Value Chain commercialisation and resilience of rural poor and smallholder producers*”.

TRADE Programme specifically seeks to:

- a) increase production and productivity by smallholder farmers;
- b) functionally upgrade smallholder farmers and the rural poor to undertake new functions such as processing, storage, and packaging to capture more value;
- c) improve horizontal linkages by strengthening the capacities of cooperatives to provide market access functions to smallholder farmers; and,
- d) Improve vertical linkages between stakeholders at different functional levels of the commodity chain, including the private sector.

TRADE intends to support rural entrepreneurs, focusing on youths and women to develop and sustain their agribusiness enterprise opportunities and ensuring that commodities are nutrition-sensitive. This objective will be achieved through targeted support to smallholder farmers and non-farm actors to benefit from commodity markets, improved access to rural financial services, market

and business development services and partnerships with the private sector. The programme directly contributes to Pillar 1 of MW 2063 and Strategic Objective 2 of the Malawi Country Strategic Opportunity (COSOP 2016-2021) “Smallholder households’ access remunerative markets and services”. It also contributes to Strategic Objective 1 of the COSOP by focusing on the promotion of climate-smart agriculture and the mainstreaming of nutrition in all interventions. Under the Ministry of Local Government as the lead agency, TRADE will be implemented under 3 interlinked components namely:

- 1) Sustainable producer-private public partnerships;
- 2) Enabling environment for smallholder commercialization and component; and,
- 3) Institutional support and programme management.

Targeting 127,000 direct and 173,000 indirect households, TRADE Programme is implementing its activities covering eleven (11) districts of Mchinji, Ntchisi, Dedza, Blantyre, Kasungu, Nkhata Bay, Rumphu, Karonga, Lilongwe Rural, Thyolo and Chitipa focusing on seven (7) commodities namely groundnuts, soybean, sunflower, potato, dairy, beef and honey.

2. The ACIF Matching Grants

TRADE Programme, among other models, promotes agricultural and agribusiness commercialization through a closer and sustainable private sector engagement to foster national and international market linkages with producers. Furthermore, this fosters the deepening of the producer's private-public partnerships (4Ps).

To achieve this, TRADE provides matching grants to accelerate agriculture commercialization among smallholder farmers through the promotion of models that facilitate sustainable producer-private-public partnerships and foster an enabling environment for smallholder commercialization.

These grants are provided under two distinct windows:

Small Grants Window: The small matching grants are provided to finance viable business plans of FO and FBOs such as cooperatives involved in commercial partnerships with private sector/SMEs.

Large Grants Window: Large matching grants are open to medium and large-scale private agribusinesses that increase the profitability and sustainability of small scale farmers, farmer groups and rural SMEs.

The ACIF specifically gives priority to interventions that:

- a) Bring sustainable innovations to the value chain development of targeted commodities
- b) Create sustainable market linkages for the smallholder producers
- c) Increase production and productivity, incomes, and resilience of targeted commodities through Climate Smart Interventions (Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA)/Natural Resources Management (NRM).
- d) Foster entrepreneurship and vertical diversification by smallholder farmers
- e) Value Chain investments that empower women, youth, and other marginalized and vulnerable groups.
- f) Value Chain investments that adhere to IFAD’s Social, Environmental and Climate Assessment Procedures (SECAP)

3. **The Grants Review Committee (GRC)**

The GRC is an independent team, with diverse professional backgrounds and drawn from key stakeholder groups of the TRADE Programme, responsible for the review of applications and providing overall guidance of the ACIF facility. For full ToRs of the GRC, see the link (www.tradeprogramme.org). Specifically, GRC is responsible for the following:

- i. Reviewing ACIF Grants submissions (concept notes and business plans/proposals).
- ii. Recommending the selected applicants to the Programme Steering Committee (PSC), through the Programme Technical Committee (PTC).
- iii. Advising Programme Steering Committee (PSC) and Programme Management Unit (PMU) on possible modifications to grants processes and modalities.
- iv. Monitoring the implementation progress of Grantees' Projects.

a) Composition of the GRC

The GRC is composed of Eleven (11) members, with expertise in agribusiness, business economics, business management, financial management, entrepreneurship, project management, Agronomy, Livestock development and Natural resources Management / Forestry. The GRC members are selected from government technical departments, academia, research institutions, agro-industry related institutions, the financial sector, and the private sector. While, government and semi-government members of the GRC are nominated by their respective institutions, TRADE would like to invite application from relevant **private sector practitioners (4) and NGOs representatives (2)** interested members to be considered in the GRC.

b) Qualifications

NGO Sector Members – At least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field (agribusiness, business economics, business management, financial management, entrepreneurship, project management, Agronomy, Livestock development and Natural resources Management / Forestry) coupled with a minimum of five (7) years hands-on and demonstrated experience with farmer institutions development, capacity building of farmer business organisations and facilitating business relationships with the private sector.

Private Sector Members - At least a bachelor's degree in a relevant field (agribusiness, business economics, business management, financial management, entrepreneurship, project management, Agronomy, Livestock development and Natural resources Management / Forestry) coupled with a minimum of five (7) years hands-on and demonstrated experience in financing of rural enterprises, SME development, Business Development Services as well as Working with inclusive Business Models.

4. How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit their applications, CVs and copies of certificates through email, to the following (indicating the type of membership applied for – ‘NGO or Private Sector’)

The Chairperson

Programme Steering Committee (PSC)

Transforming Agriculture through Diversification and Entrepreneurship (TRADE)

Area 9 Plot Number 328

P.O. Box 2135

Lilongwe, Malawi.

grants@tradeprogramme.org

All Applications should be submitted by 9th June 2024.