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Green Agenda

# Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture

Country/Territory: Albania

Agricultural  
Innovation

Scientific research

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- Call components and question marks

# Scope of the Call for Climate Adaptation Grant (CCAG)

The objective of the call is to support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies. The small grants can be used to address adaptation challenges in various thematic areas, including but not limited to:

- Disaster risk reduction;
- Inclusion of youth;
- Innovative adaptation financing;
- Nature-based solutions;
- Water resources management.

# Priority area

The projects under this call must address one of the funding areas adapting to the impacts of climate change, conserving biological diversity, providing plant protection and animal protection interventions as well as the following:

- Support the implementation or increase the ambition of nationally determined contributions (NDCs)
- Support action on the ground to contribute to the SAFRD 2022-2027
- Address the risks, challenges and opportunities of global megatrends (e.g. increasing demand for natural resources, rapid urbanization, digitalisation) in the context of climate change and biodiversity loss
- Strengthen networks, knowledge sharing and cooperation of organisations working on climate change and biodiversity related issues
- Develop and promote the use of climate smart technologies
- Contribute to awareness building and education regarding climate change and biodiversity
- Engage in cross-sectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation and / or involve the local population.

# Targeted results

- New innovations are encouraged and accelerated.
- Evidence base are generated. Evidence of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products and technologies generated as a basis for implementing entities and other funds to assess scaling up.
- Best practices on how to invest in infrastructure, equipment, pilot product lines.
- Facilitating cooperation, networking activities and partnerships among different innovation actors working in the same field.
- Creating potential Operational Groups-indirect objective of the grant is to strengthen small implementing organisations/semiformal groups in further developing their capacities and in strengthening their professional networks and foster them as agents of change for climate and biodiversity action on the ground.

# Type of measures

- Climate change mitigation action and energy efficiency cross-compliance obligations (and Natura 2000 obligations applying to foresters);
- Support for farm modernization, competitiveness-building, sectoral integration, innovation and market orientation, as well as the promotion of entrepreneurship;
- Soil management, water management, most of the RDPs Water use efficiency, water quality protection, integrated pest management or reduced use of pesticides.
- Production techniques, with the adoption of integrate production and organic production; introduction of precision-agriculture systems and machinery and technical means that reduce the environmental impact; use of resistant plants and seeds and organic seeds and seedlings; eco-friendly soil management.
- Green management of the cultivation fields' areas, by grassing of the cultivation/orchard inter-rows, development of green buffer-zones, hedges, tree-lined areas, nests and shelters for birds and wild fauna.
- Integrated pest management namely biological control.

# Type of measures 2

- PPP management, with construction of collective plants for the preparation / distribution of mixtures of pesticides and fertilisers, construction of units to wash the PPP spraying machine, investments in management systems of the related wastewater, establishment of systems of collection and disposal of PPP empty/used containers.
- Traceability, implementing systems for data recording on the use of chemicals and withholding periods as well as transferring the records to the buyers.
- The introduction and improvement of systems for the reduction of gaseous emissions and dust contamination
- Efficient use of water resources (e.g., drip irrigation systems, restoring water reservoirs)
- Biodiversity measures, namely the conservation of some rare cultivars or cultivations and seedlings production of plants included in the Red List
- Waste management namely plastic and package waste as well as organic waste
- Examples of circular economy installation renewable energies production equipment (photovoltaic, biomass) for self-consumption, implementation of traceability systems and improved control of residues, investments (equipment and installations) for self-production of energy from wind, solar (thermal and photovoltaic) and biomass (MAPs waste and exhausted MAPs), (equipment and installations) for production of compost

# Technical group (proxy for OP)

- **A technical Group is meant to be 'operational' and tackle a certain practical problem or opportunity**, a 'need from practice', that may lead to an innovative solution.
- TG have to draw up a plan, that describes their specific project and the expected results. Furthermore, the TG have to disseminate the results of their project, in particular through the ATTC network.
- The TG must cooperate in a project which will contribute to the aims of the SARDF 2022-2028, to the NPEI priorities, and to the linked national/regional strategy.



# Beneficiaries

- This call aims at demand-driven innovation because research projects' objectives and planning are targeted to needs/problems and opportunities of end-users.
- Project will provide practical knowledge which is easy understandable and accessible.
- The end-users and multipliers of research results, such as farmers, farmers' groups or advisors should be closely involved
- End users will bring in complementary practical knowledge: from defining the questions, to planning, to implementing research work, to experiment and right up until possible demonstration and dissemination.

# Technical groups

- The call for proposals aim to support people who
  1. are directly engaged in developing innovative solutions and in the economic exploitation of new ideas through: advisory and support services, direct investments, and financial instruments that help access private sources of funding.
  2. Investing in infrastructure, equipment, pilot product lines, and advanced manufacturing necessary for applied research and innovation activities, including technologies that create capabilities for further innovation in a range of other sectors.
  3. Facilitating cooperation, networking activities and partnerships among different innovation actors working in the same field.

# Technical groups cont.

- TG should be composed of those key actors that are in the best position to realise the project's goals, to share experiences and to disseminate the outcomes broadly.
- Technical Groups are intended to bring together multiple actors such as farmers, researchers, advisers, businesses, environmental groups, consumer interest groups or other NGOs to advance innovation in the agricultural and forestry sectors.
- No specific conditions are laid down regarding the composition or minimum size of TG (apart from the fact that a minimum of three partners must be involved).

# Potential members of a TG

- Potential actors to be included in the technical group
- Farmers (especially large farmers), agribusiness and associations
- Suppliers of agricultural inputs and machinery (wholesale and retail).
- Private advisory services operating in the field.
- Members of associations and other groups namely Albanian Agribusiness Council (KASH), National Federation of Forest and Pasture users Association, Albanian Rural Network, existing Local Action Groups (LAGs) and other NPO and NGOs operating in the sphere of agriculture and rural development and environment
- Experts from MARD depended institutions, namely Agricultural National Extension Service (ANES) in transfers information from Agricultural Technology Transfer Centres (ATTCs), Food Security and Veterinary Institute (FSVI) and National Food Authority,
- Academic staff members and students from Agricultural University of Tirana and Faculty of Agriculture of University Fan Noli in Korça.
- Staff members and students of Agricultural vocational schools
- Applicant organisations have to be groups formed by farmers, input providers, exporters, academics or staff of ATTCs which are represented together based on a year agreement and signed by a notary.
- Other entities should be Agriculture Cooperatives, not-for-profit organisations, Agriculture Technology Transfer Centers and Local Action Groups.
- The applicant must have dedicated reporting staff and have that ensure proper reporting of activities.

# Priority areas (clusters)

- The application for grants are welcomed from all regions of Albania.
- Indicated advantage will be provided for groups applying from areas with intensive agriculture activities (clusters of vegetables (Fier), fruits (Korce), citrus and olives (Vlore) and MAPs and Nuts (Shkoder) and potato (Kukes).
- Cluster approach would be the most effective approach to unify and target core problems and facilitate the use of operational groups (like EIP AGRI).
- The main areas for creating adaptation innovation toward climate change should be based on production clusters where farmers are more concentrated and there is an intense presence of wholesalers/exporters, who in many cases started their activity as input suppliers and afterwards expanded their activity to wholesale trading and exporting.

# Budget

- The call for Small Grants on climate change adaptation (CCA) selects project proposals with a total funding volume between EUR 5,000 and EUR 8,800.
- Proposals with financial requests over or under the above amounts will not be considered.
- The duration of the projects shall cover a period of twelve months.

# Question marks for MARD?

- What should be the status? NGO, semiformal through a notary arrangement or represented through a formal entity (ATTCs). Who will receive funding (one person or they should have a notary declaration)?
- ARDPF timeline is one year while innovation require a minimum a year but most need 2 or 3 years. How to solve this?
- Do we risk the call in case we open the call also for public persons ATTCs or ANES?

# Question marks for MARD?

- In the clusters are not included the livestock clusters...mainly due to missing relevance to climate change. Should it be included?
- Is it proper for MARD to use regional discrimination in a national call?
- What will be the rewarding scores?
- Will there be delineation by region or subregions?



- What has been done so far and what remains to be done

# Tasks for 2023-2024

1. Carry a rapid sector and regional analysis for assessing the potential to structure operational groups in Albania (Done clusters are defined and type of actors identified).
2. Draft a proposal for a support measure for innovation with focus on addressing climate change adaptation efforts (done we have a clear topic of the call: innovation with focus on climate change adaptation, eligible criteria are defined)
3. Prepare a proposal for support documents for the criteria of selection in earmarking the grants for innovation-Done call materials (application form and budget) are prepared.

# Activities

- Call for grants narrative is finalized
- Background, scope, areas, eligibility criteria and excel application forms are included
- Due to overload of the MARD experts there is a need for meeting and using the opportunity for the design of ARDP for 2024.

Remain to be prepared

- Prepare the call and integrate in in 2024 ARDP program
- Need for discussion and support from SWG to prepare the ground.
- Draft a proposal for an awareness raising campaign for promoting the benefits of the support measure for innovation
- Support operational groups into selecting proposals for applying the call for innovation

**Thank you for your attention!**

**Suggestions welcomed!**

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