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CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC FOOD STAPLE PROGRAMME

SDEP AND ECHO IMPLEMENTATION

A PROPOSAL CREATED BY
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Project Title:	Central African Republic Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (CAR-SFPSEI)
Recipient Region:	Central African Republic
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Central African Republic Staple Food Programme
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ACRONYMS AND **ABBREVIATIONS**

AfDB	African Development Bank
AU	African Union
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CAADP	Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme
CAR-BHAP	Central African Republic Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme
CAR-BBIP	Central African Republic Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme
CAR-FAUP	Central African Republic Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme
CAR-SHCP	Central African Republic Seed Harmonization and Certification Programme
CAR-HA	Central African Republic Horticulture Accelerator
CAR-SFPSEI	Central African Republic Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation
CET	Common External Tariff
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECHO	Environmental, Circular, Holistic, Optimized (infrastructure platform)
EU	European Union
EUSL	European Social Label
FCDO	Foreign Commonwealth Development Office
FOs	Farmer Organisations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GMO	Genetically Modified Organisms
GSIA	Global Social Impact Alliance
ISAAA	International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MG FIAM	Matching Grant Facility Implementation and Modality
MOA	Ministry of Agriculture
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
RVCs	Regional Value Chains.
SDEP	Social Development and Empowering Programme
SFPSEI	Staple Food Programme, including SDEP and ECHO
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary

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Executive Summary

The Central African Republic (CAR) stands at a pivotal moment in its development journey—confronting both urgent humanitarian needs and vast untapped agricultural potential. With over 70% of the population living in poverty and the majority dependent on agriculture for subsistence and income, CAR's future prosperity hinges on its ability to transform rural livelihoods, build resilient food systems, and unlock inclusive economic growth. The Social Development and Empowerment Programme for the Central African Republic (CAR-SDEP) offers a bold, pragmatic framework to achieve this transformation.

Designed in response to CAR's national development goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, CAR-SDEP is a flagship initiative that integrates climate-resilient agriculture, decentralized rural infrastructure, and vocational training into a unified national programme. This adaptation reflects the specific socio-economic and environmental realities of CAR—prioritizing agricultural revitalization, local capacity-building, and food system resilience.

At its core, CAR-SDEP is about people: empowering smallholder farmers, strengthening farmer-based organizations, expanding agro-processing industries, and enabling rural youth and women to play active roles in rebuilding the country's economy. The programme focuses on the revitalization of staple food production, access to affordable inputs, the development of localized seed systems, and the sustainable commercialization of agriculture. Through a decentralized implementation approach supported by public-private partnerships, CAR-SDEP will strengthen rural communities, improve food security, and lay the groundwork for rural industrialization.

Central to this initiative is ECHO—a modular, self-sustaining infrastructure platform that will bring renewable energy, clean water systems, agritech innovation, and digital connectivity to underserved rural zones. ECHO will power agricultural hubs, support vocational training facilities, and provide critical public services in areas where traditional infrastructure is absent or unreliable. This infrastructure strategy ensures that rural development is both climate-adaptive and economically inclusive.

In parallel, CAR-SDEP will establish a robust vocational training component, focusing on agriculture, water and sanitation, rural construction, and green technologies. Youth and women will be trained in practical skills to support on-farm productivity, rural enterprise creation, and infrastructure maintenance—aligning education with employment and national reconstruction priorities. Through apprenticeships, cooperatives, and community-led training hubs, the programme will foster a generation of local changemakers.

Strategic Objectives

Revitalize Agriculture and Strengthen Food Security By supporting staple crop production, agroecological practices, and input access, CAR-SDEP will boost yields, reduce post-harvest losses, and enhance climate resilience across rural farming systems.

Expand Vocational Training and Rural Employment A nationwide skills initiative will provide youth and women with technical training in agriculture, construction, water systems, and renewable energy—laying the foundation for employment, entrepreneurship, and long-term social mobility.

Deploy Climate-Resilient Rural Infrastructure through ECHO ECHO modules will be deployed to establish agricultural hubs, community centers, and service points powered by solar energy, supporting health, education, water access, and digital connectivity in remote areas.

Facilitate Value Chain Integration and Market Access CAR-SDEP will connect smallholders to markets through the development of rural logistics, storage infrastructure, and regional trade corridors, positioning CAR as a contributor to the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Strengthen Public Institutions and Local Governance Through embedded technical assistance and strategic partnerships, the programme will support national institutions in developing effective policy, land governance frameworks, and regulatory systems for agriculture and rural development.

Anchoring CAR-SDEP within Agenda for Social Equity 2074

The Central African Republic's entry into the Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP) is not an isolated initiative—it marks the official launch of the ECCAS Power Play under the broader global framework of the Agenda for Social Equity 2074 (Agenda 2074). This strategic alignment transforms CAR-SDEP into both a national development programme and a regional milestone, designed to position the Central African Republic as a pioneer in long-term, values-driven transformation across Central Africa.

Agenda 2074 is a fifty-year vision spearheaded by the Global Social Equity Alliance (GSEA), founded on the principle of "Equity by Design." Built on the successes and lessons of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Agenda 2074 introduces a new generation of Social Global Goals (SGGs)—seventeen interlinked targets that redefine prosperity through inclusion, resilience, and justice. These goals place equity—not merely growth—at the heart of development, calling for nations to focus resources and innovation where they are needed most.

In this context, CAR-SDEP represents the first formal deployment of Agenda 2074's operational model within the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS). The programme is tailored not only to address immediate challenges in food security, climate resilience, and infrastructure gaps, but also to serve as a scalable blueprint for multi-decade transformation that can be replicated across Chad, Congo, Cameroon, Gabon, and beyond.

At the core of this vision lies a comprehensive systems-thinking approach—integrating agriculture, education, technology, and public policy—into long-range development planning. The ECHO platform, vocational training systems, and modular rural infrastructure introduced through CAR-SDEP are all engineered to evolve over time, adapting to the needs of future generations while remaining rooted in the values of self-determination, solidarity, and environmental stewardship.

Strategic Dimensions of CAR-SDEP within Agenda 2074:

- **Phase I: Equity in Essential Services** Immediate deployment of ECHO hubs to provide access to clean energy, water, food systems, education, and basic digital infrastructure.
- **Phase II: Economic Sovereignty and Industrial Clustering** Development of agri-value chains, vocational skill networks, and regional trade infrastructure that promote cross-border trade, youth employment, and entrepreneurship.
- **Phase III: Policy, Peace, and Institutional Equity** Institutional support to ECCAS governments for policy harmonization, participatory governance, and regional conflict mitigation through inclusive economic systems.
- **Phase IV: Climate, Connectivity, and Generational Equity** Long-term investments in ecological restoration, sustainable land use, and intergenerational knowledge transfer to create a legacy of resilience.

CAR's participation signifies the beginning of the **"Power Play Strategy"** within ECCAS—a term that refers not to dominance, but to the catalytic power of equity-centered development to **shift the geopolitical and economic trajectory of Central Africa**. By leading with principles, technology, and cooperation, CAR-SDEP becomes the anchor point for a half-century of transformation, driving the region toward integrated markets, ecological stability, and shared prosperity.

In partnership with the African Union, AfCFTA, ECCAS, and development institutions such as the AfDB, GSEA and its implementing arm GSIA will ensure that Agenda 2074 becomes not just a vision—but a lived reality—starting here, in the Central African Republic.

Central African Republic Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (CAR-SFPSEI)

The Central African Republic Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (CAR-SFPSEI) is a transformative national initiative designed to accelerate the recovery, modernization, and long-term resilience of CAR's agricultural sector. Anchored within the framework of the Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP), and supported by the modular infrastructure platform ECHO, this flagship programme seeks to stimulate inclusive growth, ensure national food security, and foster sustainable livelihoods for rural communities.

CAR-SFPSEI aims to catalyze an annual agricultural growth rate of 5% by enhancing the productivity and commercial viability of staple crops, revitalizing rural value chains, and reducing the country's dependence on food imports. The initiative will empower smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and agri-SMEs by improving access to quality inputs, building climate-resilient infrastructure, and aligning national agriculture with the broader regional ambitions of ECCAS, CEMAC, and the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Programme Structure

To drive agricultural transformation in the Central African Republic, CAR-SFPSEI will implement five interconnected programmes focused on systemic input reform and value chain competitiveness:

1. **Bioprotectants and Organic Inputs:** Establishing regulatory standards for safe, eco-friendly crop protection products to reduce dependency on imported chemical pesticides.
2. **Biotechnology and Biosafety Development:** Strengthening national capacity to implement biosafety protocols and explore biotechnology for climate-resilient agriculture.
3. **Fertilizer Access and Soil Health:** Facilitating access to quality fertilizers adapted to CAR's soil profiles while promoting sustainable nutrient management.
4. **Seed Certification and Distribution:** Ensuring the availability of certified, high-performing, and locally adapted seed varieties through a harmonized national seed system.
5. **Horticulture Modernization and Market Expansion:** Scaling horticultural productivity and post-harvest management to enhance food diversity, nutrition, and export potential.

Each programme will be guided by regional policy alignment, local capacity development, and private-sector engagement.

Strategic Components

CAR-SFPSEI is structured around three core components that are interdependent and mutually reinforcing:

1. **Natural Resource Management**: Promoting sustainable agricultural practices through agroecology, climate-smart agriculture, and regenerative land use.
2. **Market and Financial Integration**: Supporting the inclusion of smallholders and rural entrepreneurs into structured markets, and facilitating access to financial services and value-chain financing.
3. **Agricultural Policy Harmonization**: Aligning national agricultural legislation with ECCAS, AU, and AfCFTA frameworks to enable cross-border cooperation and private-sector confidence.

Policy Development and Alignment

The programme prioritizes the development of clear, harmonized, and enforceable policies across critical input sectors. In cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR), the CAR-SFPSEI will support:

- The formulation of national seed, fertilizer, bioprotectant, and biotechnology policies aligned with ECCAS guidelines.
- The institutional strengthening of regulatory bodies, enabling effective oversight and certification systems.
- Regional policy dialogue with ECCAS, CEMAC, and the African Union to support market access and standardization.

This alignment will ensure coherence between CAR's development vision and regional economic goals while enabling the country to fully benefit from intra-African agricultural trade under AfCFTA.

Key Focus Areas

CAR-SFPSEI adopts a multi-dimensional implementation strategy centred on:

- **Capacity Development**: Training farmers, farmer-based organizations (FBOs), and rural SMEs in modern agriculture, market integration, and financial literacy.
- **Productivity and Input Access**: Expanding the adoption of climate-resilient seeds, fertilizers, and organic inputs.
- **Infrastructure and Market Connectivity**: Leveraging the ECHO platform to deliver modular infrastructure such as storage facilities, irrigation systems, and rural connectivity hubs.
- **Private Sector Engagement**: Facilitating public-private partnerships (PPPs) and impact investment in agriculture and agro-processing.
- **Climate Resilience and Gender Inclusion**: Mainstreaming gender, youth employment, and environmental sustainability across all programme areas.

Implementation Approach

CAR-SFPSEI will be implemented through a phased, country-led approach in close coordination with the Government of the Central African Republic, AfDB, EUSL, and local development partners. It will also draw on strategic technical guidance from regional frameworks such as:

- The *Plan National d'Investissement Agricole, de Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (PNIASAN)*.
- The *RCPCA 2017–2023*, particularly in areas of rural resilience and reintegration.
- The *CAADP* and *Agenda 2063* for continental coherence.

The programme will also prioritize:

- **Multi-stakeholder platforms** to coordinate national and regional implementation.
- **Technical and vocational education (TVET)** to build agricultural and construction skills.
- **Monitoring and evaluation (M&E)** systems using the FlexSus platform to track climate impact and sectoral performance.

Strategic Alignment

CAR-SFPSEI supports the Central African Republic's national vision for rural revitalization and sustainable development. It directly contributes to ECCAS priorities, including regional food security, economic integration, and climate resilience, and reinforces AfCFTA ambitions by enabling CAR to become a net agricultural contributor to regional markets.

Stakeholders, Strategic Context, and Institutional Framework

Key Stakeholders

The successful implementation of the **Central African Republic Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (CAR-SFPSEI)** will depend on close collaboration between national institutions, development partners, and private sector actors. Key stakeholders include:

- **The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MADR)**, **Ministry of Trade and Industry**, **Ministry of Economy, Planning and Cooperation**, and other sectoral ministries involved in agricultural, trade, and financial policy.
- **International development partners**, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, European Union, USAID, AFD (French Development Agency), and others supporting rural resilience and food security.
- **Private sector actors and chambers of commerce**, including farmer cooperatives, input suppliers, agro-processors, and rural finance institutions.
- **Civil society organizations, farmer networks, and local communities**, who will play a key role in local ownership, community engagement, and implementation.

Strategic Focus Areas

In alignment with national and regional strategies, CAR-SFPSEI will:

- Support the development of **coherent and responsive agricultural policies**.
- Stimulate **agricultural investment** across value chains.
- Strengthen **production, processing, and market infrastructure**.
- Foster **progressive regional integration** within ECCAS and AfCFTA trade frameworks.

Targets and Strategic Goals

The programme aims to achieve **a 5–10% annual increase in inter-regional agricultural trade** over the next decade, focusing on essential staple crops such as maize, cassava, rice, sorghum, soybeans, onions, and Irish potatoes, as well as livestock and fisheries.

The following growth levers are prioritized:

- **Doubling the use of fertilizers and improved seeds**, tailored to the Central African Republic's agro-climatic zones.
- **Expanding irrigated land** through accessible technologies like solar-powered drip irrigation, with the goal of increasing irrigation coverage from less than 10% to over 30% by 2035.
- **Establishing rural processing hubs** that add value to local produce, reduce post-harvest losses, and promote rural entrepreneurship.

Agricultural and Institutional Context in the Central African Republic

Despite having considerable agroecological potential, the Central African Republic faces serious structural challenges: chronic food insecurity, low agricultural productivity, climate vulnerability, and poor access to modern inputs. While agriculture remains the dominant livelihood for the population, most value chains are informal, under-capitalized, and poorly integrated into regional trade networks.

At the national level, policy frameworks such as the **National Strategy for Sustainable Agricultural Development (SNDAD)** and the **National Agricultural Investment and Food and Nutrition Security Plan (PNIASAN)** have positioned agricultural transformation as a key driver of post-crisis recovery and poverty reduction.

However, the country does not benefit from intergovernmental coordination mechanisms such as COMESA. **CAR-SFPSEI fills this gap** by introducing an institutional framework inspired by regional best practices while being uniquely tailored to CAR's national realities and governance structures.

Institutional Framework Inspired by Continental Commitments

CAR-SFPSEI aligns with African Union-wide commitments such as the **Malabo Declaration (2014)** on accelerated agricultural growth and the **Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP)**. Similar to ACTESA's structure in COMESA, the Central African Republic will benefit from an institutional setup designed to:

- **Strengthen national agricultural policy development**, underpinned by legal and institutional frameworks.
- **Encourage blended investment models**, including public-private partnerships for inputs, mechanization, services, and rural logistics.

- **Develop agricultural market information systems**, standardized quality norms, and export facilitation tools.

Current Priority Areas of CAR-SFPSEI

The programme will target four interdependent areas:

1. **Policy and Trade Harmonization**: Establishing a cohesive legal framework for seeds, fertilizers, biotechnologies, and biosafety regulations.
2. **Agri-Investment Promotion**: Supporting the development of agri-industrial zones and improving the rural business environment.
3. **Agricultural Trade Enablement**: Enhancing storage, transport, and distribution infrastructure to facilitate cross-border trade.
4. **Sectoral Value Chain Development**: Building up production systems for food crops, livestock, horticulture, and fisheries with a view to formalize and scale.

Regional Integration and Lessons from COMESA

Although the Central African Republic is not a member of COMESA, the CAR Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (CAR-SFPSEI) draws valuable inspiration from COMESA's regional experience in agricultural integration, particularly through the ACTESA framework.

In COMESA, the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) was created to harmonize agricultural trade policies and improve market access for smallholder farmers. It emerged from the 2008 COMESA Ministers of Agriculture meeting, where member states endorsed ACTESA as a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) platform for implementing CAADP Pillars II (Market Access) and III (Food Security).

Through ACTESA, COMESA launched successful initiatives such as the COMESA Seed Harmonisation Implementation Programme (COMSHIP), the Fertilizer Harmonisation Programme (COMFREP), and policies to reduce trade barriers and ensure regional access to quality agricultural inputs.

Mandate and Focus of CAR-SFPSEI

CAR-SFPSEI will align with the Central African Republic's national development priorities while integrating tested strategies from regional models such as ACTESA. It will focus on:

- **Staple Crop and Market Development**: Enhancing the production of maize, cassava, rice, and horticultural products to meet domestic and regional demand.
- **Seed and Input Systems**: Establishing a national seed certification and distribution framework based on lessons from COMSHIP, ensuring quality, traceability, and trade-readiness.
- **Livestock and Fisheries**: Supporting sustainable livestock production systems, animal health services, and the revitalization of inland fisheries and aquaculture.
- **Value Chain Enhancement**: Strengthening trade corridors, rural processing hubs, and logistics infrastructure to facilitate domestic and cross-border agricultural trade.

Strategic Role of CAR-SFPSEI

CAR-SFPSEI will function as a coordinated national initiative dedicated to:

- **Agricultural Policy Development**: Harmonizing national frameworks with the African Union's Agenda 2063, CAADP, and AfCFTA objectives.
- **Investment and Trade Facilitation**: Creating a conducive investment environment, supporting agribusiness development, and enabling structured trade.
- **Research, Innovation, and Capacity Building**: Leveraging tools like FlexSus, academic partnerships, and innovation platforms to improve agricultural planning, technology adoption, and climate resilience.

Partnership with the European Social Label (EUSL)

The Central African Republic Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (CAR-SFPSEI) is strengthened by its strategic partnership with the European Social Label (EUSL), a pioneering European-based organization committed to advancing inclusive economic development through socially responsible innovation and cross-sector collaboration.

Recognizing the urgent need to rebuild and modernize the Central African Republic's agricultural sector, EUSL brings to CAR-SFPSEI a results-oriented, value-driven framework that balances economic growth with social equity and environmental resilience. Through this collaboration, the programme integrates the Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP), a transformative model that bridges the gap between public-sector priorities and private-sector capabilities. It is designed to deliver long-term, scalable development in fragile and post-conflict environments like CAR.

EUSL's SDEP model has demonstrated its capacity to deliver systemic reforms, mobilize investment, and implement climate-resilient infrastructure solutions. In CAR, this partnership provides a solid foundation for strengthening food systems, empowering rural communities, and accelerating economic reintegration through agriculture.

Key Components of SDEP

ECHO: Modular Infrastructure for Resilience and Productivity

At the core of CAR-SFPSEI lies the ECHO platform—an advanced modular infrastructure system that delivers decentralized, self-sustaining services including renewable energy, water management, digital connectivity, and waste-to-resource technologies.

By integrating ECHO into CAR's agricultural zones, the programme aims to remove persistent infrastructure bottlenecks that prevent smallholder farmers from accessing essential services. From solar-powered cold storage units and irrigation systems to modular marketplaces and training hubs, ECHO will enable CAR's agricultural communities to operate with greater independence and efficiency.

ECHO also functions as a policy and innovation testbed—collecting data, piloting solutions, and facilitating evidence-based decision-making to continuously optimize agricultural systems in terms of resilience, productivity, and sustainability.

Research, Data, and Climate Resilience

Central to the CAR-SFPSEI strategy is the deployment of **FlexSus**, a climate intelligence and data management system developed by leading research institutions. FlexSus will help CAR respond proactively to climate variability and resource scarcity by facilitating:

- Satellite-driven monitoring of soil health, crop cycles, and rainfall patterns.

- Targeted adaptation planning, including drought-resistant crop strategies.
- Real-time data integration for early-warning systems and smart irrigation.
- Land-use planning to reduce erosion, deforestation, and biodiversity loss.

To support broader digital inclusion, ECHO modules will incorporate rural broadband capabilities, connecting farmers to weather forecasts, agricultural advisories, market data, and mobile finance services—thereby strengthening the country's resilience to shocks and improving productivity at the last mile.

Vocational Training and Capacity Building

CAR-SFPSEI understands that rebuilding agriculture requires an investment in people. The programme places strong emphasis on **Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)** to ensure that rural and peri-urban populations have the skills needed to drive sustainable growth.

This component will deliver:

- Training for smallholder farmers and cooperatives in mechanization, organic inputs, post-harvest management, and agro-processing.
- Public administration training for local government officials in policy implementation, data management, and service delivery.
- Technical mentorship for agricultural extension officers and regulatory authorities.
- Integration of graduate students and researchers from regional universities into field projects to create a knowledge pipeline and encourage local research innovation.

In close collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, vocational institutions, and civil society networks, this pillar will build a new generation of local agripreneurs and institutional leaders.

Public-Private Partnerships and Structured Investment

Under the facilitation of EUSL and its global investment platforms, CAR-SFPSEI will implement a targeted Public-Private Partnership (PPP) approach to:

- Mobilize funding for seed laboratories, fertilizer distribution centers, and local bio-input manufacturing.
- Incentivize investment in logistics infrastructure—such as aggregation points, road upgrades, and processing centers—that link farmers to regional and international markets.
- Create institutional mechanisms for harmonizing trade and quality standards, drawing on regional frameworks and adapting models like COMESA's COMSHIP (seed systems) and COMFREP (fertilizer access).

Through structured finance solutions, pooled donor engagement, and strategic alignment with the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other multilateral partners, the programme will ensure CAR's agricultural transformation is financially sound, inclusive, and scalable.

Strategic Goals and Alignment

CAR-SFPSEI is guided by the following transformative goals:

- **Promote a Circular Economy**: The programme will support a regenerative approach to agriculture by incorporating composting, sustainable inputs, waste-to-energy models, and local material sourcing.
- **Build Self-Sufficient Rural Economies**: Empowering communities to grow, store, process, and trade food locally while accessing clean energy and water solutions independently.
- **Advance Regional Trade Integration**: Positioning CAR to participate in the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) through harmonized quality standards and value chain readiness.

RATIONALE

The rationale behind CAR-SFPSEI is rooted in the country's urgent need for a resilient, inclusive, and future-oriented agricultural system. Drawing lessons from COMESA's ACTESA experience while responding to the specific fragility and potential of CAR, this initiative is based on three pillars:

1. **Restoring Natural Capital**: CAR's natural resources—if well managed—can support food self-sufficiency and export competitiveness. CAR-SFPSEI promotes soil regeneration, reforestation, and climate adaptation as foundations for agricultural growth.
2. **Creating an Enabling Environment**: Through policy reforms, digital tools, and financial inclusion, the programme builds a supportive ecosystem where smallholder farmers and agri-SMEs can flourish.
3. **Unlocking Market and Investment Access**: By removing structural barriers and connecting producers with markets and investors, CAR-SFPSEI positions agriculture as a primary engine of post-conflict recovery and sustainable development.

Through its multi-dimensional approach, CAR-SFPSEI transforms agriculture into a platform for peacebuilding, job creation, and socio-economic empowerment—anchoring CAR's long-term development in dignity, resilience, and opportunity.

Integrating Strategic Programmes under SDEP for Enhanced Agricultural Impact in the Central African Republic

In the Central African Republic, the Staple Food Programme for Sustainable Development and Research Implementation (CAR-SFPSEI), under the broader Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP), represents a decisive step forward in addressing the country's structural challenges in agriculture, food security, and economic resilience. To ensure maximum coherence and operational efficiency, the CAR-SFPSEI will consolidate five thematically aligned agricultural programs—each with specific technical focus—into one unified framework, underpinned by national priorities and informed by regional experiences.

The consolidation draws from the ACTESA Merger Assessment Framework, ensuring that while each component maintains its specialized mandate, the integration contributes directly to the overarching SDEP goals: boosting productivity, fostering intra-African trade, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and facilitating research-led implementation models.

Key Interventions Integrated within CAR-SFPSEI

1. Bioprotectants Harmonization for Sustainable Crop Protection This stream will adapt lessons from the COMBIHAP programme to establish a national framework for the regulation, production, and trade of organic bioprotectants in the Central African Republic. Key interventions will include:

- Developing national standards and guidelines for biopesticides and biofertilizers.
- Facilitating regional trade by aligning product quality with ECCAS and AfCFTA protocols.
- Promoting environmentally friendly and climate-resilient agricultural practices that reduce dependence on chemical inputs.

2. Biotechnology and Biosafety for Agricultural Innovation Drawing from the COMBIP model, the programme will support the development of a biosafety regulatory architecture that encourages innovation while safeguarding public health and the environment. Objectives will include:

- Introducing climate-resilient, genetically improved crop varieties.
- Establishing clear and science-based protocols for the safe adoption of agricultural biotechnology.
- Enhancing research collaboration with regional academic and policy institutions.

3. Fertilizer Access and Harmonization for Improved Soil Health Modeled on COMFREP, this component aims to ensure reliable, affordable, and quality-controlled fertilizer access across CAR's agricultural zones. Strategic interventions will include:

- Strengthening fertilizer distribution networks through public-private partnerships.
- Promoting the development of soil-specific fertilizer blends based on local fertility maps.
- Supporting regulatory reforms to facilitate tariff-free fertilizer trade within ECCAS.

4. Seed System Reform and Harmonization Inspired by COMSHIP, this intervention will enable farmers to access certified, high-quality seeds suited to local conditions. The programme will:

- Establish a national seed certification and variety registration framework.
- Promote cross-border trade in certified seeds by harmonizing regulatory procedures.
- Invest in seed research and multiplication hubs to ensure consistent supply.

5. Horticulture Value Chain Development Adapting the CEHA framework, this component will strengthen CAR's horticultural sector by enhancing competitiveness, improving value addition, and linking farmers to high-value markets. Key actions will include:

- Developing post-harvest infrastructure, including cold chains and processing units.
- Promoting production of climate-resilient fruits and vegetables with export potential.
- Supporting rural entrepreneurship and employment in horticulture.

SDEP and Research Co-Creation as Drivers of Innovation

The integration of these five components under SDEP in CAR places a strong emphasis on **co-created research** and participatory implementation. Academic institutions, national agencies, and farmer associations will play a central role in testing and refining solutions to local agricultural challenges. Research will serve as both a diagnostic and an accelerative force, ensuring continuous improvement and knowledge transfer throughout the programme lifecycle.

Centralized Governance for Cohesive Implementation

The consolidation of these programmes into a single strategic framework under CAR-SFPSEI will achieve the following structural benefits:

- **Unified Programme Management**: Governance, infrastructure investment, and coordination mechanisms will be centralized, allowing for efficient oversight and alignment with national goals.
- **Policy Alignment and Market Integration**: National policies will be harmonized with regional trade frameworks (AfCFTA, ECCAS), promoting both domestic market development and export readiness.
- **Maximized Collaboration and Resource Utilization**: Pooling expertise, technical tools, and financial instruments will enable the full potential of each programme to be realized while unlocking new partnerships at national and international levels.

ECHO as the Foundational Platform

At the core of this integration lies **ECHO**, a modular infrastructure solution that delivers off-grid services such as renewable energy, water harvesting, water purification, waste management, and digital connectivity. All five strategic programme components will depend on ECHO to create an enabling environment for productivity, innovation, and value-chain development.

The ECHO system in CAR will:

- Support irrigation and agro-processing facilities with renewable energy and water systems;
- Empower rural communities through access to real-time information, mobile financial services, and education;
- Serve as a base for data collection, feeding into **FlexSus**, the AI-driven platform used to optimize infrastructure use and measure progress against key performance indicators (KPIs).

By embedding ECHO modules in agricultural and peri-urban clusters, CAR-SFPSEI will ensure resilience, efficiency, and inclusion in even the most remote areas.

Towards a National Transformation Programme

Through this integrated, technology-driven, and research-supported approach, CAR-SFPSEI will not only improve food production and security but also unlock structural transformation in the Central African Republic's economy. Over time, the initiative will serve as a model for replication within ECCAS, supporting regional agricultural development while anchoring CAR's re-emergence as a productive, connected, and resilient nation.

Named Programme Components in Central African Republic (CAR)

1. **CAR-BHAP**
   Central African Republic Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme
   Focus: Regulation, promotion, and trade facilitation of bio-based crop protection products such as biopesticides and biofertilizers.

2. **CAR-BBIP**
   Central African Republic Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme

Focus: Development of biosafety protocols, responsible biotechnology adoption, and introduction of climate-resilient crops.

3. **CAR-FAUP**
   Central African Republic Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme
   Focus: Improving fertilizer access, local blending capacity, and harmonization of fertilizer trade policies.

4. **CAR-SHCP**
   Central African Republic Seed Harmonization and Certification Programme
   Focus: Establishing a national seed certification system and supporting seed research and cross-border seed trade.

5. **CAR-HA**
   Central African Republic Horticulture Accelerator
   Focus: Developing horticultural value chains, improving post-harvest infrastructure, and promoting high-value crops for domestic and export markets.

PROGRAMME 1: CAR-FAUP – Central African Republic Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme

Outcome 1: Accelerate the Development and Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks for Mineral and Organic Fertilizers in the Central African Republic and ECCAS Region

Output 1.1 – Support the Development and Harmonization of Fertilizer Regulations at National and Regional Level

The CAR-FAUP will work closely with ECCAS technical working groups and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development to develop a harmonized regulatory environment for fertilizers. Activities will include:

- Organizing a national inception workshop on harmonized fertilizer regulations across ECCAS countries, assessing the current legal landscape, and drafting technical agreements on standards for both organic and inorganic fertilizers.
- Drafting harmonized national fertilizer regulations, aligned with ECCAS frameworks and global best practices.
- Developing a National Fertilizer Harmonization Implementation Plan (NA-FHIP), including standardized labeling, licensing, and quality assurance mechanisms.
- Establishing guidelines for the production and responsible use of organic and biofertilizers, with clear legislative recommendations.
- Promoting integrated soil and water management practices through farmer field schools, demonstration sites, and omission trials to build awareness and demand at the farm level.
- Conducting feasibility studies on the use of renewable energy for green ammonia production using solar-powered electrolysis technologies.

Output 1.2 – Facilitate Zero Tariffs and Harmonized Customs Policies for Fertilizer Trade within ECCAS

To reduce trade costs and enhance cross-border input movement, CAR-FAUP will:

- Convene technical meetings with customs authorities from ECCAS member states to assess and recommend a zero-tariff framework for fertilizer imports and raw materials.
- Draft a harmonized customs agreement to establish a Common External Tariff (CET) for fertilizer production and trade within ECCAS.

Output 1.3 – Develop Soil Fertility Maps and Nutrient Management Systems for Central African Republic

Accurate soil data is essential for appropriate fertilizer use. CAR-FAUP will:

- Conduct national soil testing campaigns to generate detailed soil fertility maps that inform targeted fertilizer blending.
- Develop localized fertilizer recommendations based on soil deficiencies and field validation trials.
- Introduce digital tools for real-time monitoring of soil health, crop needs, and climate conditions to support precision agriculture.

Output 1.4 – Design Smart Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines with Exit Strategies

To improve affordability while ensuring market sustainability, CAR-FAUP will:

- Undertake comparative analysis of fertilizer subsidy models across Africa.
- Develop a national smart subsidy framework, including e-voucher systems and private-sector delivery models, with phased exit mechanisms to minimize market distortion.

Outcome 2: Strengthen National Agricultural Input Distribution Systems through the Hub-Agrodealer Model

Output 2.1 – Establish and Support National Fertilizer Trade and Agrodealer Associations

In collaboration with regional networks and local stakeholders, CAR-FAUP will:

- Establish a Central African Fertilizer Trade Association (CAFERT), modeled after successful associations in neighboring countries.
- Promote the development of agrodealer associations, supporting governance structures, training, and certification of rural input providers.

Output 2.2 – Implement Credit Guarantee Schemes and Agribusiness Partnership Contracts (APCs)

To address financing challenges in the input supply chain, CAR-FAUP will:

- Set up credit guarantee schemes to enable hub-agrodealers to secure fertilizer supplies on credit from distributors.
- Facilitate APCs to support warehouse expansion, transportation, and working capital for input supply to rural areas.

Output 2.3 – Provide Training, Capacity Building, and Technical Assistance across the Fertilizer Value Chain

CAR-FAUP will deploy a national capacity development strategy targeting input providers, extension officers, and farmers. Activities include:

- Business development support and technical assistance for agrodealers to improve operational performance and market entry.
- Training on the safe use and application of fertilizers, including bioproducts and nutrition-sensitive agro-inputs.
- Facilitating linkages between smallholder farmers and value chain actors (suppliers, processors, certifiers, lenders, and exporters).
- Promoting integrated soil and crop management systems through demonstration farms and field training.
- Conducting feasibility studies on green ammonia production technologies applicable in the Central African context.
- Analyzing the current structure of fertilizer markets and trade flows in Central Africa, identifying tariff and non-tariff barriers.
- Conducting gender-sensitive value chain analyses to identify and address policy and regulatory challenges limiting participation of women and marginalized groups.
- Hosting public-private policy dialogues to improve awareness, build consensus, and recommend reforms conducive to input market growth.
- Producing and disseminating case studies showcasing the economic impact and investment opportunities within the fertilizer sector, including collaboration with international businesses and donors.

Strategic Impact of CAR-FAUP

The successful implementation of CAR-FAUP will create a reliable and efficient fertilizer supply chain, strengthen farmer productivity, reduce import dependency, and support environmentally sustainable agricultural practices. It will also position the Central African Republic as a key contributor to regional food security and economic resilience under the broader SDEP framework and ECCAS agricultural development agenda.

PROGRAMME 2: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC – BIOPROTECTANTS HARMONIZATION PROGRAMME (CAR-BHAP)

Bioprotectants—including biopesticides, biofertilizers, and other natural crop protection solutions—offer a sustainable alternative to chemical pesticides, reducing the environmental impact of agriculture while improving soil health and long-term productivity. However, the Central African Republic currently lacks a formalized regulatory framework to govern the registration, use, and trade of bioprotectants, hindering both domestic development and regional trade integration.

The **CAR-BHAP** seeks to establish a comprehensive national regulatory system for bioprotectants, aligned with international best practices and regional trade mechanisms under ECCAS and AfCFTA. This program will facilitate safe commercialization, encourage local innovation, and enable smallholder farmers to adopt climate-smart and environmentally sustainable crop protection methods.

Outcome 1: National Assessment of Bioprotectant Registration and Commercialization in CAR

To establish a robust regulatory environment, CAR must first evaluate its current landscape regarding bioprotectant usage, governance, and market potential.

Output 1.1 – National Inception Workshop and Stakeholder Engagement

A national inception workshop will convene government institutions, regulatory bodies, research organizations, farmer cooperatives, and private sector actors to:

- Define a roadmap for developing a bioprotectant regulatory system.
- Align CAR's strategy with global standards in agroecological crop protection.
- Ensure multi-stakeholder input to build consensus and promote awareness.

Output 1.2 – Regulatory and Market Assessment

CAR-BHAP will initiate a comprehensive policy and market analysis to:

- Review existing regulations or the absence thereof concerning bioprotectants.
- Identify legal, institutional, and infrastructural gaps in product registration and distribution.
- Recommend reforms to ensure alignment with Codex Alimentarius, AU pesticide guidelines, and ECCAS protocols.

Key Activities:

- Commission regulatory specialists and local experts to produce a market landscape report.
- Facilitate roundtables and bilateral consultations with farmer associations, biotech firms, and importers.

Outcome 2: Development of a National Regulatory Framework for Bioprotectant Registration

CAR-BHAP will support the legal and technical development of a national framework for bioprotectant classification, approval, and oversight.

Output 2.1 – Establishment of a Bioprotectant Registration System

- Create a centralized bioprotectant registry under the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Define procedures for product testing, risk assessment, labelling, and distribution approval.

Output 2.2 – Legal and Institutional Harmonization

- Develop legal provisions that enable mutual recognition of bioprotectant certifications across ECCAS.
- Align regulatory structures with AU guidelines and global biosafety standards.

Key Activities:

- Convene regulatory drafting sessions with CAR's legal and agricultural authorities.
- Conduct validation workshops with public and private sector stakeholders.

- Submit the final regulatory framework to the National Assembly and Council of Ministers for adoption.

Outcome 3: Implementation of CAR's Bioprotectant Harmonization and Market Facilitation Plan

With regulatory tools in place, the next step is to operationalize market access, institutional capacity, and commercialization.

Output 3.1 – Strategic Implementation Plan for Bioprotectants

- Develop a five-year plan outlining institutional mandates, budget allocations, enforcement mechanisms, and inter-ministerial coordination.

Output 3.2 – National Rollout and Capacity Building

- Train inspectors, agronomists, customs officers, and extension agents.
- Create an enabling environment for local production and research partnerships.

Key Activities:

- Launch public awareness campaigns targeting farmers and cooperatives.
- Host technical training for laboratory personnel and agricultural field officers.
- Provide seed funding or tax incentives for companies engaging in local bioprotectant development.

Outcome 4: Establishment of a National Training Program on Bioprotection and Residue Management

To promote responsible use, CAR-BHAP will institutionalize integrated pest management (IPM) training.

Output 4.1 – Development of National IPM Training Modules

- Design and pilot a standardized national curriculum for farmers and agro-dealers.
- Include modules on the safe handling, application, and storage of bioprotectants.

Output 4.2 – Establishment of a Training Delivery Mechanism

- Develop an online and mobile-accessible e-learning platform for remote training.
- Implement live field demonstration plots to reinforce best practices.

Key Activities:

- Establish three regional training hubs to coordinate outreach.
- Organize Training of Trainers (ToT) programs for rural extension teams.
- Introduce an M&E framework to track adoption, compliance, and performance over time.

Strategic Vision for CAR-BHAP

Successful implementation of CAR-BHAP will position the Central African Republic as a regional leader in climate-smart, sustainable agricultural inputs. By modernizing its bioprotectant policy ecosystem, the country will:

- Establish a national framework fully aligned with ECCAS and AfCFTA trade structures.
- Enable wider adoption of agroecological farming methods, reducing chemical reliance.
- Open new markets for local bioproducts and support rural enterprise development.
- Promote innovation through partnerships between universities, R&D centers, and biotech startups.
- Contribute to national and regional food security by improving crop resilience and reducing environmental degradation.

CAR-BHAP is not only a regulatory intervention—it is a critical pillar of CAR's agricultural transformation under the SDEP framework, contributing to a greener, more resilient, and economically empowered rural future.

PROGRAMME 3: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME (CAR-BBIP)

Biotechnology has the potential to transform the Central African Republic's (CAR) agricultural sector by enhancing crop resilience, increasing productivity, and supporting climate adaptation. However, the effective and safe adoption of biotechnology requires a robust biosafety regulatory framework that safeguards the environment, public health, and food security.

The CAR Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (CAR-BBIP) is designed to institutionalize a national biosafety risk assessment mechanism, strengthen regulatory capacities, and enhance public awareness and confidence in biotechnology. While inspired by regional initiatives such as COMESA's COMBIP, this programme is tailored to CAR's national agricultural policies, legal environment, and regional trade obligations under the ECCAS and AfCFTA frameworks.

Outcome 1: Establishing and Institutionalizing a National Biosafety Risk Assessment Mechanism

To ensure that biotech innovations are safely introduced, CAR must develop a science-based, transparent, and structured risk assessment mechanism.

Output 1.1: Identification and Selection of the Biosafety Experts Panel A Panel of Experts (PoE) on Biotechnology and Biosafety will be established with representatives from government agencies, academia, and private-sector stakeholders. The panel's roles and responsibilities will be clearly defined to support efficient evaluations and approvals.

Output 1.2: Convening the Nomination and Review Process A technical review session will be organized to nominate, validate, and appoint qualified experts, ensuring integrity and scientific rigor.

Output 1.3: Strengthening CAR's Biosafety Authority CAR-BBIP will support a comprehensive review and upgrade of existing biosafety laws, streamline application procedures, and align national processes with AU and ECCAS biosafety protocols.

Output 1.4: Institutionalizing the Risk Assessment Mechanism A legislative framework will be adopted to formalize the biosafety risk assessment process, define thresholds, and establish national guidelines for biotechnology product evaluation.

Output 1.5: Induction and Training of Experts Expert training workshops will be held to ensure evaluators are competent in international biosafety assessment standards. Pilot case studies (e.g., drought-tolerant maize, virus-resistant cassava) will be used to test and refine the process.

Outcome 2: Strengthening Biosafety Regulatory Capacity in CAR

A strong biosafety system depends on robust data, technical expertise, and effective institutional frameworks.

Output 2.1: Establishing a National Biosafety Database CAR-BBIP will implement a digital database for biosafety applications, decisions, and risk assessments to ensure transparency and data integrity.

Output 2.2: Case Study Field Trials Pilot field tests of select biotech crops will be conducted under controlled conditions to assess safety, productivity, and socio-economic impacts.

Output 2.3: Evidence-Based Policymaking Case study results and peer-reviewed scientific research will be published and disseminated to support rational policy and regulatory development.

Output 2.4: Capacity Building for Regulatory Institutions Technical staff from biosafety agencies, research bodies, and certifying institutions will receive training and participate in regional knowledge exchanges.

Output 2.5: Economic Assessment of Biosafety Regulation An economic analysis of CAR's biosafety approach will be undertaken to ensure it balances innovation with public safety and market access.

Outcome 3: Enhancing Public Awareness and Communication

The adoption and regulation of biotechnology must be informed by public dialogue, accurate information, and stakeholder trust.

Output 3.1: Development of a Communication Strategy A national strategy will be launched to provide tailored, fact-based information to farmers, consumers, researchers, and the private sector.

Output 3.2: Public Outreach and Training Workshops and campaigns will educate stakeholders about biotechnology's risks, benefits, and regulatory safeguards, while sharing success stories from Africa and abroad.

Output 3.3: Engaging Stakeholder Networks Training programs will be provided for journalists, youth, women's groups, and community leaders to promote accurate reporting and inclusive engagement.

Output 3.4: Showcasing Farmer Experiences Testimonies and case studies from farmers using biotech crops will be documented and used to guide policy and advocacy efforts.

Output 3.5: High-Level Forums and Reporting Annual national forums will convene policymakers, scientists, and citizens to discuss regulatory updates. Progress reports will be presented to the Ministry of Agriculture and relevant government institutions.

Strategic Vision for CAR-BBIP

The successful implementation of CAR-BBIP will:

- Establish a fully functional biosafety regulatory system aligned with regional and global standards.
- Enable the safe, sustainable adoption of biotechnology in CAR's agricultural development.
- Improve productivity, food security, and climate resilience through advanced crop technologies.
- Build public trust and scientific literacy regarding biotech innovation.
- Promote inclusive and evidence-based governance of biotechnology across CAR's institutions.

Through regulatory clarity, institutional capacity, and public engagement, CAR-BBIP will position the Central African Republic as a model for responsible biotechnology governance in the ECCAS region.

PROGRAMME 4: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC SEED HARMONIZATION AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME (CAR-SHCP)

A well-regulated and efficient seed system is essential to transforming agriculture in the Central African Republic (CAR). Reliable access to high-quality, certified seeds is fundamental for increasing productivity, ensuring climate resilience, and securing national food systems. However, CAR's current seed sector remains underdeveloped, with fragmented regulations, insufficient seed testing infrastructure, and limited access to regional seed markets.

The Central African Republic Seed Harmonization and Certification Programme (CAR-SHCP) seeks to address these systemic challenges by building a structured national certification and traceability system. Drawing inspiration from COMESA's COMSHIP model, this initiative will align CAR's seed governance with regional trade frameworks under ECCAS and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), promote public-private sector collaboration, and strengthen institutional capacity for long-term sectoral growth.

Outcome 1: Strengthening the National Seed Certification and Traceability System

To ensure farmers consistently receive authentic, high-performing seeds, CAR-SHCP will deploy a transparent and accountable digital platform to track, verify, and monitor certified seeds.

Output 1.1 – Development of CAR's National Digital Seed Tracking System

A nationwide seed verification system will be developed to enable real-time authentication of seed origin and quality by farmers, agro-dealers, and regulators. This will also include a performance feedback loop where farmers report yield outcomes, thereby informing regulatory oversight and seed variety improvement.

Output 1.2 – Implementation of a National Seed Information System (NSIS)

A centralized digital database will be established to capture seed registration records, certification status, and market distribution, facilitating accurate monitoring and policy formulation. Digital seed labeling systems will be introduced to support compliance and traceability across borders.

Key Activities:

- Develop mobile-based e-verification tools for on-farm seed authentication.
- Build and maintain a national database of certified seed varieties and suppliers.

- Integrate CAR's certification protocols with ECCAS and AfCFTA digital trade systems.

Outcome 2: Facilitating Seed Variety Testing and Certification

Improved crop performance begins with robust seed variety trials and certification. CAR-SHCP will upgrade national testing capabilities and streamline certification procedures aligned with regional best practices.

Output 2.1 – Seed Variety Testing and Registration

Support will be provided to emerging seed enterprises to conduct performance trials and register new varieties. A national seed catalog will be developed to showcase approved climate-resilient crops suited to CAR's agroecological conditions.

Output 2.2 – Expansion of Seed Testing Infrastructure and Performance Trials

Testing infrastructure will be expanded to evaluate adaptability, disease resistance, and yield. These trials will follow ECCAS-aligned protocols to ensure regional trade readiness.

Key Activities:

- Establish national performance testing stations.
- Partner with private seed producers to fast-track registration.
- Align CAR's testing and certification system with ECCAS standards.

Outcome 3: Strengthening Seed Trade and Market Integration

CAR-SHCP will support domestic seed companies, incentivize certification compliance, and create an enabling environment for regional seed trade.

Output 3.1 – National Seed Trade Facilitation Framework

A clear, standardized process will be developed for importing, exporting, and distributing certified seeds. This includes national accreditation for distributors and seed traders.

Output 3.2 – Technical Assistance for Local Seed Enterprises

Small and medium seed companies will receive capacity support to meet certification standards and navigate trade systems.

Output 3.3 – Implementation of a National Seed Labeling and Traceability System

A labeling protocol will be introduced to ensure that only certified seeds are traded. This will help curb counterfeit seed distribution and align labeling with regional norms.

Key Activities:

- Regulatory reform to support seed import/export with ECCAS and AfCFTA partners.
- Training for agro-dealers, seed producers, and cooperatives.
- Enforcement mechanisms to monitor seed quality and compliance.

Strategic Vision for CAR-SHCP

The successful deployment of CAR-SHCP will:

- Ensure all seeds sold in the Central African Republic meet certified international quality standards.
- Build a competitive local seed industry capable of supplying both domestic and regional markets.
- Contribute to national food security and climate resilience through access to stress-tolerant and high-yielding varieties.
- Position CAR as a credible participant in regional seed trade under ECCAS and AfCFTA.
- Strengthen national institutions tasked with regulating and certifying seeds, enabling more efficient sector oversight.

By integrating advanced digital tracking tools, harmonizing regulatory frameworks, and expanding access to certified seeds, CAR-SHCP will modernize the country's seed sector and empower smallholder farmers to increase yields, build resilience, and contribute to national development.

PROGRAMME 5: CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC HORTICULTURE ACCELERATOR (CAR-HA)

Advancing Food Security, Economic Empowerment, and Regional Trade through Climate-Resilient Horticulture

The horticulture sector presents a vital opportunity for the Central African Republic (CAR) to reduce food insecurity, diversify rural incomes, and contribute to national economic recovery. Despite its potential, the sector is hindered by fragmented production systems, weak value chains, inadequate post-harvest infrastructure, and limited access to both domestic and regional markets.

The Central African Republic Horticulture Accelerator (CAR-HA) is a strategic programme under the SDEP framework, designed to integrate CAR's horticultural value chains and foster a competitive, climate-resilient, and market-oriented horticulture economy. Drawing inspiration from the CEHA model from ACTESA, CAR-HA will ensure that smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and agro-processors are empowered to thrive in both national and intra-African markets.

Development Targets to 2035

CAR-HA sets the following medium-term objectives to be achieved by 2035:

1. **Trade and Market Growth**
   Expand CAR's horticulture exports and increase trade with ECCAS and AfCFTA member states, strengthening cross-border collaboration.
2. **Post-Harvest Infrastructure Enhancement**
   Increase the proportion of processed fruits and vegetables from current negligible levels to 10%.
   Invest in cold chain logistics, storage units, and modern packaging to improve export readiness.
3. **Supply Chain Efficiency and Traceability**
   Halve delivery time from farm to market.

Introduce digital traceability mechanisms, targeting 75% traceability coverage for horticulture products.

4. **Domestic Nutrition and Consumption**
   Improve access to fresh produce by 20%, contributing to reduced malnutrition and improved dietary diversity in urban and rural areas.

5. **Expansion of Cultivated Areas**
   Increase fruit and vegetable production areas by 10%, reclaiming underutilized agricultural land for high-value crops.

6. **Increased Yields and Reduced Losses**
   Raise average fruit yields by 4% and vegetable yields by 3%.
   Reduce post-harvest losses from an estimated 40% to 20%.

7. **Farmer Income and Financial Inclusion**
   Increase horticulture income among smallholders by 30%.
   Reduce seasonal income fluctuations and promote access to inclusive rural finance.

8. **Climate-Smart Adoption**
   Mainstream the use of resilient horticulture varieties, renewable energy for irrigation, and water-saving technologies across farming zones.

9. **Policy Harmonization and Trade Facilitation**
   Identify and reform key policy barriers to horticultural trade, aligning with ECCAS and AfCFTA guidelines.

10. **Value Addition and Job Creation**
    Generate at least USD 100 million in added value by developing agro-processing and export markets.
    Create 50,000 new jobs across the horticulture sector, prioritizing youth and women.

Strategic Objectives

CAR-HA will pursue four integrated strategic pillars:

1. **Strengthening Value Chain Coordination and Market Linkages**
   Improve national coordination platforms and digitize market information systems.

2. **Enhancing Productivity and Post-Harvest Performance**
   Support research and farmer training in climate-smart horticulture.
   Invest in cold storage, aggregation centers, and value-addition facilities.

3. **Establishing an Enabling Policy and Investment Environment**
   Align national policies with ECCAS and AfCFTA frameworks.
   Develop fiscal incentives and guarantee mechanisms to encourage private investment.

4. **Boosting Research, Development, and Knowledge Exchange**
   Promote university-industry partnerships and innovation hubs focused on horticulture.
   Support national R&D efforts for improved varieties, pest management, and post-harvest technologies.

Implementation and Result Areas

Result Area 1: Coordinated Value Chains and Infrastructure Development
Establish the National Horticulture Development Council as a convening platform.
Deploy ECHO modules in key farming zones to deliver off-grid energy and water access for horticultural hubs.

Result Area 2: Improved Input Access and Market Integration
Distribute improved seeds and climate-smart inputs.
Facilitate linkages between producer groups and large buyers, both domestically and across ECCAS.

Result Area 3: Policy Reform and Business Enabling Environment
Conduct policy gap assessments and align legislation with regional horticulture protocols.
Develop an investment promotion package for horticulture SMEs and cooperatives.

Result Area 4: Knowledge Transfer and Innovation
Launch training programs for young agripreneurs and women-led cooperatives.
Establish a Horticulture Research Fund in partnership with regional academic institutions.

Strategic Vision for CAR-HA

Through this programme, the Central African Republic will:

- Position itself as a competitive regional horticulture producer and exporter.
- Improve national food security through increased fruit and vegetable consumption.
- Empower rural populations through access to markets, technologies, and finance.
- Promote climate resilience and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship, and agro-industrial transformation.

CAR-HA represents a powerful step toward a more inclusive, diversified, and resilient agricultural economy—one that directly supports national recovery, regional integration, and long-term prosperity.

Central African Republic Horticulture Accelerator (CAR-HA)

Strengthening Public-Private Dialogue for Sustainable Horticulture Development

To achieve long-term transformation in the Central African Republic's horticulture sector, effective collaboration between public institutions, private agribusinesses, and smallholder farmers is essential. The **CAR Horticulture Accelerator (CAR-HA)** aims to institutionalize **Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) mechanisms** to ensure alignment in value chain development, policy reforms, and investment promotion, thus fostering sustainable growth and market access.

Priority Areas for Strengthening Dialogue and Coordination

i. Enhanced Coordination Between Public and Private Stakeholders
CAR-HA will establish **structured collaboration mechanisms** linking the Ministry of Agriculture, farmer cooperatives, private-sector actors, and trade facilitators. This will promote **joint planning** and **inclusive implementation** of national horticultural strategies.

ii. Alignment of Work Plans and Interventions
The programme will develop **multi-stakeholder coordination frameworks**, enabling stakeholders to

harmonize their activities and share best practices for more coherent and efficient sectoral development.

iii. Operationalization of a National Public-Private Dialogue Platform
CAR-HA will launch a **National Horticulture Dialogue Platform** to serve as a space for **policy discussions, investment matchmaking, and market planning**. Regular stakeholder consultations will focus on resolving key value chain constraints and maximizing horticultural potential.

Addressing Key Bottlenecks in the Fruit and Vegetable Value Chains (FVVCs)

The CAR-HA coordination frameworks will address:

1. **Fragmented Supply Chains**
   Link smallholder producers to processors, exporters, and market hubs to create **efficient and continuous flows of produce**.
2. **Post-Harvest Losses**
   Invest in cold chains, modern storage facilities, and transport systems to reduce waste and **preserve product quality**.
3. **Limited Market Access**
   Support compliance with **regional and international quality certifications**, enabling **entry into competitive markets**.
4. **Regulatory Barriers**
   Facilitate **policy harmonization**, particularly regarding **SPS standards**, by aligning CAR's laws with those of the **ECCAS** and **AfCFTA**.

Strategic Interventions and Key Activities

Intervention Area	**Strategic Actions**
Strengthening Coordination Mechanisms	- Establish a **multi-stakeholder coordination platform**. - Develop a **National Horticulture Digital Hub** with market data, logistics updates, and quality standards. - Integrate a **national horticulture trading portal** to increase transparency and access to markets.
Resource Mobilization and Investment Facilitation	- Create a **Horticulture Investment Consortium**, pooling public, private, and donor funds. - Identify **high-potential production zones**, directing infrastructure and processing investment.
Public-Private Dialogue Mechanisms	- Build **intervention alignment frameworks** that connect government, agribusiness, and NGOs. - Host **annual national horticulture summits** to review implementation progress, identify obstacles, and recommend reforms.

Expected Outcomes of CAR-HA

1. **Enhanced Public-Private Collaboration**
    - Functional partnerships between **ministries, private sector, and farming communities** supporting strategic implementation.
2. **Streamlined Value Chain Linkages**
    - Better integration of **farmers into local and regional value chains**, shortening the path from production to market.
3. **Increased Investment in the Sector**
    - Mobilization of **domestic and international capital** to finance **processing infrastructure, logistics systems, and technology**.
4. **Reduction of Value Chain Inefficiencies**
    - Development of **aggregation hubs, cold storage, and rural logistics**, reducing post-harvest losses and boosting competitiveness.
5. **Improved Market Visibility and Trade Compliance**
    - Stronger **traceability systems and quality assurance mechanisms**, ensuring Central African products are market-ready.
6. **Greater Sustainability and Climate Resilience**
    - Broad **adoption of climate-smart horticultural practices**, enhancing **resource efficiency and environmental protection**.
7. **Expanded Opportunities for Farmers and Agribusinesses**
    - Improved access to value-added markets and **greater income stability** for farmers, women-led cooperatives, and rural SMEs.

By institutionalizing public-private dialogue, leveraging investment platforms, and addressing systemic value chain challenges, **CAR-HA will lay the foundation for a competitive and inclusive horticulture sector**. The programme will not only contribute to national food security and employment but will also position the Central African Republic as a **regional player in horticultural trade and innovation**.

Central African Republic Horticulture Accelerator (CAR-HA)

Result Area 2: Increased Productivity and Market Access

To enhance the productivity and competitiveness of the Central African Republic's horticulture sector, CAR-HA will address gaps in research, technology adoption, post-harvest management, and climate-smart agricultural practices. This comprehensive approach aims to ensure that horticultural production systems are efficient, resilient, and aligned with market demands and sustainability goals.

Program Objectives under this Result Area:

1. **Enhancing Research, Innovation, and Technology for Inputs, Data, and Extension Systems**
2. **Improving Post-Harvest Management and Circularity**
3. **Increasing Accessibility and Adoption of Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies**

Enhancing Research, Innovation, and Technology for Inputs, Data, and Extension Systems

CAR-HA will integrate modern agricultural technologies, knowledge-sharing mechanisms, and skills development programs to enhance horticultural production and ensure market-driven growth.

Key Activities:

- **Promoting Climate-Smart, High-Yielding, and Pest-Resistant Varieties**
    - Support research initiatives focused on developing and scaling up climate-resilient and high-yielding horticultural crops.
    - Strengthen the Central African Republic's agricultural research institutions to ensure locally adapted seed varieties are developed and widely distributed.
- **Strengthening Partnerships Between Research Institutions, Academia, and the Private Sector**
    - Facilitate public-private collaborations to scale up innovative solutions in the CAR's horticulture industry.
    - Encourage technology transfer agreements, ensuring that the CAR's farmers benefit from the latest advancements in horticultural research.
- **Embedding Climate Early Warning Systems**
    - Establish early warning systems to help farmers anticipate and mitigate climate risks, ensuring production continuity and profitability.
    - Integrate satellite data, meteorological forecasts, and predictive analytics into the CAR's agricultural planning.
- **Promoting Sustainable Water Management**
    - Expand access to efficient irrigation technologies, such as drip irrigation and precision water management systems.
    - Train farmers on water conservation techniques, ensuring long-term sustainability in horticultural production.
- **Building Capacity Among Value Chain Actors**
    - Provide technical assistance and training to farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses, ensuring compliance with market standards.
- **Enhancing Access to High-Quality Inputs and Climate-Smart Technologies**
    - Support the expansion of the CAR's agricultural input supply chain, ensuring that farmers can access fertilizers, seeds, and bio-protectants tailored for local conditions.
    - Facilitate the adoption of innovative climate-smart technologies, including greenhouse production, organic soil amendments, and smart irrigation systems.
- **Strengthening Market Linkages and Expanding Trade Opportunities**
    - Develop new domestic and export market channels for the CAR's horticultural producers.

- Support trade missions and international partnerships, ensuring the CAR's participation in regional and global horticulture markets.

Improving Post-Harvest Management and Circularity

Post-harvest losses in the CAR's horticulture sector remain a significant challenge, estimated to range between 30% and 50% due to poor storage facilities, weak logistics networks, and inadequate cold chain infrastructure. These inefficiencies reduce farmers' incomes, limit market competitiveness, and contribute to food insecurity.

CAR-HA will implement a national post-harvest strategy that reduces losses, increases product shelf life, and improves the overall efficiency of the CAR's horticultural value chain.

Key Outputs:

- **Promoting Circularity for Waste Management**
  - Develop systems that repurpose agricultural waste into valuable by-products, such as organic compost, bioenergy, and animal feed.
  - Support circular economy business models, ensuring that horticulture waste is transformed into secondary market products.
- **Ensuring Compliance with Quality Control and SPS Standards**
  - Establish technical assistance and training programs to help CAR producers comply with domestic and international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations.
  - Introduce digital traceability systems, ensuring quality control across the CAR's horticultural value chain.
- **Strengthening Aggregation and Cooperative Capacity**
  - Expand the role of farmer cooperatives and aggregation centers, ensuring that smallholder farmers gain access to shared infrastructure and improved market bargaining power.
  - Provide business development training, ensuring that horticulture cooperatives can efficiently handle logistics, aggregation, and market coordination.
- **Developing Market Systems Linkages**
  - Establish direct partnerships between producers, processors, and buyers, ensuring a smooth and transparent supply chain.
  - Introduce digital trading platforms, enabling real-time market access for smallholder farmers.
- **Developing and Disseminating Post-Harvest Handling Protocols**
  - Provide comprehensive guidelines on proper handling, storage, and transportation of horticultural products to reduce spoilage and enhance market value.
  - Train value chain actors on best practices for cold storage, packaging, and logistics.
- **Investing in Shared Infrastructure**

- Facilitate investment in cold storage facilities, packaging units, and aggregation centers, ensuring reduced post-harvest losses and improved product quality.
- Establish rural logistics hubs, ensuring efficient movement of horticultural produce from farm to market.

Enhancing Accessibility and Adoption of Climate-Smart Agricultural Technologies and Mechanization

To increase resilience against climate change, improve productivity, and ensure sustainable horticulture production, CAR-HA will facilitate the adoption of modern, climate-smart technologies and mechanization. This includes renewable energy-powered irrigation, circular agricultural practices, and knowledge-sharing platforms that will empower farmers and agribusinesses to transition toward sustainable and efficient farming systems.

Key Focus Areas:

- **Expanding Access to Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems**
  - Introduce affordable, decentralized irrigation solutions powered by solar energy, ensuring year-round water supply for horticulture production.
  - Support smallholder farmers in adopting smart irrigation techniques, reducing dependency on unpredictable rainfall patterns.
- **Promoting Circular Agriculture Practices**
  - Encourage composting, organic waste recycling, and sustainable soil regeneration methods, ensuring waste-to-value approaches across horticulture production.
  - Establish pilot programs for biofertilizer and organic compost production, reducing reliance on chemical inputs.
- **Enhancing Awareness and Adoption of Climate-Smart Technologies**
  - Conduct farmer training programs, demonstration farms, and technology transfer initiatives, ensuring widespread knowledge of climate-smart agricultural solutions.
  - Develop extension service platforms, integrating digital tools and advisory services to support farmers in adopting modern agricultural techniques.

Strategic Interventions and Key Activities

Strategic Focus	**Activities**
Strengthening Research, Innovation, and Technology Adoption	- Embed climate early warning systems to help farmers manage risks and adapt production strategies. - Expand agricultural research initiatives, ensuring the CAR adopts climate-smart horticultural varieties. - Facilitate data and knowledge exchange among universities, research institutions, and private sector stakeholders. - Promote sustainable water resource management, ensuring horticulture production has a secure water supply.

Strategic Focus	Activities
	- Conduct horticulture production surveys and data collection to improve decision-making.
Improving Post-Harvest Management and Circularity	- Establish circular economy models, ensuring waste repurposing into compost, bioenergy, and other by-products. - Strengthen compliance with food safety and SPS standards, ensuring the CAR's horticulture products meet

Expected Outcomes

The CAR-HA programme is designed to deliver significant transformation across the Central African Republic's horticulture sector, ensuring that farmers, agribusinesses, and the national economy benefit from enhanced productivity, resilience, and competitiveness—both regionally and globally.

Increased Productivity and Reduced Post-Harvest Losses
By introducing improved agricultural techniques, better cold storage facilities, and efficient logistics, yields will rise, spoilage will decrease, and food security will strengthen across the horticultural value chain.

Strengthened Resilience of Production Systems
Climate-smart agriculture and sustainable farming methods will help protect rural communities from climate-related shocks and enhance long-term productivity.

Improved Access to Shared Infrastructure and Modern Technologies
Farmers and agribusinesses will benefit from investments in infrastructure such as solar-powered irrigation systems, packaging facilities, and processing centers—boosting incomes and market reach.

Enhanced Compliance with Quality and Trade Standards
By aligning with ECCAS, AU, and international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards, CAR's horticulture products will be positioned for both intra-African and global trade.

Greater Sectoral Resilience to Market and Climate Disruptions
Sustainable farming practices and diversified value chains will reduce vulnerability to economic and environmental disturbances.

Higher Profitability for Farmers and Agribusinesses
Improved market access, value addition, and financing mechanisms will drive inclusive growth, ensuring benefits reach smallholders, cooperatives, and SMEs.

Increased Employment and Inclusion
The expansion of horticulture will create jobs—particularly for women and youth—while catalyzing inclusive rural development.

Development of Aggregation and Processing Hubs
Strategically placed horticultural aggregation and processing centers will facilitate value addition and reduce post-harvest waste.

Capacity Building for Producers and SMEs on Food Safety Standards
Training and advisory services will help ensure CAR's producers meet food safety, packaging, and export requirements.

Improved Availability of Data on Horticulture Production
Strengthening national data systems will empower evidence-based decision-making for public institutions, private investors, and farmers alike.

Result Area 3: Strengthening Policy and Business Ecosystem

A thriving horticultural economy in CAR demands a supportive regulatory environment, accessible finance, and coherent trade facilitation. CAR-HA will reinforce institutional capacity, improve investment frameworks, and enable the country to participate effectively in regional and international horticultural trade.

Key Strategic Areas

i. Facilitating Access to Finance Across the Horticulture Value Chain
ii. Enhancing Policy, Institutional, and Coordination Frameworks
iii. Promoting Regional and International Trade Harmonization

Facilitating Access to Finance Across the Value Chain

Limited financing solutions remain a major bottleneck for horticulture expansion in CAR. CAR-HA will address this through innovative financial instruments that enable inclusive investment in rural enterprise.

Key Interventions

Strengthening Working Capital and Bridging Finance: Work with local financial institutions and regional development banks (e.g., BDEAC) to introduce flexible short-term financing tools tailored to farmers, aggregators, and SMEs.

Implement seasonal cash-flow models, allowing for pre- and post-harvest financing cycles.

Expanding SME Financing Through Seed, Venture, and Growth Capital: Support the creation of tailored financial instruments for horticulture startups and growing enterprises, including grant-matching, venture capital, and blended finance tools.

Pair capital access with mentorship and capacity-building for business planning and compliance.

Advocating for Finance-Targeted Policy Reforms: Work with CAR's Ministry of Finance and Central Bank BEAC to develop policies that de-risk agribusiness lending—through credit guarantees, tax incentives, and investment-friendly interest rates.

Enhancing Policy, Institutional, and Coordination Frameworks

CAR-HA recognizes that enabling policies, coherent institutional mandates, and coordinated governance are essential for horticultural transformation.

Key Interventions

Simplifying CAR's Tariff and Trade Regime: Work with the Ministry of Trade and Economic Development to streamline import/export duties and tariff structures for agricultural inputs (e.g., seeds, irrigation kits, processing equipment).

Ensure alignment with ECCAS and AfCFTA trade integration commitments.

Strengthening Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for Trade: Engage ECCAS and AU technical bodies to develop recognition protocols for CAR's horticulture certifications and standards.

Align SPS, packaging, and seed certification policies with regional and global market demands.

Regional and International Collaboration for Harmonization of Trade Standards and SPS Regulations

Ensuring that the horticultural products of the Central African Republic (CAR) meet both regional and global trade requirements is essential to transforming the sector into a competitive and revenue-generating industry. CAR-HA will focus on aligning national policies with international food safety and quality standards, eliminating trade bottlenecks, and enabling seamless cross-border commerce within ECCAS and other African trade zones.

Key Interventions

Reducing Formal and Informal Trade Barriers

- Advocate for the removal of both tariff and non-tariff barriers impeding horticulture exports.
- Collaborate with border agencies and trade authorities to simplify customs procedures, streamline documentation, and eliminate inconsistencies between national and regional policies.

Harmonizing SPS and Food Safety Regulations

- Work with ECCAS and the African Union to ensure national SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) protocols are aligned with international best practices.
- Harmonize pesticide usage standards, ensuring safety for consumers and regulatory compliance in target export markets.
- Build institutional capacity to certify, monitor, and enforce compliance across the horticultural value chain.

Developing Simplified Compliance Guidelines

- Create accessible manuals and handbooks on trade and SPS regulations, targeting farmers, cooperatives, and SME exporters.
- Establish training programs to help producers and traders understand their legal responsibilities and the requirements of export markets.

Expected Outcomes of CAR-HA's Trade Harmonization Strategy

- **Improved Access to Financing**: Expanded funding options will improve liquidity and stimulate investment in the horticulture sector.
- **Simplified Tariff Regime**: A more transparent, predictable trade framework will reduce the cost of doing business and attract agribusiness investment.

- **Stronger Institutional Coordination**: Government, trade agencies, and the private sector will work together more effectively to align national efforts with regional trade objectives.
- **Harmonized SPS and Trade Standards**: Alignment with ECCAS and AU frameworks will enhance CAR's credibility as a regional trade partner.
- **Increased Regional Competitiveness**: CAR's horticulture exports will become more consistent and high-quality, improving access to premium markets.
- **Higher Compliance with Export Standards**: Uniform enforcement of SPS regulations will ensure food safety and compliance with global standards.

Strategic Interventions and Key Activities

Strategic Focus	Key Activities
Expanding Regional and International Market Access	- Eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers through dialogue with ECCAS and AU stakeholders. - Improve logistical infrastructure and transport corridors to reduce cross-border inefficiencies. - Develop customized export strategies targeting regional buyers and international markets.
Strengthening Trade Harmonization and SPS Compliance	- Align CAR's food safety regulations with international norms. - Train farmers and SMEs on pesticide safety, hygiene, and international certifications. - Facilitate recognition of CAR's certifications in ECCAS and continental trade frameworks.
Developing Clear Compliance Frameworks	- Create easy-to-use compliance guides for horticultural producers and exporters. - Implement training-of-trainers (ToT) and digital education modules for cooperatives and SMEs.

Technical Approach

CAR-HA's trade strategy is rooted in a three-pronged framework:

✓ **Policy Harmonization** – Align national regulatory frameworks with ECCAS, AU, and WTO norms to reduce fragmentation.
✓ **Agricultural Productivity** – Improve horticultural yields and quality through climate-smart innovation and knowledge transfer.
✓ **Commercialization** – Enable structured and profitable value chain participation through partnerships, infrastructure, and finance.

Implementation Pillars of CAR-HA

✓ **Market-Oriented Growth** – Promote commercially viable trade between farmer cooperatives, SMEs, and regional buyers.
✓ **Capacity Development** – Train key actors on technical, regulatory, and business practices to ensure compliance and competitiveness.
✓ **Public-Private Partnerships** – Mobilize private capital and expertise to develop the sector's infrastructure and services.
✓ **Value Chain Optimization** – Improve each stage of the horticulture value chain, from input production to post-harvest processing and export logistics.

Theory of Change

CAR-HA is built on a transformational hypothesis:

✓ **Policy alignment**, **market integration**, and **climate-smart investment** will unlock the full potential of CAR's horticulture sector.
✓ **Aggregation and value chain clustering** will convert fragmented smallholder production into a high-value, formalized industry.
✓ By improving market access and regulatory clarity, CAR will emerge as a competitive player in both African and international horticulture markets.

CAR-HA's Expected Transformational Impact

- **Higher Agricultural Productivity**: Farmers adopt better technologies, reduce input waste, and increase profitability.
- **Expanded Trade Access**: Harmonized regulations allow CAR products to enter new markets with confidence.
- **Increased Financial Inclusion**: Financing models adapted to agricultural cycles will empower SMEs and smallholders.
- **Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture**: With climate-adaptive farming, CAR will ensure food security and economic durability.
- **Enhanced Governance and Coordination**: National institutions and trade agencies will collaborate more effectively to support sector-wide transformation.

CAR-HA is more than a sectoral program—it is a long-term national strategy. Through trade harmonization, institutional reform, and value chain investment, CAR-HA will position the Central African Republic as a dynamic and sustainable leader in Africa's horticultural transformation.

Objective Hierarchy – Central African Republic Horticulture Accelerator (CAR-HA)

Impact

Inclusive and sustainable food systems development to improve food security, promote agricultural commercialization, and strengthen the Central African Republic's position in regional and international markets.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs):

- **KPI 1**: CAR's agricultural regulations and laws are harmonized with ECCAS, CEMAC, and AfCFTA standards.

- **KPI 2**: Seamless participation of smallholder farmers (SHFs) and agribusinesses in agricultural activities across the country.
- **KPI 3**: Increased commercialization of agriculture through geo-clustered value chains and cooperative farming models.
- **KPI 4**: Policy reforms, market connectivity, and adoption of climate-smart innovations streamline and modernize the sector.

Outcomes

Outcome 1: Policy Harmonization & Enabling Environment

Objective: Alignment of CAR's agricultural regulations, standards, and strategic plans with regional and continental frameworks.

- **KPI 1.1**: Number of CAR's policies aligned with the ECCAS/CEMAC Seed Harmonization Implementation Plan (SHIP).
- **KPI 1.2**: Number of CAR's biosafety regulations aligned with regional biotechnology implementation plans.
- **KPI 1.3**: Bioprotectant regulations aligned with ECCAS and AU environmental and safety standards.
- **KPI 1.4**: Fertilizer policies aligned with regional smart subsidy and market-driven guidelines.

Outcome 2: Smallholder Farmer Participation & Market Integration

Objective: Increased engagement of SHFs and cooperatives in value-added agriculture, supported by inclusive policies and capacity-building.

- **KPI 2.1**: Increase in average annual income of SHFs, disaggregated by gender and region.
- **KPI 2.2**: Number of SHFs benefiting from AfDB or government-supported initiatives in market access, land tenure, and finance.

Outcome 3: Commercial Agriculture Growth

Objective: Strengthened agribusiness ecosystem through value chain expansion and integration of SHFs.

- **KPI 3.1**: Number of viable commercial ventures established by SHFs and rural SMEs.
- **KPI 3.2**: Percentage of SHFs integrated into geo-clustered value chains with market linkages.

Outputs and Key Performance Indicators

Output 1: Capacity Development & Agricultural Commercialization

Goal: Empower SHFs and agribusinesses through technical training, improved input access, and scalable business models.

- **KPI 1.1**: Number of SHFs and FBOs engaging in structured commercial agriculture.
- **KPI 1.2**: Number of MSMEs adopting climate-smart agriculture practices.

- **KPI 1.3**: SHFs using certified high-quality seed varieties compliant with national standards.
- **KPI 1.4**: SHFs applying regionally recommended fertilizer regimens.
- **KPI 1.5**: SHFs utilizing sustainable bioprotectants.
- **KPI 1.6**: Uptake of biotechnology solutions to improve yields and reduce environmental impact.

Output 2: Value Chain Development

Goal: Create integrated, efficient agricultural value chains focused on high-value crops and export readiness.

- **KPI 2.1**: Number of structured agricultural value chains established and scaled.
- **KPI 2.2**: Number of geo-clustered value chains implemented in key agricultural zones.
- **KPI 2.3**: SHFs participating in viable, cooperative-based agribusiness ventures.
- **KPI 2.4**: Percentage of agro-enterprises meeting ECCAS, CEMAC, or global market standards.
- **KPI 2.5**: Number of private-sector actors participating in value chain development.

Output 3: Market Facilities for Trade Expansion

Goal: Strengthen trade logistics and infrastructure for domestic and cross-border commerce.

- **KPI 3.1**: Volume of horticultural trade facilitated through geo-clustered trade corridors.
- **KPI 3.2**: Number of initiatives linking climate resilience with trade policy and implementation.
- **KPI 3.3**: Trade volumes expanded through AfDB-supported interventions.

Output 4: Policy Development and Implementation

Goal: Develop and implement coherent policy instruments in line with regional harmonization initiatives.

- **KPI 4.1**: Number of policy reforms aligned with ECCAS/CEMAC seed and agri-input frameworks.
- **KPI 4.2**: Compliance with biotechnology and biosafety frameworks developed under ECCAS and AU.
- **KPI 4.3**: Number of national bio-protectant regulations reviewed and harmonized.
- **KPI 4.4**: Fertilizer subsidy and regulatory framework aligned with ECCAS strategy.

Output 5: Access to Finance

Goal: Improve financial inclusion and access to working capital for SHFs and agri-enterprises.

- **KPI 5.1**: Number of farmer organizations and agribusinesses with improved access to finance.
- **KPI 5.2**: Number of SHFs with access to digital or formal financial services.
- **KPI 5.3**: Number and total value of matching grants disbursed to qualifying entities.

Output 6: Climate Resilience & Sustainability

Goal: Mainstream environmental sustainability and climate resilience into agriculture.

- **KPI 6.1**: Number of vulnerable communities trained on climate adaptation and water-use efficiency.
- **KPI 6.2**: Number of climate-resilient agricultural programs launched in key regions.
- **KPI 6.3**: Measurable improvement in community-level climate and economic resilience.
- **KPI 6.4**: Number of initiatives promoting sustainable practices and ecosystem protection.

Output 7: SDEP/ECHO & Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

Goal: Expand digital platforms and physical infrastructure to accelerate rural transformation.

- **KPI 7.1**: Number of PPPs launched or scaled using SDEP frameworks and international best practices.
- **KPI 7.2**: Number of communities accessing ECHO modular infrastructure for water, energy, and data services.
- **KPI 7.3**: Number of FlexSus decision-support tools deployed for planning and resilience-building.

SECTION 3 – FEASIBILITY

3.1 RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1.1. SIGNIFICANT RISKS FACING THE PROGRAMME

The CAR-Horticulture Accelerator (CAR-HA) primarily focuses on **capacity development**, with **minimal anticipated environmental or social risks**. By emphasizing **local ownership**, **community engagement**, and **continuous hands-on training** for key actors, the programme aims to build long-term resilience and minimize implementation risks.

However, potential risks such as **political instability**, **limited administrative capacity**, **changing institutional priorities**, and **stakeholder coordination challenges** will be proactively **monitored and managed**. CAR-HA will deploy **real-time monitoring and evaluation tools**—including FlexSus and ECHO platforms—to enable early detection and agile responses to emerging risks.

3.1.2. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS

While horticulture offers considerable development benefits, **poorly managed agricultural intensification** may carry environmental and social risks—such as land degradation, unsustainable water use, and inequality in access to resources.

To mitigate these, **CAR has adopted an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)** tailored to its unique ecological zones and rural contexts. This framework will:

✓ Ensure **sustainable use of natural resources**, including forests, water basins, and biodiversity hotspots.

✓ Promote **social inclusion**, particularly for **women, youth, and indigenous communities** dependent on land and agriculture.
✓ Guarantee compliance with **national environmental legislation** and **regional agreements**, including ECCAS protocols and AfCFTA environmental principles.

The **CAR Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development**, in coordination with the **Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**, will lead the enforcement of these safeguards. Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs) and mitigation plans will be embedded across all programme components.

3.1.3. RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

CAR-HA will implement a **comprehensive internal control framework** to ensure that risks are actively identified, documented, and mitigated. The strategy includes:

✓ **Programme Oversight** – CAR-HA will be governed by a **national Steering Committee**, supported by dedicated technical teams responsible for operations and risk tracking.

✓ **Risk Log and Monitoring** – A dynamic **Risk Log** will be maintained, detailing risk types, severity, triggers, and mitigation plans. This will be reviewed and updated quarterly.

✓ **Annual Risk Reviews** – As part of the **annual budgeting and planning process**, risk assessments will guide necessary programme adjustments.

✓ **Stakeholder Engagement** – Implementing partners, local governments, and civil society actors will be **regularly informed of emerging risks**, with built-in **feedback mechanisms** to adjust interventions when necessary.

✓ **Governance** – The Steering Committee will receive quarterly updates on risk management and will issue **corrective action guidance** where appropriate.

This structured approach ensures that CAR-HA remains **resilient**, **adaptive**, and **aligned with national development and sustainability priorities**.

	Objective Hierarchy ASFPS-EI
Impact	Inclusive and sustainable food systems development to improve food security and promote agriculture commercialization in the Central African Republic (CAR). • **KPI 1** – CAR's agricultural regulations and laws are harmonized with ECCAS and AfCFTA standards. • **KPI 2** – Seamless engagement in agriculture activities by smallholder farmers (SHFs) and agribusinesses within ECCAS, using CAR as a reference. • **KPI 3** – Commercialization of agriculture by SHFs in CAR through geo-clustering of value chains. • **KPI 4** – Streamlining of agricultural processes and institutional mechanisms
Outcomes	**Outcome 1: Policy Harmonization & Enabling Environment** **KPI 1.1** – Number of ECCAS Member States aligning their seed regulations to CAR's Seed Harmonization and Certification Programme (CAR-SHCP). **KPI 1.2** – Number aligning their biotechnology laws to the Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (CAR-BBIP). **KPI 1.3** – Number aligning fertilizer policies with the Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (CAR-FAUP). **Outcome 2: SHF Participation and Market Access** Increased share of SHFs participating due to a more conducive policy environment. **KPI 2.1** – Increase in average income of small-scale food producers (disaggregated by gender and indigenous status). **KPI 2.2** – Number of SHFs reached via AfDB-supported interventions (markets, finance, land security). **Outcome 3: Commercial Agriculture Growth** Inclusive expansion of structured value chains. **KPI 3.1** – Number of SHFs and agribusinesses creating formal ventures. **KPI 3.2** – % of SHFs participating in geo-clustered value chains.

Outputs	**1. Capacity Development & Agricultural Commercialization** KPI 1.1 – SHFs and FBOs participating in agricultural activities. KPI 1.2 – MSMEs adopting climate-smart agriculture. KPI 1.3 – SHFs using quality seeds aligned with CAR/ECCAS guidelines. KPI 1.4 – SHFs applying recommended fertilizers. KPI 1.5 – SHFs using recommended bioprotectants. KPI 1.6 – SHFs applying biotechnology practices.	**2.Value Chain Development:** KPI 2.1 – Number of value chains developed. KPI 2.2 – Number of geo-clustered chains formed. KPI 2.3 – SHFs engaged in viable agribusiness models. KPI 2.4 – SHFs producing in clustered chains. KPI 2.5 – % of products meeting international standards. KPI 2.6 – Number of players actively engaged in value chains.	**3 Markets facilities for trade expansion:** **KPI 3.1**: Number of trade volumes on the geo clustered value chains **KPI 3.2:** Number of trade-climate nexus promoted **KPI 3.3:** Number of trade volumes coordinated by AFDB support	**4.Policy Development and Implementation:** **KPI 4.1:** Number of ECCAS countries aligning laws with CAR-led programs.	**5. Access to finance** **KPI 5.1:** Number of targeted agribusiness groups having improved access to finance and financial support services with support of AfDB funded interventions. **KPI 5.2:** Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services with AFDB support: people (all financial services) KPI 5.3 Number and total value of matching grants disbursed to targeted agri-business groups with AFDB support	**6. Climate Change** **KPI 6.1:** Number of vulnerable communities enhanced their capacity to adapt to climate change impacts. **KPI 6.2:** Number of climate-resilient livelihoods plans created/promoted. KPI 6.3 -Number social-economic wellbeing of targeted communities improved. KPI 6.4- Number of sustainable development practices and environment stewardship fostered.	**7. SDEP/ECHO & PPP** **KPI- 7.1**: Number of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system adheres to global standards and aligns with regional priorities. **KPI 7.2:** Number of farming communities accessing equitable infrastructure through ECHO Platform. **KPI 7.3:** Number of Flexus monitoring tools integrated.
Main activities and tasks	**1.1 Strengthening Existing Farmer Organizations**	**2.1. Strengthening existing farmer organizations.**	**3.1. Establishing Service Forums to Strengthen Staple Food Value Chains**	**4.1. Improving Competitiveness of the Staple Food Sector**	**5.1. Facilitating Access to Finance and Risk Mitigation for Agri-Businesses**	6.1. Community engagement and needs assessments.	**7.1. Pre-study Phase of the SDEP/ECHO in CAR** **T1.** Test **soil fertility and pH levels** to assess suitability for

	T1. Strengthen Farmer-Based Organizations (FBOs) in CAR by promoting sustainable models that deliver essential services such as storage, access to finance, and market linkages to smallholder farmers. **T2.** Enhance formal value chain linkages between farmers, FBOs, and regional marketing infrastructure such as larger warehousing facilities and commodity exchanges across ECCAS. **T3.** Deliver capacity-building activities to improve the effectiveness and governance of FBOs. **1.2 Innovative Linkages to Markets** **T1.** Develop innovative methodologies to increase farmer	**T1.** Strengthen Farmer-Based Organizations (FBOs) in CAR by promoting viable models that sustainably provide services such as storage, access to finance, and market linkages for smallholders—critical for the growth of the staple food sub-sector. **T2.** Reinforce formal value chain linkages between farmers, FBOs, and regional marketing infrastructure such as larger warehousing facilities and commodity exchanges. **T3.** Deliver capacity-building activities to improve the organizational and service delivery effectiveness of FBOs. **2.2. Innovative Linkages to Markets** **T1.** Develop localized methodologies to	**T1.** Create and manage **multi-stakeholder service forums** in CAR and across ECCAS Member States focused on critical value chain domains such as input supply, production, trade infrastructure, market access, transport, finance, regulation, food reserves, agro-industrialization, and humanitarian logistics. **T2.** Compile and synthesize information generated from these forums and present findings to the **Advisory Committee** with recommendations, required actions, associated costs, and timelines. **3.2. Developing and Expanding Input Market Access** **T1.** Formalize and organize the **regional staple food value**	**T1.** Conduct **benchmarking studies** to compare CAR's business environment against other ECCAS countries and regional peers. **T2.** Analyze competitiveness of strategic staple food sectors across intra-ECCAS markets. **T3.** Compare ECCAS staple food trade performance with other global exporters targeting similar markets. **4.2. Agricultural Trade Policy Harmonization** **T1.** Secure approval from ECCAS Policy Organs and CAR's Ministry of Agriculture for trade policy alignment and reform. **T2.** Support CAR's national adoption and legal implementation of harmonized ECCAS frameworks. **T3.** Align project activities with national reform agendas and	**T1.** Conduct a rapid assessment of both **traditional and innovative financing sources** available to agri-businesses and farmer organizations in CAR and the broader ECCAS region. **T2.** Evaluate the **financial strategies and institutional readiness** of targeted agri-businesses and cooperatives to mobilize investment. **T3.** Provide **investment readiness training** and mentorship, helping farmer organizations (FOs) and SMEs become **viable, investment-attractive entities**. **T4.** Facilitate connections between **bankable FOs/SMEs** and financial service providers from the **public sector, private institutions, and development partners**, including available **de-risking mechanisms** tailored to the Central African context.	**T1.** Conduct **participatory consultations** to identify the climate-related vulnerabilities and socio-economic priorities of rural communities in CAR. **T2.** Assess **existing livelihood strategies** and their exposure to climate risks. **T3.** Identify **locally appropriate, climate-resilient livelihood opportunities**, leveraging natural and social capital. **6.2. Capacity Building and Skills Development** **T1.** Deliver **training sessions and practical workshops** on climate change adaptation, resilience, and sustainable livelihoods.	**climate-smart agriculture** in target communities. **T2.** Identify potential **ecosystem, water, and biodiversity impacts** from agricultural and infrastructure interventions. **T3.** Engage **local communities, municipal authorities**, and **ECCAS-aligned private sector partners** for co-creation. **T4.** Collect **socioeconomic and demographic data** to align project planning with community needs and development priorities. **T5.** Assess **infrastructure gaps** in **transportation, energy, and water** relevant to ECHO's modular deployment. **T6.** Evaluate **climate vulnerability**, and propose **resilience-building strategies** adapted to CAR's environmental risks. **T7.** Ensure full alignment with **national policies**, **ECCAS frameworks**, and international agreements such as the **Paris Agreement** and **Agenda 2063**. **T8.** Identify **agricultural practice gaps**, including inefficient

	integration into formal value chains. **T2.** Strengthen the capacity of relevant CAR public sector institutions to review, harmonize, and modernize existing digital market information systems to better serve agribusiness groups. **1.3 Productivity and Technology Adoption** **T1.** Provide training and support for adoption of technologies such as drip irrigation, and promote climate-smart varieties under the ECCAS Climate Resilience Programme. **T2.** Support conservation farming, carbon credit opportunities, and the adoption of biotech solutions including improved crop traits (e.g.,	promote increased farmer integration into structured markets. **T2.** Strengthen the capacity of public-sector stakeholders in CAR to review, harmonize, and enhance digital market information systems tailored to agri-business needs. **2.3. Productivity and Technology Adoption** **T1.** Provide training and support to promote the adoption of technologies such as drip irrigation and climate-smart varieties within CAR's national climate change programs. **T2.** Support the use of productivity-enhancing practices including conservation farming, carbon trading, and GMO cotton technologies where applicable.	**chain in CAR** into competitive production and trade clusters. **T2.** Strengthen the capacity of selected agribusiness groups and cooperatives in CAR to engage in **regional and continental competitive trade**, aligned with ECCAS and AfCFTA frameworks. **3.3. Enhancing Market Information and Trade Intelligence Systems** **T1.** Strengthen existing national market information systems in CAR and establish linkages with a **regional ECCAS-wide Trade Information System**. **T2.** Enhance national data collection tools to ensure accuracy and reliability across value chains.	regional trade integration strategies. **T4.** Deliver **value chain training and awareness campaigns** targeting farmers, cooperatives, and private agribusinesses on ECCAS decisions and trade opportunities. **4.3. Establishment of Zero Tariffs and Common External Tariff (CET) for Fertilizer Trade** **T1.** Convene technical meetings with ECCAS customs officials on eliminating intra-regional fertilizer tariffs and defining a CET for imports. **T2.** Draft an ECCAS-wide agreement on fertilizer CET and zero intra-regional tariffs. **4.4. Development of ECCAS Soil Fertility Maps and Fertilizer Formulations** **T1.** Conduct soil sampling and mapping	**5.2. Deploying Matching Grants to Catalyze Investment in Productive Assets** **T1.** Develop and pilot a **Matching Grants Operational Manual** during the inception phase of the program. **T2.** Design and distribute **promotional materials** to raise awareness about the matching grant application process. **T3.** Establish and train a **Project Technical Committee (PTC)** to assess and validate incoming grant applications. **T4.** Open calls for proposals and concept notes targeting eligible cooperatives and agribusinesses. Grant conditions may vary depending on the investment scale and objectives. **T5.** Where relevant, **link CAR-based SMEs and FOs** to complementary **financing options**	**T2.** Enhance technical skills in **climate-smart agriculture**, agroforestry, sustainable fishing practices, renewable energy use, and related rural development fields. **T3.** Promote **financial literacy and entrepreneurship**, and support **market linkage efforts** to develop viable income-generating activities. **6.3. Livelihood Diversification and Innovation** **T1.** Support community-led ventures such as **sustainable farming, aquaculture, eco-tourism, clean energy micro-enterprises**, and green value chains.	farming techniques, and highlight areas for innovation. **T9.** Analyze **agri-food supply chains**, post-harvest losses, and **logistics bottlenecks**, with a focus on regional market integration. **T10.** Establish initial **Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) compliance** standards for implementation and monitoring. **7.2. Skills Training for SDEP/ECHO Beneficiaries in CAR** **T1.** Train smallholder farmers on **climate-resilient practices**: **intercropping, agroforestry**, and **reduced tillage**. **T2.** Deliver training on the **installation and maintenance of renewable energy systems**: solar panels and biogas units. **T3.** Teach water **irrigation, recycling**, and **filtration technologies** adapted to rural needs. **T4.** Support **conversion of agricultural waste into bioenergy or organic fertilizers**, boosting circular economy adoption.

	drought-resilient cotton). **T3.** Strengthen agricultural extension services by training lead farmers to act as focal points for peer learning and knowledge dissemination. **2.1 Assessment Reports on Bioprotectants in ECCAS Member States** **T1.** Organize a regional inception workshop with ECCAS Member States to develop a roadmap for bioprotectant registration, harmonization, and commercialization. **T2.** Conduct assessments of existing bioprotectant regulatory frameworks across ECCAS.	**T3.** Enhance extension systems by empowering lead farmers and FBOs to disseminate innovations and climate-smart practices across farming communities. **2.4. Establish Regional Platforms for Coordination Among Value Chain Actors** **T1.** Facilitate the creation of **CAR-HA National Chapters** to align with ECCAS initiatives. **T2.** Conduct stakeholder mapping and host national CAR-HA forums. **T3.** Organize regional ECCAS forums for network building among member states. **T4.** Enable multi-stakeholder collaboration between public and private sector actors.	**T3.** Develop **cross-border trade monitoring systems** with neighboring ECCAS Member States. **T4.** Promote the use of trade intelligence and market data by smallholders and private sector stakeholders. **T5.** Disseminate market data using tools like SMS alerts, radio programs, digital bulletins, and periodic regional **food balance sheet publications**. **3.4. Development of a Central African Regional Commodity Exchange** **T1.** Assess existing national commodity exchange mechanisms within ECCAS in terms of policy, credit systems, and regulations; identify gaps and propose	across ECCAS regions to identify fertility zones. **T2.** Develop localized fertilizer recommendations based on soil needs and validate through trials in CAR. **T3.** Partner with fertilizer blending firms to design tailored organic-mineral fertilizer mixes aligned with ecological zones. **4.5. Develop ECCAS Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines with Exit Strategies** **T1.** Perform a comparative study of existing subsidy programs in ECCAS countries and other African regions. **T2.** Design **smart subsidy guidelines** based on digital targeting (e.g., e-vouchers), with built-in exit strategies for fiscal sustainability.	**available in ECCAS** or AfDB-supported regional facilities.	**T2.** Facilitate **access to technology, inputs, and advisory services** needed to launch and scale climate-resilient livelihoods. **T3.** Foster **innovation ecosystems**, encouraging peer-to-peer learning, experimentation, and shared adaptation strategies. **6.4. Strengthening Institutional Support** **T1.** Partner with **local government bodies, civil society organizations**, and regional institutions to provide an enabling environment for community resilience. **T2.** Advocate for the **mainstreaming of**	**T5.** Provide basic **financial literacy**, focusing on **savings, loans, and investment management** for farming communities. **T6.** Train users on **FlexSus**, the monitoring tool used for **resource efficiency and emissions tracking**. **T7.** Educate on **post-harvest techniques** such as **storage, food processing**, and **eco-packaging**. **T8.** Develop **local leadership skills**, fostering community-driven sustainability and innovation. **T9.** Provide training on **safe equipment usage** and **occupational health and safety standards**. **T10.** (Repeated) Reinforce training on **equipment safety and health protocols**. **T11.** Ensure **inclusive participation** (gender, youth, vulnerable groups) in all training and capacity-building activities. **7.3. ECHO Implementation Activities in CAR** **T1.** Identify **suitable rural deployment zones** for the

	2.2 Development of Harmonized Bioprotectant Registration Regulations for ECCAS **T1.** Host technical consultative workshops to draft ECCAS Harmonized Bioprotectant Regulations. **T2.** Develop mutual recognition pillars and modalities under an ECCAS Legal Drafting Committee. **T3.** Submit final regulations to ECCAS Committee of Agriculture, Council of Ministers, and ECCAS Summit for review and adoption. **3.1 Strategic Implementation Plan for Harmonized Bioprotectant Registration in ECCAS**	**T5.** Support national workshops/seminars in CAR—target of at least 4 per year. **T6.** Host ECCAS-level public-private dialogue events. **T7.** Strengthen resource mobilization systems for CAR-HA through regional investment partnerships. **T8.** Establish and reinforce strategic partnerships with development partners and existing regional initiatives. **2.5. Trade Information, Data Management & Deepening Regional Integration** **T1.** Utilize ECCAS platforms to integrate digital trading systems, improving market visibility and cross-border coordination. **T2.** Enhance Trade Information Portals to include corridor	strengthening actions. **T2.** Support **integration of exchange platforms**, whether physical or electronic, and link them to ECCAS-wide market intelligence systems. **T3.** Develop or finalize national commodity exchange regulatory frameworks where they are absent or incomplete. **T4.** Build the capacity of private sector actors and smallholder farmers to comply with **regional and international standards** for staple food trade. **T5.** Organize a **regional workshop in Bangui or ECCAS headquarters** to draft a harmonized roadmap for trade			**climate adaptation and sustainable livelihoods** into CAR's national development and ECCAS regional strategies. **T3.** Build the capacity of **local institutions and community-based organizations (CBOs)** to sustain progress beyond the project's timeline. **6.5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Knowledge Sharing** **T1.** Establish robust **M&E frameworks** to measure the effectiveness and long-term impact of resilience and livelihood interventions. **T2.** Document and share **success stories, case studies, and best practices**,	modular ECHO platform, with consideration to local needs and geography. **T2.** Install **solar-powered irrigation** and electrification systems in **off-grid** farming communities. **T3.** Deploy **organic waste-to-energy units**, supporting both energy and fertilizer production. **T4.** Establish **clean water systems** via filtration and **wastewater recycling**. **T5.** Integrate **hydrogen fuel systems**, using **electrolysers** powered by renewable sources. **T6.** Connect ECHO hubs to **national power grids**, where applicable, and to **irrigation networks**. **T7.** Install **FlexSus sensors** to monitor water use, emissions, and energy output in real-time. **T8.** Train local **technicians and youth** to operate, maintain, and troubleshoot ECHO units. **T9.** Build **bioenergy and fertilizer processing facilities** using local organic materials.

	T1. Draft and validate the ECCAS-wide Bioprotectant Registration and Commercialization Implementation Plan with Member State input. **T2.** Launch and disseminate harmonized regulations through national awareness campaigns across ECCAS. **3.0 Establish and Institutionalize Regional Biosafety Risk Assessment Mechanism** **T1.** Hold technical review meetings to nominate members to the ECCAS Panel of Experts (PoE). **T2.** Update and standardize National Biosafety Authorities' procedures and application forms. **T3.** Institutionalize the regional biosafety risk	mapping and commodity-specific data across fruits, vegetables, and nuts value chains. **T3.** Develop centralized digital platforms to close data gaps on pricing, logistics, quality, and production forecasting. **T4.** Engage IT providers to build/upgrade digital trade tools for CAR and ECCAS region. **T5.** Train stakeholders on platform utilization. **T6.** Implement integrated digital trading systems across CAR and its neighbors to promote visibility and value chain participation. **T7.** Convene an investment platform combining public, private, and donor resources for infrastructure,	exchange development. **T6.** Propose the establishment of an **ECCAS Regional Commodity Exchange**, coordinating spot and futures markets across Central Africa and integrating with AfCFTA protocols.			contributing to regional and national knowledge repositories. **T3.** Facilitate continuous learning through **community workshops, regional exchanges, digital platforms**, and stakeholder dialogues.	**T10.** Pilot and scale modular ECHO units in **selected agro-ecological zones** across CAR. **7.4. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) System Enhancements – GSIA (ECCAS-aligned)** **T1.** Develop **PPP policy frameworks** aligned with **ECCAS**, **AfDB**, and **UN standards** for **transparency and accountability**. **T2.** Define and implement **ESG reporting criteria**, ensuring sustainability compliance. **T3.** Engage **independent auditors** to validate ESG compliance and ensure **trust in reporting**. **T4.** Train stakeholders across sectors in **ESG principles**, project governance, and implementation. **T5.** Design **PPP lease models** for **non-creditworthy countries**, offering alternatives to traditional finance. **T6.** Include **insurance, maintenance**, and technical support within PPP leasing contracts. **T7.** Create a **regional early-adopter pool** for countries

	assessment mechanism under ECCAS authority. **T4.** Conduct training and dossier review workshops with PoE. **3.2 Strengthening Biosafety Regulatory Capacity in Selected ECCAS Member States** **T1.** Conduct annual data collection to inform biosafety policy development and biotech product approvals. **T2.** Test the regional risk assessment framework using crop-specific case studies (e.g., GM maize). **T3.** Popularize PoE case study opinions among ECCAS member states. **T4.** Carry out economic impact assessments of regional harmonization using	capacity building, and technology upgrades. **T8.** Conduct regional assessments to identify and support CAR-based production clusters. **2.6. Support Regional Production Cluster Development** **T1.** Strengthen producer cooperatives and aggregation centers for better efficiency and market negotiation. **T2.** Build linkages between producers, processors, and buyers for seamless value chain operations. **T3.** Support infrastructure for storage, aggregation, and packaging in CAR. **T4.** Assess needs of women, youth, and vulnerable SMEs and cooperatives.					piloting modular systems like ECHO. **T8.** Support **scalable infrastructure rollouts** via flexible PPP mechanisms and regional partnerships. **T9.** Align PPP and ESG systems with **ECCAS strategies** and **CAR's national development priorities**. **T10.** Track and publish **compliance reports** and **outcome indicators** for all GSIA-supported PPP projects.

	data transportability methods. **3.3 Enhancing Communication and Awareness of CAR and ECCAS Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy** **T1.** Develop a data-driven ECCAS Communication Strategy on biosafety. **T2.** Raise awareness of CAR's Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy among ECCAS Member States. **T3.** Engage regional media, youth, women, and civil society networks in advocacy and awareness activities. **T4.** Share testimonials from farmers and traders about GM crop use across ECCAS and globally. **T5.** Host regional validation workshops on	**T5.** Provide technical assistance for business registration, sustainability planning, governance, and financial literacy. **T6.** Connect SMEs and cooperatives to local, regional (ECCAS), and international markets. **T7.** Enable women- and youth-led businesses to engage with global buyers. **2.7. Strengthen Extension Systems and Innovation Delivery** **T1.** Convene ECCAS research institutions and private sector to define deployment mechanisms for local innovation. **T2.** Support climate-smart technology development through national research institutes in CAR. **T3.** Promote accessibility and					

	biosafety communication strategies. **T6.** Hold annual ECCAS biosafety and biotechnology forums to advance CAR-BBIP implementation. **T7.** Submit progress reports to ECCAS Council of Ministers and ECCAS Summit.	uptake of appropriate mechanization solutions. **T4.** Translate validated publications into regional languages (Sango, French, etc.). **T5.** Improve access to genomic technologies to accelerate breeding of resilient crop varieties. **T6.** Establish trial farms across agroecological zones in CAR for field validation. **T7.** Build logistics platforms with private sector to improve regional coordination and strategic advocacy. **T8.** Support sustainability certifications and adoption of Private Voluntary Standards. **T9.** Develop early warning and					

		monitoring systems for climate risks. **T10.** Map and assess current early warning systems in CAR. **T11.** Establish EWS tailored to value chain actors. **T12.** Design adaptive planning tools to enhance resilience in times of shocks					

Budget and use of funds

PROJECT 1: CAR Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (CAR-FAUP) **This programme aligns with ECCAS integration efforts and aims to position CAR as a reference for sustainable fertilizer policy, regional harmonization, and agricultural transformation.**

OUTCOME 1: Accelerate the Development and Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks and Implementation Plans for Organic and Inorganic Fertilizers in CAR as a Reference for ECCAS Member States

Output 1.1: Develop and Harmonize Organic and Inorganic Fertilizer Frameworks for CAR

Output 1.1: Develop and Harmonize Organic and Inorganic Fertilizer Frameworks for CAR

Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Regional inception and planning meeting	Regional workshop	1500	30	1	1	45,000.00
Technical assessment of fertilizer policy and regulations in CAR and ECCAS Member States	National consultants	250	10,5	20	1	52,500.00
Regional synthesis report reflecting national reports and ECCAS, EAC, COMESA references	Regional consultant	500	1	20	1	10,000.00
Development of ECCAS Harmonised Fertilizer Regulations	Technical workshops	1500	30	3	1	135,000.00
Development of ECCAS Fertilizer Regulations Implementation Plan	Regional consultant	500	1	20	1	10,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**252,500.00**

Output 1.2: Establish Zero Tariff and Common External Tariff (CET) Harmonization for Fertilizer Trade in ECCAS Member States						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Development of ECCAS Fertilizer CET	Regional consultant	500	1	40	1	10,000.00
Technical customs meetings for CET drafting and validation	Regional workshop	1500	40	2	4	240,000.00
Final validation and launch of ECCAS Fertilizer CET	Regional workshop	1500	40	2	5	300,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**550,000.00**
Output 1.3: Develop ECCAS Soil Fertility Maps to Support Fertilizer Blending Companies						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Conduct soil analysis and develop soil fertility maps for ECCAS	National consultant	300	21	20	1	126,000.00
Create fertilizer recommendations based on nutrient gaps, validated via field trials	Regional consultant	500	1	30	1	15,000.00

Collaborate with blending companies to develop new organic/mineral fertilizer formulations	Regional consulant	500	1	30	1	15,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**156,000.00**
Output 1.4: Develop ECCAS Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines with Exit Strategies						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Critical review of existing regional and global fertilizer subsidy programmes	Regional consultant	500	1	30	1	15,000.00
Draft ECCAS Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines with smart subsidies and e-voucher mechanisms	Regional consultant	500	1	20	1	10,000.00
Organize a regional validation and launch of the subsidy guidelines	Regional Workshop	1500	50	1	2	150,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**175,000.00**
OUTCOME 2: Establish and Strengthen Agricultural Input Distribution Networks Using the Hub Agrodealer Model Including National and Regional Fertilizer Trade and Agrodealer Associations in ECCAS						
Output 2.1. Support the Establishment of New and Strengthening of Existing Regional and National Fertilizer Trade Associations						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***

Assess needs of 5 existing national fertilizer associations and 5 agrodealer associations	Regional consultancy	500	1	30	1	15,000.00
Deliver tailored capacity-building programs to existing associations	National consultants	300	21	55	1	346,500.00
Identify 5 countries to recommend establishment of new associations	Regional consultant	500	1	20	1	10,000.00
	Regional fertilizer stakeholder Forums	1500	30	1	1	45,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**416,500.00**
Output 2.2.Implement credit guarantee schemes to Hub Agrodealers through Agribusiness Partnership Contracts						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Establishment of a regional credit guarantee fund	Regional fund	600,000.00	1	1	1	600,000.00
Screening and selection of 5 hub-agrodealers in 10 ECCAS countries	National Consultants	300	10	10	1	30,000.00
Conduct capacity-building for selected hub agrodealers	Direct National engagement	10000	1	1	5	50,000.00
Facilitate linkages to suppliers and operationalize the credit guarantee system	Regional consultancy	500	1	5	5	12,500.00

Monitor and report on performance of APC mechanisms	National Consulatnst	300	10	10	1	30,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**722,500.00**
Output 2.3. Implement the fertilizer and soil health capacity building programme						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Conduct needs assessment for 10 countries' agrodealers and hubs on technical, business, and safety	National Consultants	300	10	10	1	30,000.00
Develop training curricula tailored to ECCAS standards	Regional Consultants	650	1	5	1	3,250.00
Deliver training and awareness sessions to targeted groups	Regional consultancy	650	1	3	5	9,750.00
Convene ECCAS fertilizer trade fair for business networking	Regional workshop	1500	50	1	5	350,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**393,000.00**
Output 2.4. Conduct out-scaling of green ammonia fertilizers by fertilizer blenders in the Central African Republic and ECCAS region						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Conduct feasibility study on green ammonia production for fertilizer blending	Regional consultancy	500	1	40	1	20,000.00

Facilitate matchmaking through regional workshops and matching grants	Regional workshop	1500	5	2	4	60,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**80,000.00**
	-	-	-	**Total Project Fund**		**2,745,500.00**

PROJECT 2: Central African Republic Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme (CAR-BHAP)

OUTCOME 1: Assessment Reports on Existing Bioprotectants Registration and Commercialization in ECCAS Member States

Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Convene a regional inception workshop for all ECCAS Member States, to develop a roadmap for regional bioprotectant registration, harmonization and commercialization	Regional workshop	1000	40	2	1	80,000.00
Conduct assessment of bioprotectant regulatory frameworks	National, regional and international consultants	650	5	25	1	81,250.00
					Sub total(USD)	**161,250.00**

OUTCOME 2: Production of a synthetic report on regional regulatory framework for Bioprotetants registration						
Output 2.1. Developed a harmonized bioprotectant registration regulations for ECCAS member states						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Consultative technical workshops for the development of ECCAS Harmonised Bioprotectants regulations	National workshops	1500	50	2	1	150,000
Develop mutual recognition pillars and modalities on bioprotectant regulations – ECCAS Legal Drafting Committee	Regional consultants	650	7	25	1	113,750
Validation workshop of the ECCAS Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations	Regional workshop	1500	50	2	1	150,000
ECCAS Council of Ministers: Review and adoption of ECCAS Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations	Regional workshop	1500	50	2	1	150,000
					Sub total(USD)	**563,750.00**
OUTCOME 3: Strategic Implementation Plan for ECCAS Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations in Place						
Output 3.1: Strategic Implementation Plan Developed						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***

Development of implementation plan considering inputs from ECCAS member states	Regional consultants	650	7	25	1	113,750
Launch and sensitization of registration harmonization and commercialization regulations in ECCAS countries	National workshops	1500	25	1	21	787,500
					Sub total(USD)	**901,250.00**
				Total Project Funds (USD)		**1,522,500.00**

PROJECT 3: Central African Republic Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (CAR-BBIP)

Output 3.1.Establish and Institutionalize a regional Biosafety risk assessment mechanisms

Description	**Means**	**Unit Cost (USD)**	**Persons**	**Man Days / Months**	**Frequency**	**Total (USD)**
Technical review meeting to nominate Panel of Experts (PoE) members	Regional Workshop	1,500	30	1	1	45,000.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Review and update National Biosafety Authorities, including standardizing application forms and SOPs	Consultant	650	1	25	1	16,250.00
Establish and institutionalize a regional biosafety risk assessment mechanism through selection and support of CAR Regional Panel of Experts	Consultant	650	1	25	1	16,250.00
Induction training for PoE members including dossier review for specific products	Consultant	650	1	10	1	6,500.00
Subtotal Output 3.1						**84,000.00**

Output 3.2: Strengthen Biosafety Regulatory Capacity in Selected Member States

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Annual data collection in CAR for policy and product development updates	Consultant	650	1	20	1	13,000.00
Test regional risk assessment procedures through crop-specific case studies (import applications)	Consultant	650	1	20	2	26,000.00
Disseminate PoE case study opinions to selected stakeholders	Consultant	650	21	10	1	136,500.00
Strengthen biosafety capacity through CAR updates, case studies, and economic assessment meetings	Workshops	1,500	50	5	1	375,000.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Conduct economic assessment of regional harmonization using data transportability	Consultant	650	1	10	1	6,500.00
Subtotal Output 3.2						**557,000.00**

Output 3.3: Enhance Communication and Awareness of CAR Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Develop and validate a program-driven communication strategy	Consultant	650	1	20	1	13,000.00
Strengthen awareness of the CAR Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy	Consultant	650	1	20	1	13,000.00
Engage and build media/youth/women networks to promote biosafety policies	National Consultant	300	21	10	1	63,000.00
Document and publicize farmers' and traders' experiences with GM crops	Consultant	650	1	30	1	19,500.00
Conduct regional workshop and communication validation with lead stakeholders	Consultant	650	1	20	1	13,000.00
Organize annual regional biosafety and biotechnology meetings	Workshops	1,500	25	1	1	37,500.00
Report program progress to Ministers and CAR policy authorities	Consultant	650	1	15	1	9,750.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Subtotal Output 3.3						**168,750.00**

PROJECT 4: Central African Republic Seed Harmonisation and Cerification Programme (CAR-SHCP)

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Review and alignment of national seed legislation with ECCAS regional guidelines	Consultant	650	1	25	1	16,250.00
National stakeholder consultations to harmonise seed standards (seed certification, variety release, phytosanitary)	Workshops and Meetings	1,500	25	5	1	187,500.00
Training sessions for national and regional seed authorities (ECCAS)	Workshops and Meetings	1,500	25	3	2	225,000.00
Development of national seed certification manuals aligned to ECCAS guidelines	Consultant	650	1	25	1	16,250.00
Establishment of a national seed variety release committee	Consultant	650	1	50	1	32,500.00
Development and piloting of seed tracking and quality assurance systems	Consultant	650	1	60	1	39,000.00
ECCAS-level validation workshop and high-level policy meeting	Workshops and Meetings	1,500	80	3	1	180,000.00
Procurement of seed testing and certification equipment	Procuring	190,000	1	1	1	95,000.00
Procurement of ICT tools for digital seed traceability	Procuring	25,000	1	1	1	12,500.00
Total Project Funds (USD)						**803,000.00**

PROJECT 5: Central African Republic Horticulture Accelerator (CAR-HA)

OUTCOME 1: Facilitate Development of Sustainable and Resilient Value Chains

Output 5.1.1. Established Regional Platforms and Mechanisms for Coordination Among Value Chain Actors

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Facilitate Establishment of CAR HA National Chapters	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	5	187,500.00
Conduct CAR HA Stakeholders Mapping and Forums	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	5	187,500.00
Organise regional Workshops/Forums for Network Establishment	Workshop	1,500.00	30	1	1	45,000.00
Facilitate Establishment and Coordination of Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration	Workshop	10,000.00	1	1	1	10,000.00
Facilitate Workshops and Seminars at National Level (4 per ECCAS partner state)	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	4	150,000.00
Facilitate Public-Private Dialogue Workshops and Seminars at Regional Level	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	2	75,000.00
Enhance Resource Mobilisation Systems for CAR HA	Workshop	10,000.00	1	1	1	10,000.00
Establish Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations, and Strengthen Existing Ones	Workshop	10,000.00	1	1	1	10,000.00
SUBTOTAL (USD)						

Output 5.1.2. Trade Information, Data Management, and Instruments for Deepening Trade Agreements and Integration

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Integrate Digital Trading Systems via Platform	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Enhance Trade Information Portals for Prioritized Products and Corridors	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Develop Centralized Digital Platform for Market Data	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Engage IT Providers for Platform Development	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Train Stakeholders on Platform Use	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Establish Integrated Digital Trading System	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Convene Resource Mobilisation Platform (Public/Private/Donor)	Regional Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	1	37,500.00
Regional Assessment for Production Clusters	Regional Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
SUBTOTAL (USD)						**72,500.00**

Output 5.1.3. Support for Establishment/Improvement of Regional Production Clusters

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Identify Cluster Locations	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Capacity Building for Cooperatives & Aggregation Centres	Consultant	500.00	1	15	1	7,500.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Strengthen Market Linkages (Producers to Buyers)	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Investment in Shared Infrastructure & Logistics	Consultant	500.00	1	10	1	5,000.00
Needs Assessment for Youth/Women-led Enterprises	National Consultant	300.00	1	10	1	3,000.00
Technical Support to Cooperatives on Business Development	National Consultant	300.00	1	10	1	3,000.00
Link SMEs to Local/Regional/Global Markets	National Consultant	300.00	1	10	1	3,000.00
Connect Youth/Women Businesses to Large Buyers	National Consultant	300.00	1	10	1	3,000.00
SUBTOTAL (USD)						**34,500.00**

OUTCOME 2: Strengthen Research, Innovation, and Technology for Inputs and Extension Systems

Output 5.2.1. Reinforce the Extension System and Delivery

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Regional Workshops (Academia, Private Sector, Research)	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
Research on Climate-Smart Technologies	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support Access and Adoption of Climate-Smart Mechanization	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
Translate Validated Publications to Local Languages	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
Promote Genomic Technologies for Crop Breeding	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days / Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Establish Trial Farms in Different Agro-Ecological Zones	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
Engage Private Seed Companies via PPPs	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
Create Logistics Engagement Platform (Private Sector Focused)	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support Sustainability Standards (Voluntary Compliance)	Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
Develop Early Warning & Monitoring Systems (EWS)	National Consultant	300.00	1	15	5	22,500.00
Mapping and Assessment of Existing EWS	National Consultant	300.00	1	15	5	22,500.00
Establish New EWS for Climate Risk	National Consultant	300.00	1	15	5	22,500.00
Design Programme to Strengthen EWS (e.g., ECCAS Food Balance Sheet)	Regional Consultant	500.00	1	10	5	25,000.00
SUBTOTAL (USD)						**317,500.00**

Output 5.2.2. Improved post-Harvest management circulatory

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Advocate circularity by repurposing of agricultural waste into value by-products such as compost or bioenergy to reduce environmental impact and generate additional income streams	Consultant	1500	1	5	1	7,500.00
Develop and disseminate post-Harvest Handling Technologies	Consultant	1500	1	5	1	7,500.00
Support market systems linkages	Consultant	1500	1	5	1	7,500.00
Sub Total (USD)						**22,500.00**

Output 5.2.3. Support Implementation of ECCAS Food Safety Regulatory and Operational Framework initiated in key trade corridors

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Information awareness	Consultant	5000	1	5	5	125,000.00
Identify Key Trade corridors in the region	Consultant	750	1	5	5	18,750.00
Support consultancy to identify and address Food safety Gaps	Consultant	750	1	5	5	18,750.00
Sub Total (USD)						**162,500.00**

Output 5.2.4. Access to Finance across the value chain facilitated

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Strengthen working capital and bridging finance	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Improve the processing and handling infrastructure, primary and secondary packaging	Consultant	500	1	5	5	12,500.00
Support SMEs through matching Grants funds and agribusiness incubators (MGFIAM)	Funding seed	500,000	1	1	5	2,500,000.00
Advocate for targeted finance policy reform on the composition of the loan book	Consultant	500	1	1	5	2,500.00
Facilitate trade missions and partnerships to expand domestic, regional and international markets	Consultant	500	1	1	5	2,500.00
Targeted capacity building on creditworthiness, good record-keeping, and developing bankable proposals	Training	1,500	25	10	5	1,875,000.00
Sub Total (USD)						**4,417,500.00**

Output 5.2.5. Facilitating regional and international collaboration for Harmonisation of Trade standards and SPS Regulations

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Facilitate the reduction or elimination of formal and informal Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers	Consultant	500	1	5	5	25,000.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Support the harmonisation of regional food safety regulations, pesticides, and quality standards	Consultant	500	1	5	5	25,000.00
Develop simplified manuals and guides on compliance with SPS regulations and quality standards	Consultant	500	1	5	5	25,000.00
Support the establishment of Trade Experts Engagement Networks	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Consultancy services from Trade Policy Expert; SPS Expert, and SQI Expert	Regional Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Dissemination and communication services to facilitate information sharing	Regional Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Capacity building to VC actors within clusters on standards compliance	National Consultants	300	5	5	5	37,500.00
Translate and validate NTBs toolkit/factbook into regionally used languages	National Consultants	300	5	5	5	37,500.00
Selection and profiling of target border points via cross-border assessments	National Consultants	300	5	5	5	37,500.00
Regional stakeholder engagement for validation and dissemination of findings	Workshop	1,500	25	2	5	375,000.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Conduct Assessment of key phytosanitary risks affecting trade in plants and products	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Study on key pest risks of food security and trade concerns	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Develop pest risk management recommendations for plants and products	Regional Workshop	1,500	25	1	1	37,500.00
Support compliance with quality control and SPS standards	Regional Consultant	1,500	25	1	1	37,500.00
Sub Total (USD)						**760,000.00**

Output 5.2.6. Support development and validation of Central African Republic HA Cross-Cutting strategies/methodology and impact assessment informed by gender and youth analysis

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Develop a job creation strategy and data collection methodology and model, integrating gender and youth analysis	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support rollout of validated strategy and data collection on job creation across Member States, focusing on jobs for women and youth	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Capacity building of Central African Republic HA National Chapters on approved job creation methodology and market systems approach	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Support access to Job Creation and employment opportunities for Women/Youth through MGFIAM	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support development and validation of climate change strategy/methodology and impact assessment informed by gender and youth analysis	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support development and validation of ME&L strategy	Workshop	1,500	25	2	5	375,000.00
Support development and validation of Central African Republic HA marketing and information	Workshop	1,500	25	2	5	375,000.00
Sub Total (USD)						**875,000.00**

Central African Republic HA IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Hosting of the Central African Republic HA General Assembly		1,500	50	2	5	750,000.00
Central African Republic HA Board Meetings		1,500	5	1	4	30,000.00
Technical Committee Meetings		1,500	5	1	4	30,000.00
National Chapter Consultative Meetings		20,000	5	1	4	400,000.00
Support B2B Business Forums		1,500	5	1	4	30,000.00

Description	Means	Unit Cost (USD)	Persons	Man Days/Months	Frequency	Total (USD)
Project Visibility		20,000	1	1	1	10,000.00
Support to Private Business to improve and upscale Central African Republic HA Operations, inclusive of Smallholders		10,000	1	1	5	25,000.00
M&E (Baselines, data collection, project evaluations)		1,500	1	10	5	75,000.00
Communication		10,000	1	1	5	25,000.00
Host Forum on Gender/Youth and Climate Change		5,000	1	1	5	25,000.00
Support participation in the National Chapters forums		5,000	2	1	5	50,000.00
Mainstreaming activities (Environment, Climate Change, and Gender)		5,000	1	2	5	50,000.00
Sub Total (USD)						**1,450,000.00**

Total Project Funds: 8,787,000.00 USD

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERING PROGRAMME						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Description	**means**	Unit ***cost***	Persons	**Man *days / Months***	**Frequency**	**Total *(USD)***
Pre-study of ECHO implementation	Soil and Environmental Analysis	50 000			**4**	200 000
	Stakeholder Engagement Workshops	10 000			**10**	100 000
	Infrastructure Feasibility Study	150 000			**1**	150 000
	Policy Alignment Reviews	25 000			**2**	50 000
	Climate Risk Assessment	50 000			**1**	50 000
	Coordination and Overhead	1 750 000			**Fixed**	1 750 000
Total						**2 300 000**

Skills Training						
	Vocational Training (Climate-Smart Agriculture)	50 per participant	30 000			1 500 000
	Renewable Energy Training	1 000 per session			300 sessions	300 000
	Water Management Practices	1 500 per module			120 sessions	180 000
	Post-Harvest Management	750 per session			300 sessions	225 000
	Leadership Training	1 000 per program			250 programs	250 000
	Digital Literacy Programs	1 000 per session			75 sessions	750 000
	Coordination and Overhead	1 000 000			**Fixed**	1 000 000
Total						**4 205 000**
ECHO Deployment				**Aprox Capacity / T.C and p/day**		
	Solar generation	300 000		500 to 750 kWh capacity p/day	**8**	2 400 000

	Solar storage	155 000		1350 kWh capacity	**8**	1 240 000
	Water Purification Systems	480 000		1000 cubic meter p/day	**8**	3 840 000
	Water storage	190 000		1000 cubic meter p/day	**8**	1 520 000
	Hydrogen Production Electrolysers	375 000		500 kWh p/day = 240 kg Hydrogen p/day	**4**	1 500 000
	Hydrogen Storage	350 000		240 kg capacity	**4**	1 400 000
	Water Treatment Plant	370 000		250 cubic meters/day	**5**	1 850 000
	Installation and maintenance	145 000			**5 years**	725 000
Total						**14 475 000**
FlexSus and Research						
	Real-Time Monitoring sensors	5 000 per system			**25 systems**	125 000
	Data Analysis and Reporting tools	10 000 per tool			**25 tools**	250 000

	Training for Local Teams	5 000 per session			**20 sessions**	100 000
	Research and Development	2 250 000			**Fixed**	2 250 000
Total						**2 725 000**
GSIA: PPP Enhancement and connected Research	Compliance Framework Development	250 000			**1 program**	250 000
	ESG Criteria and Reporting Tools	5 000 per tool			**20 tools**	100 000
	Leasing of ECHO Model Setup	1 000 000			**Fixed**	1 000 000
	Training for Stakeholders	5 000 per session			**150**	750 000
	Risk Mitigation	25 000 per package			**5 packages**	125 000
	Administration and overhead	900 000			**Fixed**	900 000
Total						**3 125 000**
Merger of Programs	CAR HA, FAUP etc	500 000			1	500 000

UNDP/UNHCR		100 000			5	500 000
Total						**1 000 000**
				Total SDEP		**27,830,000.00**
				Program + SDEP Total		**42,463,000.00**

Mitigation

ENTERPRISE	NATURE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	SOURCES OR CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	EFFECTS
Crop and fruit production enterprises	Negative environmental impacts	i. Deforestation	- Clearing of marginal land to increase production areas, poor farming methods	- Focus on increased yields rather than additional land	- Loss of tree cover and biodiversity - Accelerating soil erosion - Enhancing climate change by removing trees as a carbon sink to reduce carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas
		ii. Land degradation	- Growing of crops and fruits as monocultures	- Promote multi-cropping and soil management	- Loss of soil fertility and soil biodiversity - Food diversification poor - Nutritional input low

ENTERPRISE	NATURE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	SOURCES OR CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	EFFECTS
		iii. Pollution of the environment	- Use of pesticides to achieve crop/fruit protection against pests and diseases - Crop/fruit processing wastes during value addition	- Support the use of organic fertiliser, biochar, parythm products, and other agro-ecological practices and products	- Loss of biodiversity - Crop and fruit produce contamination due to pesticide residues - Water, air and soil pollution - Poisoned food - Low nutrient value in crops
		iv. Pest resistance and build-up	- Excessive and improper use of agricultural pesticides	- See above - Build awareness of the danger and impact of synthetic pesticides to human health	- Increased economic cost of production and reduced enterprise profitability - Spread of crop diseases to other areas - Poor nutritional value of food crops
		v. Waterlogging and Salinity	- Irrigated production systems	- Utilisation of improved technologies such as drip irrigation	- Loss of land productivity - Low crop yield and stunted growths - Poor quality of produce

ENTERPRISE	NATURE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	SOURCES OR CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	EFFECTS
				- Integration of solar water pumps	- Limited cultivating times and options
All enterprises	Negative social impacts	i. Water scarcity	- High water demand and abstraction rates for aquaculture, livestock, crop and fruit production	- The Project will work with other projects focusing on water and watershed management practices - Technologies that require less water will be favoured including fruit tree varieties, which are more adaptable to local conditions	- Increases costs and time to access water for non-agricultural uses - Depleting water level - Scarcity of water availability throughout the year
		ii. Poor human health	- Fertiliser and Pesticide exposure during application	- Sustainable agricultural practices including climate and environmentally smart	- Morbidity, loss of human life and increased healthcare costs - Labour constraints due to poisoning - Lack of Awareness of danger to human health

ENTERPRISE	NATURE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	SOURCES OR CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	EFFECTS
			- Consumption of food products with fertiliser and pesticide residues	agriculture will be part of all agronomic training	
		i. Social disturbances	- Improved household income	- Gender awareness, education, and communications including Dimitra Clubs and Household Approaches will be delivered across the Project	- Migration - Increase in gender-based violence - Creation of islands of wealth within a region - Breaking up of social systems due to competition
		ii. Labour constraints	- Increased demand for labour	- Training and technical assistance provided by the prospective employers as,	- Shortage of labour

ENTERPRISE	NATURE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	SOURCES OR CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	EFFECTS
				supported by the Project	
		iii. Spread of communicable diseases including HIV	- Increased social interaction due to increased household incomes - Increased access to diversified food	- Community education - Awareness campaigns on the impact of nutrition	- Poor human health (morbidity) - Rise in 1st world illnesses - Weakened immune system

SECTION 4 – IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The CAR-SFPSEI CEO shall be the budget holder and oversee operational, financial, and management aspects of the programme. The programme will employ a team of technical and operational experts to steer the programme into fruition. The flagship programme contains five distinct areas of agricultural development.

The Central African Republic programmes will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture or relevant ministry in close cooperation and coordination with the ECCAS Secretariat, with oversight responsibility for the targeted countries' governments. Regular technical support will be provided by other divisions of ECCAS, including Statistics, Gender, Climate Change. As an agricultural development programme built along with the geo-clustering of value chain, the programme may also work with sector-wide and value chain umbrella bodies such as relevant Central African Republic equivalents of SACAU, EAFF, and AFSTA, along with AUDA NEPAD, and the Secretariat of AFCTA, as well as regional producer and processor associations. These organizations may be replaced or extended with others.

As described in section 1.4.3 above, a Programme Steering Committee (PSC) or the CAR-SFPSEI covering the three components will be established by the Central African Republic Ministry of Agriculture, with participation from relevant governments, AfDB and EUSL senior officials, among others. The PSC will serve as the overall “Flagship Programme’s” oversight body for all projects under it, responsible for providing strategic direction, general policy guidance, and for approving annual budgets, work plans, and progress reports for each of them. The actual mandate and membership will be determined during the inception phase in coordination with the other Flagship Programme components. In principle, the PSC shall meet semi-annually, or more often if warranted, to review progress and performance of the various Flagship Programme components.

A Programme Implementation Unit (PIU), comprised of CAR-SFPSEI Project staff at the ECCAS Secretariat, will be established under the Flagship Programme to support the PTC and PSC to ensure efficient and effective implementation and coordination of all technical aspects of the projects, led by the CAR-SFPSEI CEO or equivalent. The PIU will be responsible for the day-to-day oversight and management of the project to ensure coherence, alignment, achievement of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and delivery of annual work plans. The PIU will meet regularly as needed. In principle, its membership will comprise project implementation staff, drawn from each country, along with representation from select Central African Republic and ECCAS divisions and units. More specifically, the PIU at the Secretariat will comprise an Agriculture Inputs Specialist, Legal and Grants Management Specialist, Organizational Development and Capacity Building Specialist, Administrative Assistant, and a Plant Protection and Biotechnology Specialist (see Annex 10 for job descriptions for key staff).

Environmental and Social Screening form

PART A: General information

GENERAL PROJECT INFORMATION	
Project Name	
Estimated Cost (K)	
Project Site	
Funding Agency	

Project Objectives	
Proposed Main Project Activities	
Name of Evaluator/s	
Date of Field Appraisal	

PART B: Brief description of the proposed activities

Central African Republic and ECCAS Region's total hectarage of farming that is attributable to Smallholder stands at hundreds of thousands of Square meters. For the CAR-SFPSEI project we envisage half of the available land mass to be impact by this project. A number of agriculture production activities will take place during the implementation phase. Activities such as putting up Irrigation structures which including solar panel, irrigation pipes and other water system will entail clearing and levelling the land to the accepted levels hence a lot of trees will be cut to accommodate the changes. Other notable areas will be the construction of productive assets to spurn economic growth in the area which include construction of warehouses and other value addition centers. The construction as well as acquisition of these productive assets will have an impact on the environment therefore every beneficiary of the project will design their own environmental mitigating measures before development of the production assets. A detailed action plan will have to be developed containing the mitigating measures for any environmental impacts according to the laws and regulations of that particular country.

PART C: Environmental and social baseline information of the site brief description

Category of Baseline Information	Brief Description
Geographical location **X Name of the Area (Name of the FO, District, T/A, Village)** **X Proposed location of the project (Include a site map of at least 1:10,000 scale / or coordinates from GPS)**	
Land resources **X Topography and Geology of the area** **X Soils of the area** **X Main land uses and economic activities**	
Water Resources **X Surface water resources (e.g. rivers, lakes, etc.) quantity and quality** **X Groundwater resources quantity and quality**	
Biological resources	

Category of Baseline Information	Brief Description
✗ **Flora (include threatened/ endangered/ endemic species)** ✗ **Fauna (include threatened/ endangered/ endemic species)** ✗ **Sensitive habitats including protected areas e.g. national parks and forest reserves**	
Climate - This is needed in flood-prone regions ✗ **Temperature** ✗ **Rainfall**	
Social ✗ **Number of people potentially impacted** ✗ **Type and magnitude of impacts (i.e. impact on land, structures, crops, the standard of living)** ✗ **Socio-economic overview of persons impacted**	

PART D: Environmental and social screening form

NO	AREAS OF IMPACT			IMPACTS EVALUATION						POTENTIAL MITIGATION MEASURES
1.0	Is this sub-project site within and/or will it affect the following environmentally sensitive areas?			Extent or coverage (on-site, within 3-5km or beyond 5km)			Significance (Low, Medium, High)			
		Yes	No	On-site	Within 3-5 km	Beyond 5 km	Low	Medium	High	
1.1	Sensitive habitats ✗ National Parks and Game Reserve, ✗ Wet-lands; ✗ Areas with rare or endangered flora or fauna									

	✗ Areas with outstanding scenery/tourist site									
1.2	Productive traditional agricultural /grazing lands									
1.3	Within steep slopes/mountains with potential for erosion									
1.4	Dry tropical forests such as Brachystegia species									
1.5	Along lakes, along beaches, riverine									
1.6	Near industrial activities									
1.7	Near human settlements									
1.8	Near cultural heritage sites									
2.0 Screening Criteria for Impacts during Implementation and Operation										
Will the implementation and operation of the activity within the selected site generate the following externalities/ costs/impacts?										
2.1	Deforestation									
2.2	Soil erosion and siltation									
2.3	Siltation of watercourses									
2.4	Environmental degradation arising from obtaining construction materials									

2.5	Damage of wildlife species and habitat									
	Hazardous wastes, Asbestos, PCB's, pollution from unspent PV batteries									
	Nuisance - smell or noise									
	Incidence of flooding									
3.0 Screening Criteria for Social and Economic Impacts										
Will the construction of classrooms within the selected site generate the following socioeconomic costs/impacts?										
3.1	Loss of land/land acquisition for human settlement, farming, grazing									
3.2	Loss of assets, property, houses									
3.3	Loss of livelihood									
3.4	Require a RAP									
3.5	Loss of cultural sites, graveyards, monuments									
3.6	Loss of income-generating Capacity									
3.7	Consultation (comments from Beneficiaries)									

PART E: Overall evaluation of screening excercises

The results of the screening process of the proposed activity would be either exempted or subjected to further environmental and resettlement assessments. The basis of these options is listed in the table below:

Review of Environmental Screening (OP 4.01)	**Tick**	**Review of Resettlement Screening (OP 4.12)**	**Tick**
1. The project is cleared. No serious impacts. (When all scores are "No" in form)		1. The project is cleared. No serious social impact. (Where scores are all "No", or "few" in form)	
2. There is a need for further assessment. (when some scores are "Yes, High" in form)		2. There is a need for resettlement/compensation. (When some scores are "Yes, High" in the form)	
Endorsement by the Environmental Country Officer		Endorsement by the Director of Planning and Development	
Name:		Name:	
Signature: Date:		Signature: Date:	

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL MANAGEMENT MONITORING PLAN

No	**Project activity**	**Expected impacts**	**Proposed mitigations/ mitigation activities**	**Indicators**	**Target**	**Responsibility for Implementation**	**Estimated Cost**

STAFF REQUIREMENTS

NEW CAR-SFPSEI STAFF

Senior Inputs and Biotechnology Officer (SIB Officer)

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (M&E Officer)

Legal and Contracts Officer (GD Officer)

Senior Administrative and Human Resource Officer (SAHR Officer)

EUSL CAR-SFPSEI STAFF

Programme Development Manager

FlexSus and Technical Manager

Visual Design Manager

Implementation Manager