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South Africa Staple Food Programme:

SDEP and ECHO Implementation

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Project Title:	**South Africa Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SAFPS-EI)**
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South Africa Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation
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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
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 Organizations
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 Organization
RVCs	Regional Value Chains.
SA-BBIP	South Africa Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme
SA-BHAP	South Africa Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme
SA-FAUP	South Africa Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme
SA-HA	South Africa Horticulture Accelerator
SA-SHCP	South Africa Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme
SAFPS-EI	South Africa Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation
SDEP	Social Development and Empowering Programme
SFPSEI	Staple Food Programme, including SDEP and ECHO
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Africa Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SAFPS-EI) is a comprehensive strategic initiative designed to accelerate agricultural productivity, enhance food security, and expand South Africa's role in intra-African trade under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). The programme aligns with South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP 2030) and Agricultural and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) while integrating the Agenda for Social Equity 2074 (ASE 2074) and the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP) under the European Social Label (EUSL).

Drawing from successful agricultural transformation efforts within COMESA and leveraging South Africa's strategic position as a key player in regional trade, the SAFPS-EI aims to modernize South Africa's agricultural sector through targeted interventions in bioprotectants, biotechnology, fertilizers, seed systems, and horticulture, complemented by technological infrastructure and vocational training. These efforts will contribute to the country's climate resilience, agricultural commercialization, and economic diversification in alignment with national, regional, and continental priorities.

Programme Structure

The SAFPS-EI consists of seven specialized programmes, each addressing critical aspects of agricultural development while drawing from successful regional models:

1. **South Africa Bioprotectants Harmonisation Programme (SA-BHAP)** – Facilitating the harmonization and adoption of bioprotectant standards to support environmentally friendly pest and disease management strategies. Based on COMESA's COMBIHAP, this programme seeks to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides and promote climate-smart agriculture through bioprotectants and integrated pest management (IPM) systems.

2. **South Africa Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (SA-BBIP)** – Enhancing biosafety regulation and promoting the safe use of biotechnology to improve crop resilience, productivity, and climate adaptation. This initiative aligns with global biosafety frameworks and takes reference from COMESA's COMBIP to ensure regulatory compliance, public engagement, and increased access to genetically improved crop varieties.

3. **South Africa Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (SA-FAUP)** – Strengthening fertilizer production, distribution, and soil health management to improve agricultural productivity. Modeled on COMFREP, this programme focuses on localized fertilizer blending, soil mapping, and balanced nutrient application strategies to enhance efficiency and reduce environmental impact.

4. **South Africa Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme (SA-SHCP)** – Developing a nationally coordinated seed certification system to ensure consistent quality, traceability, and availability of high-performance seeds. Given the absence of an equivalent to COMSHIP in South Africa, this programme proposes the establishment of a national seed harmonization framework that facilitates trade, supports smallholder farmers, and ensures food system resilience.

5. **South Africa Horticulture Accelerator (SA-HA)** – Advancing South Africa's horticulture sector by improving productivity, market access, and export competitiveness. Modeled after CEHA, this programme enhances post-harvest handling, logistics, and climate-resilient production while facilitating regional trade integration under AfCFTA and SADC frameworks.

6. **Technology Implementation and Infrastructure Support (SDEP Tech)** – Leveraging ECHO, a modular infrastructure platform, to integrate renewable energy, water management systems, digital agriculture solutions, and smart logistics for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.
7. **Vocational Training and Capacity Building (SDEP VTCB)** – Strengthening technical and vocational education (TVET) in agriculture, agribusiness, climate adaptation, and supply chain management. This programme supports skills development, innovation, and leadership training to ensure long-term workforce development in South Africa's agricultural sector.

Strategic Components

The success of **SAFPS-EI** will be anchored on three interlinked components:

1. **Natural Resource Management** – Promoting climate-smart agriculture, enhancing soil and water management practices, and integrating sustainability measures for long-term food system resilience.
2. **Market and Financial Integration** – Facilitating the integration of smallholder farmers and agribusinesses into local, regional, and international markets by ensuring access to affordable finance, investment, and credit mechanisms.
3. **Agricultural Policy Harmonization** – Aligning national agricultural policies with regional and global best practices, including those under AfCFTA, SADC, and COMESA, to create an efficient and competitive agricultural sector.

Policy Development and Alignment

SAFPS-EI places a strong emphasis on policy coherence and regulatory alignment to support investment and trade in South Africa's agricultural sector. The initiative will focus on:

- Developing national seed, fertilizer, and biosafety regulations aligned with international and regional standards.
- Strengthening institutional capacity for policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring in the agricultural sector.
- Ensuring compliance with sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations and global quality control standards.

By implementing these strategic measures, SAFPS-EI seeks to unlock South Africa's full agricultural potential, drive economic transformation, and ensure food security in the face of climate change.

Key Focus Areas

The programme's implementation will be driven by:

- Policy and regulatory reforms to create an investment-friendly agricultural environment.
- Capacity-building initiatives, including training, mentorship, and cooperative development for farmers and SMEs.
- Technology adoption and mechanization to modernize agricultural production systems.
- Climate-smart agricultural practices to improve resilience and sustainability.
- Gender empowerment and youth inclusion in the agricultural value chain.

Implementation Approaches

To achieve its objectives, SAFPS-EI will adopt the following approaches:

- Country-led efforts – Aligning with South Africa's national agricultural strategies, the Agricultural and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP), and the African Union's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) – Leveraging private sector investments in agricultural infrastructure, value chains, and market expansion.
- Regional trade facilitation – Strengthening South Africa's participation in AfCFTA and SADC-led trade initiatives while drawing from COMESA's market-oriented agricultural models.
- Research and Innovation – Utilizing data-driven decision-making platforms such as FlexSus to enhance agricultural planning and climate adaptation.

Strategic Alignment

The SAFPS-EI aligns with South Africa's National Development Plan (NDP 2030) and the Agricultural and Agro-processing Master Plan (AAMP) through the following measures:

- Enhancing productivity of staple crops by improving access to high-quality inputs, fertilizers, and mechanization.
- Supporting smallholder farmers in accessing national, regional, and international markets through standardized quality control systems and market linkages.
- Developing sustainable and climate-smart food systems by integrating renewable energy, water resource management, and waste recycling through the ECHO modular infrastructure platform.

By leveraging insights from COMESA's ACTESA Staple Food Programme, SAFPS-EI aims to position South Africa as a leader in regional agricultural trade, fostering economic resilience and sustainable food security.

Stakeholders

The primary stakeholders for **SAFPS-EI** may include:

- **Government Entities**: Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development (DALRRD), Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (DTIC), Department of Economic Development (DED), and National Treasury.
- **Development Partners**: African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), and regional trade bodies.
- **Private Sector and Industry Bodies**: Agribusiness associations, seed companies, input suppliers, cooperatives, and financial institutions.
- **Research and Academia**: Universities, agricultural research institutions, and climate resilience programs.
- **Civil Society and NGOs**: Organizations working on food security, climate adaptation, and rural development.

Key Focus Areas for SAFPS-EI

Building on successful regional models and leveraging South Africa's strategic position in SADC and AfCFTA, the South Africa Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SAFPS-EI) will focus on:

- Developing national agricultural policies aligned with best practices from regional economic communities (RECs) such as SADC, AfCFTA, and COMESA, ensuring cohesive and market-driven agricultural governance.
- Promoting agricultural investments to enhance productivity, mechanization, and value chain development, particularly for smallholder farmers and agribusinesses.
- Strengthening trade in agricultural commodities by fostering competitive production, improving logistics, and enhancing market integration within regional and global supply chains.
- Encouraging private sector participation by expanding public-private partnerships (PPPs) and establishing investment-friendly policies that support agricultural innovation, infrastructure, and financial access.

By prioritizing these key focus areas, the SAFPS-EI aims to transform South Africa's agricultural sector into a climate-resilient, high-value, and globally competitive industry, driving socio-economic development and sustainable food security.

Targets and Goals

The SAFPS-EI aims to achieve a 10% annual growth rate in intra-African agricultural trade over the next decade, positioning South Africa as a regional agricultural hub under AfCFTA and SADC frameworks. The programme will focus on key strategic commodities that align with South Africa's agricultural strengths and market priorities.

Key Focus Commodities

- **Staple Crops**: Maize, wheat, sorghum, soybeans, dry beans, sunflower.
- **High-Value Crops**: Citrus fruits, table grapes, avocados, macadamia nuts, apples, stone fruits, berries.
- **Livestock and Fisheries**: Poultry, beef, dairy, aquaculture (tilapia, trout, marine species).

Productivity Improvements

To enhance efficiency, sustainability, and competitiveness, SAFPS-EI will focus on:

- Doubling fertilizer and improved seed utilization through better access, affordability, and extension services, leading to higher yields and soil health restoration.
- Expanding small-scale irrigation coverage from the current 7-10% to over 30% by 2035, enabling climate-resilient agricultural production.
- Enhancing market access and integration, linking South African producers with regional and international buyers, improving trade efficiency, logistics, and value chain coordination.

By implementing these strategic targets, the SAFPS-EI will strengthen South Africa's agricultural sector, ensuring sustainable economic growth, job creation, and food system resilience in the coming decades.

Contextual Overview

Agricultural Landscape in South Africa

South Africa's agricultural sector is a crucial pillar of the economy, contributing approximately 2.5% of GDP while supporting millions of livelihoods through commercial farming, agribusiness, and subsistence agriculture. The country boasts diverse agro-ecological zones, allowing for the cultivation of a wide range of crops and livestock production. However, despite strong commercial agricultural performance, significant challenges persist, particularly in ensuring smallholder farmer participation, value chain development, and climate resilience.

While South Africa is a net food exporter, disparities exist between commercial agribusinesses and smallholder farmers, many of whom lack access to quality inputs, financing, and structured markets. Additionally, land degradation, climate change, and policy inconsistencies pose challenges to long-term sustainability and competitiveness. To enhance food security, economic diversification, and agricultural trade, South Africa must accelerate investment in agri-processing, mechanization, and climate-resilient farming.

Key Challenges Addressed by SAFPS-EI

The South Africa Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SAFPS-EI) seeks to address the following pressing challenges:

- **Low Productivity**: Limited access to climate-smart farming techniques, high-quality inputs, and modern mechanization affects yields.
- **Market Fragmentation**: Weak integration of smallholder farmers into commercial value chains, insufficient post-harvest infrastructure, and inefficient logistics hinder market access.
- **Policy and Regulatory Barriers**: Inconsistent agricultural policies, trade regulations, and fragmented support programs slow investment and innovation in the sector.
- **Climate and Environmental Vulnerability**: Extreme weather events, declining soil health, and water scarcity threaten long-term sustainability.

SAFPS-EI aims to bridge the gap between commercial agribusinesses and smallholder farmers, ensuring that policy reforms, technology, and investment strategies support inclusive, resilient, and high-value agricultural growth.

Regional Integration and Lessons from COMESA

South Africa is not a member of COMESA, but it plays a leading role in SADC and AfCFTA, serving as a key player in intra-African agricultural trade. While SAFPS-EI aligns with South Africa’s unique agricultural landscape, it also draws valuable insights from COMESA’s ACTESA model, which has successfully facilitated:

- Harmonized agricultural trade policies to reduce trade barriers and enhance market access.
- Seed system reforms (COMSHIP) and fertilizer harmonization initiatives (COMFREP) to improve input access and productivity.
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to drive innovation and investment in agriculture.

Leveraging these lessons, SAFPS-EI will integrate best practices from COMESA, SADC, and AfCFTA, ensuring that South Africa's agricultural sector remains competitive, resilient, and well-positioned for global trade.

Mandate and Focus of SAFPS-EI in South Africa

SAFPS-EI is designed to align with South Africa's national agricultural strategies, drawing upon proven regional frameworks to enhance food production, market development, and climate resilience. Key focus areas include:

- **Staple Crop and Market Expansion:** Strengthening grain, oilseed, and horticultural production to meet domestic and export demand.
- **Seed and Input Systems:** Establishing a national seed harmonization framework to enhance seed quality, accessibility, and trade compliance.
- **Livestock and Fisheries Development:** Improving rural livestock production, feed systems, and sustainable aquaculture.
- **Value Chain Development:** Strengthening agricultural processing, logistics infrastructure, and trade networks.

By implementing targeted interventions, SAFPS-EI will contribute to policy harmonization, investment facilitation, and sustainable agricultural transformation, ensuring that South Africa remains a leading agricultural powerhouse in the region.

Strategic Role of SAFPS-EI

SAFPS-EI will function as a coordinated national initiative with a clear mandate to:

1. **Strengthen Agricultural Policy Development** – Aligning national policies with continental frameworks such as AfCFTA, CAADP, and Agenda 2063.
2. **Enhance Investment and Trade Facilitation** – Creating a more structured agricultural market, encouraging private sector investment, and expanding access to capital for agribusinesses.
3. **Promote Research, Innovation, and Capacity Building** – Utilizing FlexSus data tools, university-led agricultural research, and best practices to drive scientific decision-making and technological adoption.

Current Focus Areas

SAFPS-EI will prioritize the following areas to drive long-term transformation in South Africa's agricultural sector:

1. **Policy Harmonization** – Developing regulatory frameworks that align with regional best practices, reducing barriers to intra-African agricultural trade.
2. **Investment Promotion** – Creating incentives for agribusiness investment, particularly in mechanization, processing, and high-value exports.
3. **Trade Facilitation** – Improving South Africa's agricultural trade competitiveness through market integration, logistics efficiency, and cross-border trade mechanisms.
4. **Sector-Specific Interventions** – Supporting climate-smart farming, livestock improvement programs, seed system reform, and fertilizer accessibility.

Through these interventions, SAFPS-EI aims to position South Africa as a key player in the regional and global agricultural economy, ensuring food security, economic growth, and resilience in alignment with national and continental development goals.

Partnership with European Social Label (EUSL)

The South Africa Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SAFPS-EI) is reinforced by a strategic partnership with the European Social Label (EUSL), an organization committed to advancing socio-economic sustainability through public-private collaboration.

Recognizing the urgent need for sustainable agricultural transformation, EUSL brings an impact-driven approach that ensures economic viability, environmental responsibility, and social inclusivity. Through this partnership, SAFPS-EI integrates the Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP)—a model designed to align public-sector needs with private-sector solutions, fostering long-term, scalable agricultural reform.

SDEP has already demonstrated success in regional and international development programs, drawing interest from:

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**
- **Research institutions and universities**
- **Private-sector leaders in agribusiness, technology, and infrastructure**

By leveraging these networks, SAFPS-EI will facilitate policy reform, infrastructure deployment, and economic empowerment, ensuring that South Africa's agricultural sector remains globally competitive while meeting local food security and sustainability targets.

Key Components of SDEP

Modular Infrastructure Platform (ECHO)

At the core of SAFPS-EI's infrastructure strategy lies ECHO, a modular, scalable system designed to provide essential services such as renewable energy, water management, waste recycling, and digital connectivity.

By integrating ECHO modules into South Africa's agricultural hubs, SAFPS-EI aims to eliminate critical infrastructure bottlenecks that hinder productivity, processing, and trade. Drawing inspiration from regional trade-enabling infrastructure initiatives, this approach ensures that rural agricultural communities are equipped with the necessary tools to support commercial-scale production, efficient logistics, and expanded market access.

Beyond its direct implementation, ECHO serves as a research and policy development platform, allowing stakeholders to measure, adapt, and optimize agricultural systems for sustainability, resilience, and efficiency. By leveraging real-time data and monitoring, ECHO ensures that South Africa's agricultural sector remains agile, responsive, and competitive on a global scale.

Research, Data, and Climate Resilience

The advancement of climate-smart agriculture and data-driven policy is a core pillar of SAFPS-EI, supported by FlexSus, a decision-making system developed by leading universities to assess climate impact, resource allocation, and sustainability strategies.

By leveraging satellite imagery, soil analysis, and harvest data, SAFPS-EI will facilitate real-time agricultural monitoring, enabling:

- More precise adaptation strategies to increase yields and mitigate climate risks.
- Preemptive climate action through early-warning systems and policy interventions.
- Sustainable land-use planning, ensuring long-term environmental conservation and soil regeneration.

Further reinforcing South Africa's digital and economic inclusion agenda, SAFPS-EI will incorporate a community-driven broadband initiative, aimed at enhancing connectivity for rural farmers. By providing access to real-time market data, financial services, and agricultural advisory platforms, this initiative will foster trade efficiency, economic empowerment, and rural entrepreneurship.

These investments in digital agriculture and data analytics will position South Africa as a leader in precision farming, climate adaptation, and agricultural intelligence, ensuring long-term resilience and competitiveness.

Vocational Training and Capacity Building

SAFPS-EI recognizes that true agricultural transformation requires a skilled and empowered workforce. Through targeted training and education programs, SAFPS-EI will equip:

- Smallholder farmers and agribusinesses with the knowledge to adopt modern techniques, mechanization, and sustainable practices.
- Regulators and policymakers with the skills to develop and implement progressive agricultural policies that support trade, investment, and food security.
- Public-sector professionals with enhanced leadership, governance, and management capabilities to ensure efficient agricultural administration.

A key aspect of this initiative is the integration of PhD and Master's students into community-based training programs, ensuring that academic expertise is directly transferred to the field. This model not only supports rural development but also creates a pipeline for future agricultural leaders in South Africa.

By embedding research-driven training within the agricultural sector, SAFPS-EI will bridge the knowledge gap, enhance productivity, and ensure sustainable skills development across the entire agricultural value chain.

Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA) and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)

As a catalyst for investment and innovation, the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA)—a sister organization to EUSL—facilitates PPP-driven agricultural infrastructure projects. Through GSIA, SAFPS-EI will:

- Expand access to high-quality agricultural inputs by financing seed certification laboratories, fertilizer hubs, and bioprotectant distribution centers.
- Attract private-sector investment to build processing facilities, storage solutions, and logistics networks, ensuring that South Africa's farmers are connected to regional and international markets.

- Align national and regional trade policies, supporting the establishment of a structured seed harmonization framework to streamline South Africa's agricultural value chain.

By leveraging GSIA's structured financing mechanisms, SAFPS-EI ensures that agricultural development is not reliant on fragmented funding streams, but is instead rooted in long-term, scalable economic models.

Strategic Goals and Alignment

Through a combination of technological innovation, infrastructure development, and policy reform, SAFPS-EI is committed to:

- Promoting a circular economy, integrating waste-to-energy models, regenerative agriculture, and sustainable resource management.
- Building resilient, self-sustaining agricultural communities, ensuring that South Africa's rural economy thrives beyond donor interventions.
- Enhancing South Africa's role in intra-African trade, aligning with AfCFTA, SADC, and continental development priorities.

By pursuing these strategic goals, SAFPS-EI will establish South Africa as a leader in climate-smart agriculture, value-added processing, and high-impact agricultural investment, creating a resilient, inclusive, and competitive sector that empowers farmers, strengthens food security, and drives economic growth.

RATIONALE

The rationale behind SAFPS-EI is rooted in the necessity to transform South Africa's agricultural sector into a highly productive, resilient, and economically viable industry. Similar to regional agricultural transformation models, this initiative operates on three fundamental principles:

1. Restoring and Preserving Natural Capital – By implementing sustainable agricultural practices, climate adaptation strategies, and regenerative land management, SAFPS-EI ensures that South Africa's agricultural sector remains resilient in the face of environmental change.
2. Creating an Inclusive and Enabling Environment – Smallholder farmers and agribusiness operators will be empowered through financial inclusion, policy reform, and market integration, allowing them to compete effectively in regional and international markets.
3. Expanding Access to Market and Financial Opportunities – SAFPS-EI removes trade barriers, fosters private-sector investment, and modernizes agricultural infrastructure, ensuring that South Africa remains a leader in Africa's agri-food trade.

With agriculture positioned as a key driver of South Africa's economic transformation, SAFPS-EI presents a timely opportunity to:

- Scale up agricultural productivity through technology, mechanization, and innovative financial models.
- Strengthen South Africa's trade competitiveness by investing in logistics, value chains, and processing capacity.

- Ensure food security and climate resilience, creating a future-proof agricultural system that delivers both economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.

By fostering regional collaboration, research-driven policy, and cross-sector partnerships, SAFPS-EI positions South Africa as a dynamic and competitive force in Africa's agricultural economy—one that is innovative, inclusive, and globally relevant.

Merging Programmes Under SDEP for Greater Impact

To maximize impact and efficiency, the South Africa Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SAFPS-EI) will integrate five key agricultural programs under a unified Sustainable Development and Research Implementation Framework. This strategic consolidation follows proven regional models, ensuring that while each program retains its distinct objectives, they collectively align with SAFPS-EI's overarching goals of enhancing agricultural productivity, facilitating trade, and promoting research-driven, sustainable solutions.

Recognizing the need for structured bioprotectant, biotechnology, fertilizer, seed harmonization, and horticultural acceleration programs in South Africa, EUSL will take the lead in developing and implementing these initiatives in alignment with best practices from regional economic frameworks.

The integration of these programs within **SAFPS-EI** will be structured around the following interventions:

1. South Africa Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme (SA-BHAP)

(Adapted from COMBIHAP – COMESA Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme)

The adoption of bioprotectants and organic inputs is a critical component of South Africa's transition to climate-smart agriculture. The SA-BHAP initiative will:

- Develop a national regulatory framework for sustainable, organic bioprotectants, including biopesticides and biofertilizers, ensuring safe and efficient distribution.
- Facilitate cross-border trade in bioproducts through harmonized standards, allowing South Africa to integrate into regional agricultural trade systems.
- Promote agroecological farming by reducing dependency on chemical inputs, improving soil health, and fostering environmentally responsible production methods.

EUSL, through SDEP and GSIA, will establish pilot programs to demonstrate the efficacy and scalability of bioprotectants in South Africa's diverse agro-climatic zones.

2. South Africa Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (SA-BBIP)

(Adapted from COMBIP – COMESA Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme)

Biotechnology has the potential to enhance crop resilience, increase yields, and improve food security in South Africa. Given the lack of a structured biosafety framework, SA-BBIP will:

- Develop and standardize biosafety regulations for biotechnology applications, ensuring alignment with international best practices.
- Facilitate research and safe deployment of biotechnology innovations, including drought-resistant, high-yield crop varieties.

- Strengthen South Africa's capacity to regulate, monitor, and control the use of biotechnology in agriculture and food production.

Through SAFPS-EI, EUSL will support South Africa in establishing a national biosafety authority that enables responsible innovation and market integration while protecting public health and environmental sustainability.

3. South Africa Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (SA-FAUP)

(Adapted from COMFREP – COMESA Fertilizer Regional Programme)

The lack of affordable and high-quality fertilizers remains a major constraint to South Africa's agricultural productivity. SA-FAUP will:

- Expand access to quality fertilizers, including customized blends suited to local soil conditions.
- Develop a regulatory framework to standardize fertilizer quality, pricing, and market transparency.
- Strengthen fertilizer distribution networks, improving supply-chain efficiency and affordability for smallholder farmers.

EUSL, through SDEP and GSIA, will facilitate public-private partnerships (PPPs) to establish localized fertilizer blending plants and logistics hubs, ensuring that farmers have consistent access to soil-nutrient solutions.

4. South Africa Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme (SA-SHCP)

(Adapted from COMSHIP – COMESA Seed Harmonization Implementation Programme)

Seed availability and quality are fundamental to South Africa's agricultural transformation. However, the country currently lacks a harmonized seed certification and distribution system. SA-SHCP will:

- Develop a national seed certification framework, ensuring that farmers have access to certified, high-quality seeds.
- Harmonize seed trade regulations to enable the cross-border movement of improved seed varieties, supporting regional market integration.
- Establish seed research and multiplication centers, ensuring a sustainable supply of climate-adaptive crops.

Given the success of COMSHIP in standardizing seed markets, SAFPS-EI will advocate for South Africa to establish a similar national system, with EUSL leading policy design, capacity building, and investment mobilization.

5. South Africa Horticulture Accelerator (SA-HA)

(Adapted from CEHA – COMESA-EAC Horticultural Accelerator)

Horticulture has the potential to become a key driver of rural income growth and export diversification in South Africa. However, the sector is currently constrained by post-harvest losses, inefficient supply chains, and a lack of market access. SA-HA will:

- Develop infrastructure for post-harvest handling, cold storage, and logistics, reducing wastage and improving market efficiency.

- Facilitate trade in high-value horticultural crops, such as avocados, onions, Irish potatoes, and citrus fruits, ensuring that South African farmers tap into lucrative export markets.
- Promote climate resilience in horticulture, supporting precision irrigation, protected cropping, and sustainable pest management.

Through SDEP and GSIA, EUSL will drive investment in horticultural processing, storage, and transport infrastructure, ensuring that South Africa's horticulture sector becomes competitive in regional and international markets.

Centralized Governance for Unified Progress

The consolidation of these programs under SAFPS-EI offers a coherent, structured approach to South Africa's agricultural modernization. This integration will:

- Centralize governance, infrastructure, and operational support, ensuring greater program effectiveness.
- Align policy harmonization, market facilitation, and infrastructure development with regional economic standards and global trade frameworks.
- Maximize the potential of each initiative while fostering opportunities for regional and international collaboration.

By leveraging ECHO's modular solutions and FlexSus' data-driven decision-making capabilities, SAFPS-EI ensures that South Africa's agricultural transformation is built on resilience, efficiency, and sustainability.

PROGRAMME 1: SOUTH AFRICA FERTILIZER ACCESS AND UTILIZATION PROGRAMME (SA-FAUP)

Outcome 1: Strengthening the Development and Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks for Mineral and Organic Fertilizers in South Africa

To enhance agricultural productivity and food security, South Africa must establish a robust regulatory framework governing the production, distribution, and trade of both organic and inorganic fertilizers. Drawing from best practices in regional economic communities, the South Africa Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (SA-FAUP) will focus on harmonizing fertilizer standards, improving market access, and ensuring sustainable soil management across the country.

Output 1.1 – Development and Harmonization of National Fertilizer Regulations

To ensure **efficient and transparent fertilizer markets**, SA-FAUP will:

- **Develop a national regulatory framework** for **organic and inorganic fertilizers**, incorporating **international best practices** while ensuring **local adaptation**.
- **Harmonize South Africa's fertilizer regulations** with **SADC and African Union (AU) standards**, facilitating **cross-border trade and regional market integration**.
- **Establish a national accreditation system** for **fertilizer producers, hub-agrodealers, and distributors**, ensuring **quality control and consumer protection**.

Key Activities:
a) Regulatory Alignment Workshop: Convene a national inception workshop to assess the status of South Africa's fertilizer regulations and draft technical agreements for harmonization with SADC and AU guidelines.
b) Legislative Framework Development: Draft South Africa's Fertilizer Harmonization Implementation Plan (FAHIP), incorporating standardized fertilizer labels, accreditation processes, and licensing protocols.
c) Best Practices for Organic Fertilizers: Develop national guidelines for organic and biofertilizers, establishing clear policies on production, certification, and sustainable application.
d) Soil Health and Crop Management: Implement integrated soil and water management strategies through farmer demonstration plots, omission fertilizer trials, and on-farm training programs.
e) Renewable Energy for Fertilizer Production: Conduct feasibility studies on the use of green ammonia, exploring solar-powered electrolysis for nitrogen extraction as a sustainable alternative to fossil fuel-based fertilizers.

Output 1.2 – Establishment of Zero Tariffs and Regional Trade Harmonization for Fertilizers
Fertilizer accessibility is often constrained by high tariffs, non-tariff barriers (NTBs), and market inefficiencies. To ensure an affordable and consistent supply, SA-FAUP will:

- Advocate for zero import tariffs on essential fertilizer inputs, reducing costs for smallholder farmers.
- Develop a Common External Tariff (CET) strategy for fertilizer production and trade, aligning with SADC trade policies.
- Enhance transparency in fertilizer pricing and supply chains, promoting market competition and efficiency.

Key Activities:
a) Technical Engagement with Customs Authorities: Host policy dialogues with customs officials to draft agreements on zero tariffs and CET for fertilizers.
b) Regulatory Framework for Fertilizer Trade: Develop South Africa's CET and trade facilitation agreements, ensuring alignment with SADC trade protocols.

Output 1.3 – Development of South Africa's National Soil Fertility Maps
To optimize fertilizer application and maximize soil productivity, South Africa requires a comprehensive soil fertility mapping initiative. SA-FAUP will:

- Conduct national soil analysis, creating detailed soil fertility maps to guide fertilizer blending and application.
- Develop new fertilizer recommendations, ensuring that blends match specific soil deficiencies.
- Leverage digital technologies to establish a real-time soil health monitoring system, supporting precision agriculture.

Key Activities:
a) Nationwide Soil Sampling and Mapping: Conduct extensive soil testing across major agricultural zones, identifying nutrient deficiencies and soil degradation trends.
b) Customized Fertilizer Formulations: Work with fertilizer producers to develop targeted blends that maximize soil fertility while minimizing environmental impact.

c) Deployment of Digital Soil Information Systems: Implement a national digital soil information platform, integrating satellite imaging, machine learning, and farmer-based reporting systems to enhance decision-making.

Output 1.4 – Development of National Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines
Subsidies can enhance access to fertilizers, but without proper design, they can lead to market distortions and inefficiencies. SA-FAUP will:

- Review existing fertilizer subsidy models, ensuring that South Africa adopts a "smart" subsidy approach that is transparent, accountable, and time-bound.
- Develop national fertilizer subsidy guidelines, incorporating e-voucher systems and private-sector participation to reduce dependency on government spending.

Key Activities:
a) Critical Analysis of Subsidy Programs: Conduct a comparative study of fertilizer subsidy programs in Africa, identifying best practices and key challenges.
b) Smart Subsidy Framework: Develop South Africa's National Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines, ensuring sustainability and gradual phase-out mechanisms.

Outcome 2: Strengthening Agricultural Input Distribution Networks in South Africa
A well-functioning input supply chain is essential to ensure that fertilizers reach farmers efficiently and affordably. SA-FAUP will focus on establishing a national agro-dealer network and improving supply chain financing mechanisms.

Output 2.1 – Establishment of a National Fertilizer Trade Association
South Africa currently lacks a coordinated industry body for fertilizer trade. Drawing from SADC member states' models, SA-FAUP will:

- Support the creation of a National Fertilizer Association, ensuring private-sector leadership in fertilizer policy and market development.
- Develop national and regional fertilizer trade agreements, fostering cross-border partnerships with neighboring markets.

Output 2.2 – Implementing Credit Guarantee Schemes for Agro-Dealers
A major barrier to fertilizer accessibility is limited financing for agro-dealers. SA-FAUP will:

- Introduce a credit guarantee scheme to allow agro-dealers to purchase larger fertilizer volumes on credit.
- Establish Agribusiness Partnership Contracts (APCs) to secure financing for warehousing, distribution infrastructure, and transportation networks.

Key Activities:
a) Establishment of Trade Credit Facilities: Facilitate financing models that allow suppliers to extend credit to trusted hub-agro dealers, ensuring sustained fertilizer availability.
b) Support for Infrastructure Development: Provide financial assistance to agro-dealers for warehouse expansion, logistics improvements, and last-mile delivery solutions.

Output 2.3 – Capacity Building and Training for Agro-Dealers and Farmers
To ensure that fertilizers are used efficiently and responsibly, SA-FAUP will implement training and technical assistance programs for:

- Agro-dealers, focusing on business development, regulatory compliance, and supply chain management.
- Farmers, ensuring they understand proper fertilizer application techniques, soil health management, and sustainable input use.

Key Activities:
a) Training in Fertilizer Application and Soil Health Management: Establish demonstration farms to provide hands-on training for smallholder farmers.
b) Agro-Dealer Business Development Support: Equip fertilizer distributors with business and financial management skills, enabling scalable and profitable operations.

Strategic Vision for SA-FAUP
The successful implementation of SA-FAUP will:

- Ensure universal access to high-quality fertilizers, improving soil fertility and agricultural productivity.
- Develop a competitive and efficient fertilizer market, reducing dependency on imports.
- Establish South Africa as a leader in sustainable soil management and fertilizer innovation within SADC and AfCFTA trade frameworks.

Through a combination of policy reform, market facilitation, and capacity building, SA-FAUP will strengthen the country's agricultural sector, ensuring long-term food security and economic resilience.

PROGRAMME 2: SOUTH AFRICA BIOPROTECTANTS HARMONIZATION PROGRAMME (SA-BHAP)

Outcome

Bioprotectants—including biopesticides, biofertilizers, and other natural crop protection solutions—play a critical role in reducing agriculture's environmental impact while ensuring sustainable food production. However, South Africa currently lacks a harmonized regulatory framework governing the registration, commercialization, and trade of these inputs.

The South Africa Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme (SA-BHAP) is designed to establish national regulatory standards, streamline approval processes, and promote market access for bio-based agricultural inputs. Taking reference from regional best practices, SA-BHAP will develop a national framework while aligning with SADC and AfCFTA trade structures, ensuring that South Africa becomes a leader in sustainable and organic crop protection solutions.

Outcome 1: National Assessment of Bioprotectant Registration and Commercialization in South Africa
To ensure an evidence-based regulatory approach, South Africa must first assess the current landscape of bioprotectant registration, regulation, and market access.

Output 1.1 – National Inception Workshop and Stakeholder Engagement

- Convene a national inception workshop with participation from government agencies, private sector actors, research institutions, and NGOs to establish a roadmap for national bioprotectant registration and market facilitation.
- Engage with industry leaders and international stakeholders to ensure that South Africa's approach aligns with global best practices in sustainable crop protection.

Output 1.2 – Regulatory and Market Assessment

- Conduct a comprehensive review of South Africa's existing policies on bioprotectant approval, commercialization, and trade.
- Engage national, regional, and international experts to develop policy recommendations for a robust and harmonized regulatory framework.

Key Activities:

a) Policy and Market Research: Engage regulatory consultants and industry specialists to assess the status of South Africa's bioprotectant market and identify regulatory gaps.
b) Private-Sector Consultation: Organize dialogues with industry leaders, farmers' associations, and research institutions to ensure that the regulatory approach is commercially viable and farmer-friendly.

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

To facilitate safe and efficient bioprotectant use, South Africa will develop a harmonized regulatory framework, ensuring compliance with SADC trade policies and international standards.

Output 2.1 – Establishment of South Africa's Bioprotectant Registration System

- Develop a national registration and approval system for bioprotectants, ensuring that products meet safety, efficacy, and sustainability standards.
- Define regulatory requirements for product classification, labeling, and distribution, enabling transparent and efficient market operations.

Output 2.2 – Legal and Institutional Harmonization

- Establish mutual recognition mechanisms for bioprotectant approvals, allowing South Africa to facilitate intra-regional trade within SADC.
- Align South Africa's regulations with the African Union's guidelines on biological pest control and Codex Alimentarius international food safety standards.

Key Activities:

a) Technical Consultations: Organize legal and regulatory drafting committees to develop South Africa's Bioprotectant Harmonization Act.
b) Validation Workshops: Convene stakeholders, including the Ministry of Agriculture, private-sector representatives, and farmer cooperatives, to review and finalize regulatory frameworks.
c) Legislative Approval Process: Present the finalized regulatory framework for approval by South Africa's legislative and regulatory bodies.

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

Following the establishment of regulatory structures, SA-BHAP will focus on ensuring efficient market access, trade facilitation, and commercialization of bioprotectants.

Output 3.1 – Strategic Implementation Plan for Bioprotectant Registration and Commercialization

- Develop a five-year implementation roadmap that ensures coordinated regulatory enforcement and market facilitation.
- Launch a national awareness campaign to promote the adoption of bioprotectants as sustainable agricultural inputs.

Output 3.2 – National Rollout and Capacity Building

- Train regulators, inspectors, and extension officers to ensure efficient oversight and enforcement of bioprotectant regulations.
- Support domestic production and innovation, ensuring that South Africa's agricultural sector benefits from localized bioprotectant solutions.

Key Activities:

a) Public Awareness and Industry Engagement: Launch a nationwide education and sensitization campaign to inform farmers, agribusinesses, and policymakers on the benefits of bioprotectants.
b) Capacity Building for Regulatory Agencies: Train government officials, laboratories, and certification bodies on bioprotectant testing and compliance monitoring.
c) Support for Domestic Manufacturing: Provide incentives for local research institutions and agro-industrial companies to develop and commercialize indigenous bioprotectants.

Outcome 4: Establishment of a Pesticide Residue and Biocontrol Training Program

To ensure proper adoption and usage of bioprotectants, South Africa will establish a training program targeting regulators, researchers, extension workers, and farmers.

Output 4.1 – Development of National Training Modules on Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

- Design a standardized curriculum for bioprotectant selection, application, and integrated pest management (IPM).
- Train farmers, agro-dealers, and extension officers on proper usage, handling, and storage of bioprotectants.

Output 4.2 – Establishment of a Training Delivery Mechanism

- Develop an e-learning platform to provide remote and continuous training for agricultural professionals.
- Implement on-site demonstration projects to showcase best practices in bioprotectant application.

Key Activities:

a) Training of Trainers (ToT) Programs: Establish national training hubs for extension workers and agricultural advisors.
b) Farmer Education and Awareness Campaigns: Conduct field demonstrations and farmer training days in partnership with cooperatives and rural development programs.
c) Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework: Develop an impact assessment tool to measure adoption rates, effectiveness, and long-term sustainability of bioprotectant use.

Strategic Vision for SA-BHAP

The successful implementation of **SA-BHAP** will:

- Ensure South Africa has a fully operational bioprotectant regulatory framework, aligned with regional trade structures and international safety standards.

- Encourage widespread adoption of sustainable crop protection methods, reducing reliance on synthetic pesticides while promoting agroecological farming practices.
- Enhance South Africa's participation in intra-African agricultural trade, ensuring that bioprotectants become an integral part of its export and import markets.
- Foster investment in local research and innovation, ensuring that South Africa becomes a leader in sustainable agricultural inputs within SADC.

Through a cohesive regulatory strategy, market-driven solutions, and capacity-building programs, SA-BHAP will transform South Africa's agricultural sector, ensuring long-term sustainability, economic viability, and food security.

PROGRAMME 3: SOUTH AFRICA BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIOSAFETY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME (SA-BBIP)

Biotechnology as a Driver of Agricultural Transformation

Biotechnology has the potential to revolutionize South Africa's agricultural sector by improving crop resilience, productivity, and climate adaptation. However, its adoption must be guided by a strong biosafety regulatory framework to ensure environmental sustainability, food security, and public health protection.

The South Africa Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (SA-BBIP) is designed to institutionalize a national biosafety risk assessment mechanism, strengthen regulatory capacities, and enhance public awareness of biotechnology. While inspired by regional efforts, such as COMESA's COMBIP, this programme is tailored to South Africa's national agricultural policies and regulatory frameworks, ensuring alignment with SADC standards and global best practices.

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

To safely and effectively introduce biotechnology, South Africa must develop a structured, transparent, and science-based risk assessment mechanism. SA-BBIP will facilitate the creation of a national biosafety authority, supported by a specialized panel of experts responsible for evaluating biotechnology applications.

Output 1.1 – Identification and Selection of South Africa's Biosafety Experts Panel

- Establish a Panel of Experts (PoE) on Biotechnology and Biosafety, drawing specialists from government agencies, research institutions, and private-sector stakeholders.
- Define clear roles and responsibilities for the panel, ensuring efficient decision-making and risk evaluation processes.

Output 1.2 – Convening a Technical Review and Nomination Process

- Organize a national review meeting to formally nominate and approve panel members, ensuring that South Africa's biosafety experts have the necessary qualifications and expertise.

Output 1.3 – Strengthening South Africa's Biosafety Authority and Regulatory Procedures

- Conduct a comprehensive review of South Africa's biosafety policies, ensuring alignment with SADC's regional trade policies and AU biosafety guidelines.

- Standardize biosafety application forms and approval processes, streamlining the regulatory pathway for biotechnology products.

Output 1.4 – Institutionalizing South Africa's Biosafety Risk Assessment Mechanism

- Establish a formal risk assessment process, supported by South Africa's Biosafety Authority and National Expert Panel.
- Develop a legislative framework that defines risk thresholds, environmental impact criteria, and approval conditions for biotech products.

Output 1.5 – Induction and Training for Biosafety Experts

- Conduct capacity-building workshops for biosafety panel members, ensuring they are equipped to evaluate and approve biotechnology applications based on international safety standards.
- Implement pilot case studies, reviewing specific biotech products such as pest-resistant maize, virus-resistant cassava, and climate-resilient cotton to test the efficiency of the risk assessment process.

Outcome 2: Strengthening South Africa's Biosafety Regulatory Capacity

For South Africa to successfully regulate biotechnology, its biosafety institutions must be strengthened with the necessary data, expertise, and governance structures. SA-BBIP will focus on building national and regional regulatory capacity to ensure that biotechnology applications are scientifically assessed and effectively monitored.

Output 2.1 – Establishment of a National Biosafety Database

- Implement a comprehensive data collection system, ensuring that South Africa's biosafety policies and product approvals are based on accurate, up-to-date scientific evidence.

Output 2.2 – Case Study Testing for Biosafety Risk Assessment

- Conduct controlled field trials on selected biotech crops, analyzing economic and environmental impacts before commercialization.
- Apply risk assessment protocols to real-world cases, ensuring that regulators can evaluate biotechnology applications with confidence.

Output 2.3 – Promoting Evidence-Based Biosafety Policy in South Africa

- Facilitate stakeholder engagement by publishing scientific findings and case study results, ensuring that South Africa's biosafety policies are based on validated data.

Output 2.4 – Capacity Building for South Africa's Biosafety Institutions

- Strengthen the technical capacity of South Africa's biosafety regulators, research institutions, and certification bodies.
- Conduct exchange programs and study visits with other African biosafety institutions to enhance South Africa's regulatory expertise.

Output 2.5 – Economic Assessment of South Africa's Biosafety Harmonization Approach

- Evaluate the economic impact of biotechnology regulation, ensuring that South Africa's approach supports innovation while safeguarding environmental and food security interests.

Outcome 3: Enhancing Public Awareness and Communication on Biotechnology and Biosafety

Public perception of biotechnology can influence adoption rates and regulatory decisions. SA-BBIP will implement a comprehensive awareness campaign, ensuring that farmers, policymakers, and consumers understand both the benefits and risks of biotechnology.

Output 3.1 – Development of a National Biosafety Communication Strategy

- Establish a centralized platform for public information, ensuring transparent and science-based communication on biotechnology.
- Develop informational materials tailored to different audiences, including farmers, agribusiness leaders, researchers, and consumers.

Output 3.2 – Strengthening Public Awareness on Biosafety Regulation

- Conduct national workshops and information campaigns, ensuring that farmers and agribusinesses understand biosafety requirements and regulatory processes.
- Distribute case studies on successful biotech applications in Africa and international markets, showcasing their impact on yield improvement and climate adaptation.

Output 3.3 – Engaging Key Stakeholder Networks

- Train media professionals, youth organizations, and industry representatives to ensure accurate reporting and advocacy on biotechnology and biosafety policies.
- Establish partnerships with universities and technical institutes, ensuring that biosafety education is integrated into South Africa's agricultural and environmental science programs.

Output 3.4 – Showcasing Farmer Experiences with Biotechnology

- Document and share farmer testimonials on the adoption and impact of biotech crops, ensuring that policy discussions reflect real-world agricultural experiences.

Output 3.5 – High-Level Engagement and Policy Advocacy

- Organize annual national biosafety and biotechnology forums, ensuring that regulatory updates and new biotech developments are publicly discussed.
- Provide regular reports on biosafety progress to the Ministry of Agriculture, the National Biosafety Authority, and other government institutions.

Strategic Vision for SA-BBIP

The successful implementation of SA-BBIP will:

- Ensure South Africa has a fully operational biosafety regulatory system, allowing for the safe, controlled adoption of biotechnology.
- Support South Africa's agricultural transformation, enabling farmers to benefit from improved crop varieties, enhanced resilience, and higher productivity.
- Strengthen South Africa's regional and international competitiveness, ensuring that biotech regulations facilitate rather than restrict trade.
- Encourage public-private partnerships, fostering investment in biotechnology research, innovation, and sustainable agricultural practices.

- Ensure transparency and public confidence, ensuring that biotechnology adoption is driven by scientific evidence and national development priorities.

By establishing a robust regulatory framework, fostering public awareness, and aligning with regional trade policies, SA-BBIP will position South Africa as a leader in biotechnology governance within SADC while ensuring sustainable, inclusive, and responsible agricultural innovation.

PROGRAMME 4: SOUTH AFRICA SEED HARMONIZATION AND CERTIFICATION PROGRAMME (SA-SHCP)

Strengthening South Africa's Seed Systems for Agricultural Transformation

A well-regulated, efficient seed system is fundamental to South Africa's agricultural transformation. Access to high-quality, certified seeds is crucial for increasing yields, enhancing climate resilience, and ensuring food security. However, South Africa's seed sector faces fragmented regulations, limited seed variety testing, and challenges in cross-border trade within SADC and AfCFTA markets.

The South Africa Seed Harmonization and Certification Programme (SA-SHCP) is designed to establish a structured national seed certification and tracking system, aligning with regional seed trade frameworks. By leveraging best practices from COMESA's COMSHIP, SA-SHCP will support seed market development, enhance regulatory capacity, and promote private-sector participation, ensuring that South Africa's seed sector is competitive, resilient, and integrated into regional trade systems.

Outcome 1: Strengthening South Africa's National Seed Certification and Traceability System

Ensuring that farmers have access to genuine, high-quality seeds requires a transparent, digital tracking system that enables verification, market monitoring, and regulatory enforcement.

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

- Establish a nationwide digital seed verification platform, allowing farmers, agro-dealers, and regulators to authenticate seed quality and origin.
- Develop a feedback mechanism to track seed performance, enabling farmers to report actual vs. declared yields, ensuring accountability across the value chain.

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

- Create a centralized database for seed registration, certification status, and market distribution, ensuring real-time monitoring of seed availability and performance.
- Integrate digital seed labeling and tracking, ensuring that South Africa's regulatory authorities can monitor seed movement across domestic and regional markets.

Key Activities:

a) Seed Authentication and Quality Control: Develop a mobile-based e-verification system that enables farmers to verify seed authenticity before planting.
b) Data-Driven Seed Market Insights: Establish a national seed database, ensuring that farmers and policymakers have access to information on certified seed varieties, suppliers, and performance records.
c) Integration with Trade Platforms: Ensure that South Africa's seed certification system is interoperable with regional trade mechanisms under SADC and AfCFTA.

Outcome 2: Facilitating Seed Variety Testing and Certification

To ensure that South Africa's farmers have access to the best-performing seed varieties, SA-SHCP will strengthen national seed testing infrastructure and align certification processes with regional standards.

Output 2.1 – Support for Seed Variety Testing and Registration

- Facilitate seed trials and certification processes for small and medium seed companies, allowing them to introduce new varieties in South Africa's market.
- Establish a national seed variety catalog, ensuring that only high-performing, climate-resilient varieties are certified for distribution.

Output 2.2 – Expansion of Seed Testing and Performance Trials

- Support on-farm performance trials, enabling seed companies to validate yield potential under South Africa's agroecological conditions.
- Ensure harmonization with SADC seed variety registration requirements, enabling cross-border seed trade and variety approvals.

Key Activities:

a) National Performance Trials for Seed Certification: Establish designated testing sites to evaluate new seed varieties for yield, disease resistance, and environmental adaptation.
b) Private Sector Engagement: Encourage private seed companies to participate in South Africa's certification process, facilitating market expansion.
c) Policy and Regulatory Harmonization: Align South Africa's seed certification system with regional trade frameworks, ensuring regulatory compatibility with SADC and AU seed policies.

Outcome 3: Strengthening South Africa's Seed Trade and Market Integration

Ensuring a competitive, efficient seed market requires harmonized trade regulations, technical assistance for seed companies, and private-sector incentives.

Output 3.1 – Establishment of a National Seed Trade Facilitation Framework

- Develop a clear regulatory pathway for seed importation, exportation, and domestic distribution, ensuring that farmers can access diverse, high-quality seed options.
- Establish a national accreditation system for seed distributors, ensuring that only certified agro-dealers participate in the supply chain.

Output 3.2 – Technical Assistance for Seed Companies

- Provide support for small and medium seed enterprises, ensuring they can navigate South Africa's seed registration and certification process.
- Facilitate capacity-building programs for local seed producers, ensuring compliance with quality standards.

Output 3.3 – Implementation of South Africa's National Seed Labeling System

- Introduce standardized seed labeling, ensuring that certified seeds are easily identifiable and protected from counterfeiting.
- Align South Africa's seed labeling and certification framework with SADC trade protocols, ensuring regional market integration.

Key Activities:
a) Regulatory Reforms for Seed Trade Facilitation: Develop clear guidelines for seed import, export, and distribution, ensuring alignment with SADC and AfCFTA standards.
b) Training for Agro-Dealers and Seed Companies: Conduct capacity-building programs for seed enterprises, agro-dealers, and farmer cooperatives, ensuring that South Africa's seed sector operates efficiently.
c) Market Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms: Strengthen seed certification enforcement, reducing the presence of counterfeit or substandard seeds in the market.

Strategic Vision for SA-SHCP

The successful implementation of SA-SHCP will:

- Ensure that all seeds used in South Africa meet international quality and certification standards, reducing low-yielding and counterfeit seed distribution.
- Support the growth of South Africa's seed sector, ensuring that local seed producers are competitive in domestic and regional markets.
- Enhance South Africa's food security and climate resilience, ensuring that farmers have access to high-yielding, stress-tolerant crop varieties.
- Improve South Africa's participation in intra-African trade, ensuring that certified seed varieties can be traded across SADC and AfCFTA markets.
- Strengthen South Africa's regulatory institutions, ensuring efficient oversight and enforcement of seed quality standards.

Through a combination of technology-driven seed tracking, regulatory harmonization, and market development, SA-SHCP will establish a modern, high-functioning seed system, ensuring that South Africa's farmers have reliable access to high-quality, certified seeds.

PROGRAMME 5: SOUTH AFRICA HORTICULTURE ACCELERATOR (SA-HA)

Transforming South Africa's Horticulture Sector for Growth, Trade, and Sustainability

The horticulture sector is a key driver of South Africa's agricultural transformation, holding immense potential to stimulate economic growth, strengthen food security, and enhance global trade competitiveness. However, the sector faces critical challenges, including fragmented value chains, insufficient processing infrastructure, high post-harvest losses, and restricted market access.

The South Africa Horticulture Accelerator (SA-HA) is designed to integrate and modernize South Africa's horticultural value chain, ensuring that smallholder farmers, agribusinesses, and exporters benefit from an efficient, competitive, and climate-resilient horticultural sector. This initiative aligns with regional strategies under SADC and AfCFTA, positioning South Africa as a leading horticultural producer and exporter.

Development Outcomes and Targets (2035)

By 2035, SA-HA aims to strengthen South Africa's position in the global horticultural market, ensuring that horticulture contributes significantly to the country's agribusiness sector.

1. Market Growth and Trade Expansion

- Increase South Africa's horticulture exports to regional and global markets.
- Enhance intra-African trade, ensuring seamless market access under SADC and AfCFTA trade frameworks.

2. Enhanced Processing Capacity

- Expand South Africa's horticultural processing infrastructure, ensuring that the proportion of processed fruit and vegetable products increases from 8% to 16%.
- Improve storage, packaging, and cold chain logistics, ensuring that South Africa's fresh produce meets global export standards.

3. Value Chain Efficiency and Logistics Optimization

- Reduce farm-to-market delivery time by 50%, minimizing spoilage and improving product quality.
- Decrease market price fluctuations, ensuring more predictable income for farmers and agribusinesses.
- Strengthen traceability systems, ensuring that 80% of South Africa's horticultural products are fully traceable from farm to consumer.

4. Increased Domestic Consumption for Better Nutrition

- Boost fruit and vegetable affordability and accessibility by at least 25%, ensuring improved dietary diversity and public health.

5. Expansion of Horticulture Production Areas

- Increase land under fruit production by 5%, from 9.5 million hectares to 10 million hectares.
- Expand vegetable production areas by 5%, growing from 33 million hectares to 35 million hectares.

6. Increased Farm Productivity and Reduced Post-Harvest Losses

- Increase fruit yields by 4% and vegetable yields by 3%, ensuring higher farm profitability.
- Reduce post-harvest losses from 40% to 20%, strengthening supply chain efficiency and improving market availability.

7. Economic Empowerment of Farmers

- Increase smallholder farmer profitability by 25%, improving livelihoods and rural economic stability.
- Reduce cash flow volatility by 50%, ensuring financial resilience for smallholder farmers.
- Decrease debt-to-asset ratios by 10%, improving farmers' access to investment capital and credit facilities.

8. Adoption of Climate-Smart Agricultural Practices

- Promote widespread adoption of climate-resilient farming practices, ensuring that South African farmers utilize sustainable horticultural methods.
- Integrate renewable energy, efficient irrigation systems, and climate-smart technologies into horticulture production models.

9. Policy Harmonization for Seamless Trade

- Remove or harmonize the top five trade policy barriers, ensuring uninterrupted intra-African horticulture trade and improving export potential.

10. Value Addition and Employment Creation

- Increase horticultural market revenues through expanded domestic and international trade.
- Create 30,000 new jobs across the horticulture value chain, ensuring inclusive economic growth and opportunities for youth and women.

Strategic Objectives of SA-HA

SA-HA will be implemented through four core strategic objectives, ensuring a coordinated and high-impact approach to horticultural development:

1. Developing Sustainable and Competitive Horticulture Value Chains

- Strengthen South Africa's horticulture sector by improving supply chain coordination, expanding processing capacity, and promoting market-driven production strategies.
- Support farmer cooperatives and agribusinesses, ensuring that smallholder farmers benefit from organized value chains.

2. Ensuring Profitable and Safe Horticultural Production

- Ensure South Africa produces high-quality, safe, and affordable horticultural products, meeting both domestic and export market requirements.
- Enhance compliance with global food safety and phytosanitary standards, ensuring that South Africa's produce is competitive in high-value international markets.

3. Creating an Enabling Business Environment for Horticulture Growth

- Improve South Africa's regulatory and investment environment, ensuring a thriving horticulture industry.
- Develop public-private partnerships (PPPs) to drive innovation, market expansion, and sector competitiveness.
- Facilitate access to financial instruments, including horticulture-specific credit lines and investment incentives.

4. Advancing Research and Cross-Border Collaboration

- Foster collaboration between government agencies, research institutions, and agribusinesses, ensuring that South Africa remains at the forefront of global horticultural innovation.
- Establish partnerships for technology transfer, allowing South African farmers to adopt modern, efficient, and climate-smart horticultural practices.

Positioning South Africa's Horticulture Sector for Growth and Global Competitiveness

The South Africa Horticulture Accelerator (SA-HA) is a strategic intervention aimed at transforming the country's horticulture sector into a highly productive, market-driven, and climate-resilient industry. Through value chain integration, trade facilitation, and innovation-driven policies, SA-HA will ensure that South Africa's horticultural sector thrives within regional and global markets.

The next phase of SA-HA's implementation will focus on:

- Strengthening market access through trade facilitation, value addition, and improved logistics infrastructure.
- Enhancing food safety and export competitiveness by aligning with international and regional horticultural trade standards.
- Expanding financing and investment opportunities, ensuring that smallholder farmers and agribusinesses have access to the resources they need to grow.
- Driving employment creation and inclusive growth, ensuring that women, youth, and rural farmers benefit from the sector's expansion.

By 2035, SA-HA aims to position South Africa as a leading horticultural hub in Africa, ensuring that its farmers, agribusinesses, and exporters fully leverage the vast opportunities available in the global fresh produce trade.

Implementation Approach and Expected Results

The South Africa Horticulture Accelerator (SA-HA) will follow a structured implementation framework, ensuring that horticulture becomes a key economic driver through value chain modernization, regulatory alignment, and market expansion. The programme is built on four core result areas, ensuring measurable impacts across policy, trade, research, and value chain development.

Result Area 1: Strengthening Value Chain Coordination

A well-coordinated horticulture value chain will reduce inefficiencies, lower transaction costs, and enhance infrastructure for storage, logistics, and processing. Strengthening value chain integration will ensure that South Africa's horticultural products meet the highest domestic and international market standards.

Key Actions

- Establish a National Horticulture Coordination Platform, facilitating structured dialogue between policymakers, industry leaders, and farmer organizations.
- Develop a digital market intelligence platform, providing real-time data on prices, production forecasts, and trade opportunities to enhance market efficiency.
- Strengthen cross-border trade coordination, ensuring that South Africa's horticultural exports comply with SADC and AfCFTA market regulations.

Result Area 2: Increasing Productivity and Market Access

For South African farmers to compete in global horticultural markets, they must have access to high-quality inputs, climate-smart technologies, and premium-value supply chains.

Key Actions

- Expand research and innovation in climate-resilient horticulture, ensuring that farmers adopt stress-tolerant crop varieties suited to changing environmental conditions.
- Improve post-harvest handling infrastructure, minimizing spoilage and ensuring that fresh produce maintains quality throughout the supply chain.
- Strengthen market linkages, enabling farmers to access premium domestic and export markets, including those under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Result Area 3: Enhancing Policy and Business Ecosystem

A strong policy framework and investment-friendly business environment will drive horticulture sector growth and sustainability. South Africa must streamline regulatory frameworks, ensuring that trade facilitation and private-sector investment are fully leveraged.

Key Actions

- Align South Africa's horticultural regulations with SADC and AfCFTA trade policies, ensuring unrestricted market integration.
- Provide technical assistance to agribusinesses, ensuring compliance with international food safety, phytosanitary, and quality standards.
- Develop investment incentives, attracting private-sector funding and agri-processing investments into South Africa's horticultural sector.

Result Area 4: Expanding Research and Development Collaboration

SA-HA will drive scientific research and innovation, ensuring that new horticultural technologies and best practices are continuously developed and adopted across the sector.

Key Actions

- Strengthen partnerships between universities, research institutions, and agribusinesses, ensuring that scientific advancements translate into practical agricultural solutions.
- Facilitate joint research projects focusing on horticulture trade, post-harvest management, and processing technologies.
- Establish a National Horticulture Research and Innovation Fund, ensuring scientists and entrepreneurs receive financial support to drive innovation.

Strategic Vision for SA-HA

The successful implementation of SA-HA will:

✓ Position South Africa as a regional leader in horticultural production and trade, ensuring long-term competitiveness.

✓ Improve national food security and nutrition, ensuring wider access to high-quality fruits and vegetables.

✓ Strengthen South Africa's agro-processing sector, creating value-added products and increasing export revenues.

✓ Generate large-scale employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth in rural areas.

✓ Enhance South Africa's participation in intra-African and global trade, ensuring that horticultural products meet global market requirements and consumer demands.

By integrating modern supply chains, climate-smart practices, and trade facilitation strategies, SA-HA will accelerate South Africa's horticultural transformation, ensuring sustainable growth and global competitiveness.

Strengthening Public-Private Dialogue for Horticulture Development

For South Africa's horticulture sector to achieve long-term growth, competitiveness, and sustainability, effective collaboration between public and private stakeholders is essential. Strengthening Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) mechanisms will ensure that value chain development, policy alignment, and investment promotion are coordinated and impactful.

Key Areas of Improvement

1. Enhanced Coordination Between Public and Private Sectors

- Establish structured collaboration channels between government institutions, agribusinesses, and smallholder farmers.
- Promote joint planning and execution of horticulture development strategies, ensuring inclusive decision-making and alignment with market needs.

2. Development of Work Plan Alignment Frameworks

- Create mechanisms to harmonize interventions, fostering cross-sector knowledge exchange and shared best practices.
- Ensure that all stakeholders—including policymakers, researchers, and farmers—have a clear role in horticulture sector expansion.

3. Operationalization of a National Public-Private Dialogue Platform

- Launch an interactive platform for policy discussions, investment matchmaking, and market coordination.
- Ensure regular consultations between stakeholders, addressing challenges and opportunities within South Africa's horticulture value chain.

Addressing Key Value Chain Challenges

The coordination frameworks under SA-HA will focus on eliminating major bottlenecks in South Africa's Fruit and Vegetable Value Chains (FVVCs):

1. Supply Chain Fragmentation

- Connect smallholder farmers with processors, exporters, and market hubs, ensuring an efficient and continuous flow of produce.
- Encourage contract farming arrangements, ensuring stable market demand for South Africa's fresh produce.

2. Post-Harvest Losses

- Strengthen cold chain systems, modern storage infrastructure, and logistics networks, reducing waste and preserving product quality.
- Increase investment in processing and packaging facilities, ensuring that fresh produce is transformed into high-value products for both domestic and export markets.

3. Market Access

- Improve compliance with international quality standards and certifications, ensuring that South Africa's horticultural products meet global consumer demands.
- Strengthen logistics networks, reducing transport costs and improving the competitiveness of South Africa's horticultural exports.

4. Policy Harmonization

- Align South Africa's regulatory frameworks (including SPS standards) with SADC and AfCFTA trade agreements, ensuring seamless regional and international trade.
- Establish a unified national trade policy for horticulture, ensuring that tariff and non-tariff barriers are reduced or eliminated.

Advancing South Africa's Horticultural Sector for Sustainable Growth

Through SA-HA, South Africa will establish a world-class horticulture sector, ensuring that farmers, agribusinesses, and exporters benefit from an efficient, climate-resilient, and globally competitive industry. The programme's next phase will focus on:

✓ Scaling up investment in infrastructure, trade, and market access, ensuring that South African horticultural products remain competitive globally.
✓ Enhancing public-private partnerships (PPPs) for financial and technical support, ensuring sustainable sector growth.
✓ Expanding research, innovation, and value-chain coordination, ensuring that South Africa leads in climate-smart horticultural production.
✓ Strengthening regional and international trade linkages, positioning South Africa as a key player in Africa's fresh produce sector.

By aligning policies, strengthening market integration, and driving innovation, SA-HA will ensure that South Africa's horticulture industry thrives—boosting agricultural exports, creating jobs, and improving food security for generations to come.

Strategic Interventions and Key Activities

Policy Harmonization: Facilitating alignment of regulatory frameworks, such as SPS standards, to ease cross-border trade and reduce transaction costs.	**Activities**
Strategic Interventions	
Established regional platforms and mechanisms for coordination among value chain actors	Support establishment of multi stakeholder collaboration
	Create a centralized digital platform to address information gaps along the FVVCs, providing real-time data on market trends, production forecasts, logistics, and quality standards
	Enable stakeholders—including smallholders, processors, exporters, and policymakers—to access, share, and utilize critical value chain information for better decision-making
	Leverage this platform to integrate digital trading systems, improving market visibility and connectivity across the region

Policy Harmonization: Facilitating alignment of regulatory frameworks, such as SPS standards, to ease cross-border trade and reduce transaction costs.	**Activities**
Establish Resource Mobilization Mechanisms	Provide a convening platform to pool resources from private investments, public sector initiatives, and donor funding to support infrastructure, capacity building, and technology adoption along the FVVCs
	Establish horticulture commercial clusters based on comparative advantage to crowd in infrastructure and program investments
Support Public Private Dialogue Mechanisms	Develop frameworks for aligning work plans and interventions by fostering cross-fertilization of knowledge and experiences among stakeholders
	Establish mechanisms for regular communication, ensuring that all partners work cohesively toward common objectives
	Host regular regional forums, workshops, and consultative meetings to review progress, share updates, and address emerging challenges in the horticulture value chain

Expected Outcomes of SA-HA

By strengthening coordination, investment, and policy alignment, SA-HA will deliver tangible, measurable improvements across South Africa's horticulture sector. These include:

1. **Stronger Public-Private Collaboration**
   - Improved connectivity and engagement between government agencies, industry players, and farmer organizations.
2. **Streamlined Value Chain Linkages**
   - More efficient trade networks, ensuring seamless movement of produce from farms to markets, reducing bottlenecks.
3. **Strengthened Investment in the Sector**
   - Secured financial and technical resources for critical infrastructure, capacity-building, and technology adoption.
4. **Reduction of Inefficiencies in the Value Chain**
   - Establishment of regional processing and aggregation hubs, reducing losses and increasing value addition.
5. **Enhanced Market Visibility and Trade Competitiveness**
   - Improved forecasting, traceability, and compliance mechanisms, ensuring South Africa's horticultural products meet regional and global market demands.

6. **Greater Resilience and Sustainability**
    - Implementation of climate-smart agricultural practices, reducing environmental impact while maintaining profitability.

7. **Expanded Opportunities for Smallholder Farmers and Agribusinesses**
    - Increased market access and economic resilience for farmers, cooperatives, and SMEs within the horticulture sector.

Through a cohesive public-private engagement strategy, enhanced resource mobilization, and strategic value chain interventions, SA-HA will position South Africa as a regional leader in horticultural production and trade.

Result Area 2: Increased Productivity and Market Access

To strengthen South Africa's horticulture sector and increase its productivity and competitiveness, SA-HA will address gaps in research, technology adoption, post-harvest management, and climate-smart agricultural practices. This approach will ensure that horticultural production remains efficient, resilient, and aligned with both market demands and sustainability goals.

The program's objectives under this result area include:

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

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

Key Actions

1. 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 South Africa's agricultural research institutions to ensure locally adapted seed varieties are developed and widely distributed.

2. Strengthening Partnerships Between Research Institutions, Academia, and the Private Sector

- Facilitate public-private collaborations to scale up innovative solutions in South Africa's horticulture industry.
- Encourage technology transfer agreements, ensuring that South African farmers benefit from the latest advancements in horticultural research.

3. 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 South Africa's agricultural planning.

4. 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.

5. Building Capacity Among Value Chain Actors

- Provide technical assistance and training to farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses, ensuring compliance with market standards.

6. Enhancing Access to High-Quality Inputs and Climate-Smart Technologies

- Support the expansion of South Africa's agricultural input supply chain, ensuring that farmers can access fertilizers, seeds, and bioprotectants tailored for local conditions.
- Facilitate the adoption of innovative climate-smart technologies, including greenhouse production, organic soil amendments, and smart irrigation systems.

7. Strengthening Market Linkages and Expanding Trade Opportunities

- Develop new domestic and export market channels for South Africa's horticultural producers.
- Support trade missions and international partnerships, ensuring South Africa's participation in regional and global horticulture markets.

Improved Post-Harvest Management and Circularity

Post-harvest losses in South Africa'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.

SA-HA will implement a national post-harvest strategy that reduces losses, increases product shelf life, and improves overall value chain efficiency.

Key Actions

1. 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.

2. Ensuring Compliance with Quality Control and SPS Standards

- Establish technical assistance and training programs to help South African producers comply with domestic and international sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations.
- Introduce digital traceability systems, ensuring quality control across South Africa's horticultural value chain.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

Strategic Vision for SA-HA

The successful implementation of SA-HA will:

✓ Ensure that South Africa's horticulture sector is competitive, efficient, and fully integrated into regional and global markets.
✓ Reduce post-harvest losses, improve logistics, and expand storage infrastructure, ensuring better quality and higher value for horticultural products.
✓ Increase farmers' profitability, expand employment opportunities, and strengthen resilience to climate change.
✓ Attract investment in high-value horticultural value chains, ensuring that South Africa remains a leader in fresh produce exports.
✓ Enhance regulatory compliance with international SPS standards, ensuring seamless trade under SADC and AfCFTA agreements.

By focusing on climate-smart agricultural practices, value chain modernization, and policy-driven trade facilitation, SA-HA will ensure that South Africa's horticulture sector achieves long-term, sustainable growth, securing its position as a powerhouse in African and global fresh produce markets.

Strategic Vision for SA-HA Under Result Area 2

The successful implementation of this result area will:
✓ Ensure that South Africa's horticulture sector operates efficiently, reducing waste, optimizing resource use, and enhancing market competitiveness.
✓ Improve access to research-driven solutions, strengthening South Africa's capacity to develop climate-resilient, high-yielding horticultural crops.
✓ Enhance market readiness by ensuring compliance with food safety, SPS, and international quality standards, allowing for seamless domestic and export trade.
✓ Expand trade opportunities, linking smallholder farmers and agribusinesses to regional and global horticultural markets under SADC and AfCFTA frameworks.
✓ Strengthen food security and sustainability by improving post-harvest infrastructure, logistics systems, and supply chain efficiencies.

Through targeted investments in research, technology, post-harvest handling, and market expansion, SA-HA will establish a modern, resilient, and globally competitive horticulture industry, ensuring long-term economic and environmental sustainability.

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

To increase resilience against climate change, improve productivity, and ensure sustainable horticulture production, SA-HA will facilitate the adoption of modern, climate-smart technologies and mechanization. This includes:

- Renewable energy-powered irrigation
- Circular agriculture practices
- Knowledge-sharing platforms

These interventions will empower farmers and agribusinesses to transition toward sustainable and efficient farming systems.

Key Focus Areas

1. Expanding Access to Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems

- Introduce affordable, decentralized irrigation solutions powered by solar energy, ensuring year-round water supply for horticultural production.
- Support smallholder farmers in adopting smart irrigation techniques, reducing dependency on unpredictable rainfall patterns and increasing water-use efficiency.

2. Promoting Circular Agriculture Practices

- Encourage composting, organic waste recycling, and sustainable soil regeneration methods, ensuring waste-to-value approaches across the horticulture sector.
- Establish pilot programs for biofertilizer and organic compost production, reducing reliance on chemical inputs and enhancing soil fertility.

3. Enhancing Awareness and Adoption of Climate-Smart Technologies

- Conduct farmer training programs, demonstration farms, and technology transfer initiatives, ensuring widespread adoption of climate-smart agricultural solutions.
- Develop extension service platforms, integrating digital tools and advisory services to support farmers in adopting modern, data-driven agricultural techniques.

By integrating renewable energy, circular agricultural models, and advanced knowledge-sharing platforms, SA-HA will accelerate South Africa's transition toward a climate-resilient, technology-driven, and globally competitive horticulture industry.

Strategic Interventions and Key Activities

Strategic interventions	Activities
Strengthen research, innovation, and technology for input, data, and extension system	Embed climate early warning systems to de-risk, preserve profit
	Support Expansion and alignment of Agricultural research initiatives to deliver climate smart varieties
	Facilitate knowledge and data exchange among academia, public and private stakeholders
	Promote sustainable water management to ensure adequate resources for horticulture production
	Capacity building on conducting horticulture production surveys
	Data collection on Horticulture -Survey
	Horticulture production Survey Data analysis
	Horticulture production Survey Validation, Publication and dissemination of survey results
Enable improved post-harvest management and circularity	Advocate circularity for waste management and waste as an asset; repurpose waste
	Support Compliance with Quality and SPS Standards
	Build better aggregation and cooperative understanding and operating skills capacity
	Support market systems linkages
	Develop and disseminate post-harvest handling protocols to minimize spoilage
	Support investment in shared infrastructure, including cold storage, aggregation centres, and packaging facilities, to improve value chain efficiency
Support accessibility and adoption of appropriate climate smart agriculture technologies	Make sustainable, affordable, solar powered irrigation systems accessible to farmers
	Promote circular practices such as composting, recycling, and reusing by-products
	Support the awareness of the available technologies across the value chains

Expected Outcomes

Through these strategic interventions, SA-HA will:

✓ Expand the use of renewable energy-powered irrigation, ensuring a stable and predictable water supply for horticultural production.

✓ Reduce waste and promote sustainable agriculture, ensuring that by-products from farming are repurposed for value-added uses.

✓ Enhance farmers' capacity to adopt modern, climate-smart techniques, leading to higher yields and greater resilience to climate variability.

✓ Improve post-harvest management efficiency, reducing food loss and strengthening South Africa's horticulture supply chain.

✓ Align South Africa's horticulture policies with SADC and AfCFTA climate resilience strategies, ensuring greater access to regional and international markets.

By integrating climate-smart solutions, sustainable resource management, and modern irrigation infrastructure, SA-HA will position South Africa's horticulture sector as a model for sustainable agricultural transformation in Africa.

Overarching Expected Outcomes

The SA-HA program is designed to achieve significant transformation in South Africa's horticulture sector, ensuring that farmers, agribusinesses, and the broader economy benefit from increased efficiency, resilience, and global competitiveness.

1. Increased Productivity and Reduced Post-Harvest Losses

✓ Improved agricultural techniques, better storage solutions, and enhanced logistics will ensure higher yields and reduced spoilage across the value chain.

2. Strengthened Resilience of Production Systems

✓ The integration of climate-smart agriculture and sustainable farming techniques will protect farmers from climate variability and ensure long-term productivity.

3. Improved Access to Shared Infrastructure and Modern Technologies

✓ Farmers and agribusinesses will benefit from new and upgraded storage facilities, irrigation systems, and processing centers, leading to higher profitability and market efficiency.

4. Enhanced Compliance with Quality and Trade Standards

✓ By aligning South Africa's horticulture sector with international quality and SPS (Sanitary and Phytosanitary) regulations, farmers and exporters will be better positioned for regional and global trade.

5. Greater Sectoral Resilience to Market and Climate Disruptions

✓ Adoption of sustainable and adaptive agricultural practices will help reduce vulnerabilities to environmental and economic shocks.

6. Higher Profitability for Farmers and Agribusinesses

✓ Strengthened value chains, better access to finance, and market expansion will ensure equitable distribution of profits across the horticulture ecosystem.

7. Increased Employment and Inclusion

✓ The expansion of the horticulture value chain will generate new jobs, particularly for women and youth, fostering inclusive economic growth.

8. Development of Aggregation and Processing Hubs

✓ Establishing regional processing centers will improve value addition, reduce waste, and enhance South Africa's export competitiveness.

9. Capacity Building for Producers and SMEs on Food Safety Standards

✓ Training programs and knowledge-sharing platforms will ensure that South African producers meet the highest food safety and trade standards.

10. Improved Availability of Data on Horticulture Production

✓ Better data collection and analysis will enable evidence-based decision-making for policymakers, investors, and farmers.

Result Area 3: Strengthening Policy and Business Ecosystem

A thriving horticulture sector requires a supportive business environment, where access to finance, trade facilitation, and regulatory coherence drive growth. SA-HA will focus on:

✓ Building strong institutions
✓ Attracting investment
✓ Ensuring regional and international competitiveness

Key Strategic Areas

1. Facilitating Access to Finance Across the Value Chain

2. Enhancing Policy, Institutional, and Coordination Frameworks

3. Promoting Regional and International Trade Harmonization

Facilitating Access to Finance Across the Value Chain

A lack of tailored financing solutions remains one of the biggest barriers to horticulture expansion in South Africa. SA-HA will introduce innovative financial models to unlock capital for smallholders, SMEs, and agribusinesses.

Key Interventions:

1. Strengthening Working Capital and Bridging Finance

✓ Work with financial institutions and development partners to develop short-term financing solutions, ensuring liquidity for farmers, aggregators, and processors.
✓ Introduce seasonal financing models, allowing horticulture businesses to manage cash flow fluctuations effectively.

2. Expanding SME Financing Through Seed, Venture, and Growth Capital

✓ Facilitate access to tailored funding options for horticulture-based startups and agribusinesses, including seed capital, venture capital, and expansion financing.
✓ Complement financing with technical assistance programs, ensuring that SMEs develop strong business models, operational efficiency, and compliance with trade standards.

3. Advocating for Targeted Finance Policy Reforms

✓ Work with policymakers and commercial banks to increase lending for horticulture-related enterprises.

✓ Introduce risk-mitigation measures, such as loan guarantees and blended finance mechanisms, ensuring that horticulture remains a priority investment sector.

Enhancing Policy, Institutional, and Coordination Frameworks

Robust policies and **well-coordinated institutions** are critical to **driving investment and ensuring long-term sustainability** in South Africa's horticulture sector.

Key Interventions:

1. Simplifying South Africa's Tariff Regime to Encourage Investment

✓ Work with the National Treasury and trade regulators to streamline tariff structures, making them predictable and investment-friendly.

✓ Ensure that import and export duties on horticultural inputs (e.g., seeds, fertilizers, machinery) align with regional best practices.

2. Strengthening Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) for Trade

✓ Work with regional trade bodies to ensure that South Africa's horticulture products receive mutual recognition within SADC and AfCFTA markets.

✓ Support harmonization of regulations governing seed certification, SPS compliance, and quality standards, ensuring South Africa's full integration into intra-African trade networks.

Strategic Vision for SA-HA Under Result Area 3

✓ Unlock new financing opportunities for South Africa's horticulture sector, ensuring that farmers and agribusinesses have access to capital for growth.

✓ Improve South Africa's trade environment, ensuring that tariff structures, policy frameworks, and trade agreements enhance sectoral competitiveness.

✓ Strengthen institutional coordination, ensuring that public-private collaboration remains a key driver of South Africa's horticulture transformation.

✓ Increase South Africa's participation in regional and global markets, ensuring that horticultural products meet international trade standards.

Through policy reforms, financial innovation, and institutional collaboration, SA-HA will create a business-friendly environment that:

✓ Attracts investment

✓ Fosters competitiveness

✓ Strengthens South Africa's position as a regional horticulture powerhouse.

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

Quality standards and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) regulations are critical for ensuring that South Africa's horticulture products meet the requirements of both regional and international markets. SA-HA will focus on:

✓ Aligning national policies with international best practices
✓ Fostering trade harmonization
✓ Reducing regulatory bottlenecks

Key Interventions:

1. Reducing or Eliminating Formal and Informal Trade Barriers

✓ Advocate for the removal of both tariff and non-tariff barriers that hinder South Africa's horticulture exports.
✓ Engage with government agencies, trade bodies, and border authorities to streamline customs procedures and eliminate regulatory inconsistencies.

2. Harmonizing Food Safety Regulations, Pesticide Use, and Quality Standards

✓ Collaborate with regional trade organizations (SADC, AfCFTA) and international bodies to harmonize South Africa's SPS and food safety standards with global benchmarks.
✓ Ensure pesticide use regulations align with international standards, reducing compliance costs and ensuring that South Africa's produce meets export market requirements.

3. Developing Simplified Manuals and Compliance Guides

✓ Provide clear, easy-to-understand manuals on SPS regulations, ensuring that farmers, SMEs, and exporters understand compliance requirements.

Expected Outcomes of SA-HA's Trade Harmonization Strategy

1. Improved Access to Affordable and Diverse Financing Solutions

✓ Expanded funding mechanisms will ensure liquidity for farmers, agribusinesses, and exporters.

2. A Simplified and Predictable Tariff Regime

✓ Transparent and investment-friendly trade policies will attract new investors and enhance South Africa's trade capacity.

3. Strengthened Policy and Institutional Coordination

✓ Enhanced collaboration among trade regulators, policymakers, and private sector stakeholders will improve sector governance.

4. Harmonized Trade Standards and SPS Regulations

✓ Alignment with regional and international trade frameworks (SADC, AfCFTA, WTO) will enhance South Africa's competitiveness in global markets.

5. Increased Regional and Global Competitiveness

✓ South Africa's horticulture exports will be positioned as reliable, high-quality products, creating new trade opportunities and higher revenues for producers.

6. Higher Compliance with International Trade Standards

✓ Consistent enforcement of SPS regulations and food safety protocols will increase South Africa's ability to access premium global markets.

By harmonizing trade policies, strengthening institutional collaboration, and ensuring compliance with international quality standards, SA-HA will position South Africa as a global leader in horticulture trade, investment, and agricultural transformation.

Strategic Interventions and Key Activities

Strategic Interventions	Key Activities
Increased intra-regional trade and exports by addressing tariff and non-tariff barriers and improving logistical coordination.	
Facilitate availability of finance across the value chain	Strengthen availability of working capital and bridging finance
	Support SMEs through seed-, Venture-, and growth stage-, capital along with TA
	Advocate for targeted finance policy reforms on the composition of the loan book
Strengthen the policy, Institutional and coordination framework among horticulture value chain actors including tariff regimes	Support simplifying tariff regime to create growth and investment
	Review MRA based on regional trade protocols
Facilitate regional and international collaboration for the harmonisation of trade standards, SPS regulations and support implementation	Facilitate the reduction/elimination of formal and informal tariff and non-tariff barriers
	Support the Harmonisation of regional food safety regulations/pesticides and quality standards to facilitate trade
Strategic Focus	Key Activities
Expanding Regional and International Market Access	- Facilitate the elimination of formal and informal tariff barriers.

THEORY OF CHANGE

The Core Development Hypothesis

✓ Strengthening South Africa's agricultural supply chain through policy harmonization, financial inclusion, and infrastructure investment will create a self-sustaining, competitive horticulture industry.

✓ Value chain clustering and commercialization will transform smallholder farming into a high-value, structured industry.

✓ By facilitating trade agreements, improving access to finance, and aligning policies with SADC and AfCFTA, South Africa will become a major player in the regional and global horticulture market.

SA-HA's Expected Transformational Impact

1. Higher Agricultural Productivity

✓ Farmers will adopt climate-smart techniques, irrigation solutions, and improved inputs, leading to higher yields and economic stability.

2. Increased Trade and Market Access

✓ By aligning SPS regulations and quality standards with international frameworks, South Africa's export competitiveness will grow.

3. Better Financial Inclusion

✓ Expanded access to credit, insurance, and investment incentives will allow SMEs and agribusinesses to scale their operations.

4. Resilient, Sustainable Growth

✓ Climate-adaptive farming techniques and sustainable supply chain investments will create long-term food security and economic resilience.

5. Enhanced Institutional and Policy Alignment

✓ Strengthened coordination between government agencies, the private sector, and international trade bodies will position South Africa as a leader in African horticulture.

By integrating policy reform, investment facilitation, value chain optimization, and climate resilience, SA-HA will drive a new era of transformation in South Africa's horticulture sector, ensuring global competitiveness, economic prosperity, and long-term sustainability.

	Objective Hierarchy SAFPS-EI						
Impact	Inclusive and sustainable food systems development to better food security and agriculture commercialization. KPI 1- South Africa regulations/laws on agriculture are fully harmonized and aligned by the SADC Member States KPI 2 -Seamless engagement in agriculture activities by the SHFs and agribusinesses within SADC with South Africa as reference. KPI 3 -Commercialization of Agriculture by SHFs in South Africa through geo-clustering of value chains KPI 4 – Streamlining of processes						
Outcomes	1. Increased number of SADC Member States have created a good enabling environment through harmonization of their policies, regulations and laws to that of South Africa KPI 1.1- SADC Member states aligning their regulations/laws to the South Africa Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme (SA-SHCP). KPI 1.2- SADC Member states aligning their regulations/Laws to the South Africa Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Plan (SA-BBIP). KPI 1.3- SADC Member States aligning their regulations/laws to the Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (SA-FAUP) 2. Increased share of agriculture activities by the smallholder farmers (SHF) as a result of conducive enabling environment 3. Increased share of commercial agriculture by smallholder farmers (SHF) and agri-businesses through more inclusive, sustainable and territorial relevant value chains KPI 3.1-Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status KPI 3.2-Number of smallholders reached with AFDB supported interventions aimed to increase their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land.						
Outputs	**1.Capacity Development and agriculture Commercialization:**	**2.Value Chain Development:**	**3 Markets facilities for trade expansion:** **KPI 3.1**: Number of trade volumes	**4.Policy Development and Implementation:** **KPI 4.1:** SADC Member states	**5. Access to finance** **KPI 5.1:** Number of targeted agribusiness	**6. Climate Change** **KPI 6.1:** Number of vulnerable communities	**7. SDEP/ECHO & PPP** **KPI- 7.1**: Number of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system adheres to

	KPI 1.1: Number of SHFs and FBOs engaging in agri-culture activities. **KPI 1.2:** Number of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) applying climate smart agriculture production practices with AFDB support **KPI 1.3:** Number of SHFs and FBOs using high quality seeds following the South Africa and SADC Guidelines. KPI 1.4 Number of SHFs and FBOs applying the recommended fertilizer in the	**KPI 2.1:** Value Chain development **KPI 2.2:** Number of agriculture value geo clustered along the regional territories. **KPI 2.3:** Number of SHFs and FBOs engaging in viable agribusiness in clustered value chains. KPI 3.2-Number of SHFs and FBOs producing products along the geo clustered value chains. KPI 3.3-Number of value chains products meeting the international/glob al standards	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	aligning their regulations/laws to relevant Programmes.	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	enhanced their capacity to adapt to climate change impacts. **KPI 6.2:** Number of climate-resilient livelihoods plans created/promot ed. KPI 6.3 -Number social-economic wellbeing of targeted communities improved. KPI 6.4- Number of sustainable development practices and environment stewardship fostered.	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.

	South Africa and SADC region KPI 1.5 Number of SHFs and FBOs using the right Bioprotectants recommended in the South Africa and SADC Region KP1 1.6 Number of SHFs and FBOs engaging the recommended biotechnology practices	KPI 3.4-Number of value chain players actively engaged in the agriculture value chains.					
Main activities and tasks	**1.1 Strengthening existing farmer organizations** T1. Strengthening Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) by promoting viable models that can sustainably provide needed	**2.1. Strengthening existing farmer organizations.** T1. Strengthening Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) by promoting viable models that can sustainably provide needed services such as	**3.1. Create service forums that will bring together alliance members and stakeholders within the staple food value chains to interact with each other and share best**	**4.1 Improving the competitiveness of the staple food sector.** T1. Comparative competitiveness benchmarking of national business environments among ESA member states through analysis and	**5.1. Facilitate access to information and linkages between targeted agri-business groups and existing financing and de-risking mechanisms.** T1. Conduct a rapid market assessment of the traditional and non-traditional	**6.1. Community engagement and needs assessments.** T1. Conduct participatory consultations to understand the specific needs and challenges faced by target communities.	**7.1. Pre-study phase of the SDEP/ECHO.** T1. Test soil fertility, pH levels, and suitability for climate-smart agriculture. T2. Identify potential impacts on ecosystems, water, and biodiversity. T3. Engage local communities, governments, and private sector partners.

	services such as storage, access to finance and market linkages to smallholders is critical for the growth of the staple food sub sector. T2. strengthening formal value chain linkages between farmers, FBO's and regional marketing infrastructure such as larger warehousing facilities and commodity exchanges. T3. Capacity building activities to enhance the effectiveness of FBO's.	storage, access to finance and market linkages to smallholders is critical for the growth of the staple food sub sector. T2. Strengthening formal value chain linkages between farmers, FBO's and regional marketing infrastructure such as larger warehousing facilities and commodity exchanges. T3. Capacity building activities to enhance the effectiveness of FBO's. 2.2. Innovative linkages to markets.	**practices and lessons learnt.** **T**1. Establish and run service forums in areas critical to the value chain including input and commodity production, trade facilities, market infrastructure and transport, finance and investment, regulations, strategic food reserves, industrialization and humanitarian assistance. T2. Collate information generated from the service forums and present them to the advisory committee	empirical client satisfaction surveys. T2. Analysis of key sectors across intra-regional markets in ESA. T2. Comparative analysis of ESA regional markets against alternative export sources in viable export destinations for selected staple foods. 4.2. Agricultural trade policy harmonisation T1. Securing approval from South Africa and SADC Policy Organs for policy reform and harmonisation.	sources of finance available to agri-business groups. T2. Assess the plans and capacity of the agri-business groups looking to raise finance. T3. Conduct Investment readiness capacity building training and mentorship to ensure the FOs and SMEs are attractive for investments. T4. Facilitate linkages between bankable SMEs and FOs and prospective public, private, and donor sector financial services providers and de-risking mechanism. 5.2. Set up matching grants to facilitate	T2. Identify existing livelihood practices and assess their vulnerability to climate change. T3. Identify potential opportunities for climate-resilient livelihoods based on local resources and capacities. 6.2. Capacity Building and Skills development. T1. Provide training and workshops on climate change adaptation and sustainable	T4. Gather socioeconomic data to tailor project goals to community needs. T5. Assess gaps in transport, energy, and water infrastructure for ECHO. T6. Evaluate vulnerability to climate impacts and develop resilience strategies. T7. Ensure alignment with regional, national, and international frameworks. T8. Identify gaps in farming techniques and opportunities for improvement. T9. Analyze supply chains and post-harvest logistics for optimization. T10. Establish initial ESG compliance criteria for all project phases. 7.2. Skills training for SDEP/ECHO.

	1.2. Innovative linkages to markets. T1. Developing methodologies to promote increased farmer integration. T2. Strengthen the relevant public sector stakeholders' capacity to review, harmonize, and improve existing digital market information systems to better meet the needs of agri-business groups 1.3. Productivity and technology adoption. T1. Training and support to	T1. Developing methodologies to promote increased farmer integration. T2. Strengthen the relevant public sector stakeholders' capacity to review, harmonize, and improve existing digital market information systems to better meet the needs of agri-business groups 2.3. Productivity and technology adoption. T1. Training and support to enhance adoption of technologies such as drip irrigation, promotion of climate-smart	highlighting impacts, the action needed, potential costs and time frame of the various actions. 3.2. Input market access development and expansion. T1. Organization and formalizing of regional staple food value chain into competitive canters. T3. Strengthen the capacity of targeted agri-business groups to engage in competitive trade 3.3. Market information and trade intelligence systems.	T2. Supporting national adoption and implementation. T3. Working with national level partners/programs to ensure activities are anchored around policy reforms. T4. Conducting value chain training and awareness campaigns on these regional decisions and opportunities, targeting key players within the staple food value chain. 2.2 Establish Zero Tariffs and Common External Tariff (CET) Harmonisation for Fertilizer Trade in the SADC Member States. T1. Technical meetings of customs	investment in productive assets and incentivize acquisition of further financing. T1. Develop and field test a matching grants operating manual (inception period). T2. Develop and deploy marketing collateral to be used to solicit matching grant application. T3. Establish and train the PTC who will be evaluating the matching grant applications. T4. Open the call for applications and/or concept papers to those participating in the programme. Note, different terms and conditions may	livelihood practices. T2. Build technical skills related to climate-resilient agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable fisheries, renewable energy, and other relevant sectors. T3. Promote financial literacy, entrepreneurship, and market linkages to support the development of viable livelihood initiatives. 6.3. Livelihood diversification and Innovation.	T1. Train farmers on intercropping, agroforestry, and reduced tillage. T2. Educate on installing and maintaining solar panels and biogas units. T3. Provide skills in irrigation, recycling, and purification techniques. T4. Teach conversion of agricultural waste into biogas or fertilizers. T5. Equip farmers with skills to manage loans, savings, and investments. T6. Train beneficiaries to use FlexSus for resource monitoring. T7. Educate on storage, processing, and packaging techniques. T8. Build local leadership for promoting sustainable practices.

	enhance adoption of technologies such as drip irrigation, promotion of climate-smart varieties within relevant Climate Change programme. T2. Support for use of agriculture productivity enhancing options such as conservation farming, carbon trading, biotechnology through GMO cotton. T3. Support for extension by enhancing the capacity of farmer organizations and adoption of extension models	varieties within relevant Climate Change programme. T2. Support for use of agriculture productivity enhancing options such as conservation farming, carbon trading, biotechnology through GMO cotton. T3. Support for extension by enhancing the capacity of farmer organisations and adoption of extension models such as training of lead farmers to serve as focal points for information dissemination.	T1. Strengthen and leverage existing national systems and create linkages to the regional ESA wide Market Information System. T2. Strengthen national data collection systems to ensure data integrity and reliability. T3. Strengthen cross border data collection and monitoring systems. T4. Drive use of market information by both smallholder producers and private actors.	officials from SADC member states held on zero tariffs and CET for fertilizers. T2. Drafting of agreement on zero tariffs and CET for SADC. 4.3. Development of new SADC Soil Fertility Maps to assist Fertilizer Blending companies in coming up with new Suitable Fertilizer Blends. T.1 Conduct soil analysis and develop soil fertility maps based on the soil analysis for the SADC region. T2. Develop new fertilizer recommendations based on the soil analysis that will	apply to the grant levels. T5. Where applicable, link targeted agribusinesses and FOs to other financing arrangements available in SADC Region.	T1. Support the establishment of climate-resilient livelihood initiatives, such as sustainable agriculture practices, aquaculture, eco-tourism, renewable energy enterprises, and nature-based businesses. T2. Facilitate access to appropriate technologies, inputs, and resources necessary for the success of these initiatives. T3. Promote innovation and knowledge sharing among	T9. Train on safe equipment use and occupational health standards. T10. Train on safe equipment use and occupational health standards. T11. Focus on inclusive participation in skill-building programs. 7.3. ECHO Implementation Activities. T1. Identify and prepare suitable ECHO deployment locations. T2. Deploy solar panels for irrigation and community energy needs. T3. Install units to convert organic waste into energy and fertilizers. T4. Establish clean water supply through purification and recycling. T5. Deploy electrolysers for hydrogen fuel generation.

	such as training of lead farmers to serve as focal points for information dissemination. 2.1. Assessment reports of existing Bioprotectants registration and commercialization in SADC member states. T1. Convene a regional inception workshop for all SADC Member States, to develop a roadmap for regional bioprotectant registration, harmonization and commercialization . T2. Conduct assessment of	2.1. Established Regional Platforms and mechanisms for coordination among value Chain actors. T1. Facilitate Establishment of SA HA National Chapters. T2. Conduct SA HA Stakeholders Mapping and Forums. T3. Organize regional Workshops/Forums for network Establishment. T4. Facilitate establishment and coordination of multistakeholder collaboration. T5. Facilitate workshop and seminars at	T5. Disseminate information through various communication tools for example SMS's, radio and periodic publications of the regional food balance sheet. 3.4. Development of a SADC-wide agricultural commodity exchange. T1. Accessing the existing national commodity exchange available in the SADC region in terms of commodity policy/ credit act and regulatory framework and review capacity	include the missing nutrients, validate the findings via fertilizer trials. T3. Work with fertilizer blending companies to develop the new fertilizer blends (promote the sourcing of the nutrients from both organic and mineral fertilizer sources). 4.4. Develop SADC Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines with Exit Strategies. T1. Conduct a critical review and analysis of existing subsidy programs in the SADC region and elsewhere to determine key principles and associated actions for developing		participants to enhance adaptive capacity and productivity. 6.4. Strengthening Institutional support. T1. Collaborate with local government agencies, NGOs, and other relevant stakeholders to create an enabling policy and regulatory environment for climate-resilient livelihood programs. T2. Advocate for the integration of climate change adaptation and	T6. Connect ECHO to power grids and irrigation systems. T7. Install FlexSus sensors for real-time resource and emissions monitoring. T8. Train technicians to maintain and troubleshoot ECHO systems. T9. Develop facilities to process waste into renewable energy. T10. Test and scale modular ECHO systems in selected regions. 7.4. PPP System Enhancements (GSIA). T1. Develop policies aligned with global standards for transparency. T2. Establish ESG criteria and reporting systems for sustainability. T3. Engage auditors to validate ESG compliance and reporting.

	bioprotectant regulatory frameworks. 2.2. Developed a harmonized bioprotectant registration regulations for SADC member states. T1. Consultative Technical Workshops for the development of SADC Harmonized Bioprotectants' regulations. T2. Develop Mutual Recognition Pillars and Modalities on Bioprotectant regulations SADC Legal Drafting Committee convened.	national level - at least 4 workshop/seminar per partner state. T6. Facilitate Public Private Dialogue workshop and seminars at Regional level. T7. Resource Mobilization systems for SA HA enhanced. T8. Establish strategic partnerships and collaborations and strengthen existing ones. 2.2. Trade Information, data Management and other instruments for Deepening Trade Agreements and integration	gaps to strengthen them. T2. Supporting furthering systems (exchange or electronic) development between existing national commodity exchanges and facilitate market information system (including regional food balance sheet and informal cross border monitoring already in place). T3.Development of regulatory framework for national commodity exchanges where	"smart" fertilizer subsidy programs for the region.		sustainable livelihood strategies into regional and national development plans. T3. Strengthen local institutions and community-based organizations to ensure the sustainability of the initiatives beyond the project duration. 6.5. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Knowledge Sharing. T1. Establish robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to assess the impact and	T4. Train stakeholders in ESG principles and project management. T5. Design structured leasing agreements for non-creditworthy countries. T6. Include insurance and maintenance in lease agreements. T7. Establish a pool for early adoption of modular systems like ECHO. T8. Enable scalable infrastructure through flexible leasing terms. T9. Align PPP initiatives with regional policies and SADC goals. T10. Track project outcomes and compliance with ESG and PPP standards.

	T3. SADC Organs Meetings: Committee on Agriculture; SADC Council of Ministers to review and adopt the SADC Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations. 3.1. Strategic implementation plan of the SADC bioprotectant registration harmonization and commercialization regulations developed. T1. Development of Implementation Plan of the SADC Registration Harmonization and	developed and operationalized. T1. Leveraging the platform to integrate digital trading systems, improving market visibility and connectivity across the region. T2. Support the enhancement of the Trade Information Portals through addition of processes for prioritized FV and Nuts VC and include the regional corridor mapping, agricultural commodities, and products. T3. Develop Centralized digital platform to	nonexistence or in draft form. T4. Enhance private sector and smallholder farmers' capacity to comply with regional and international market standards for staple food trade. T5. Conducting a regional workshop to come up with a roadmap on harmonization of the commodity trade exchanges in the South Africa and SADC region. T6. Come up with a SADC Regional Commodity exchange and co-ordinate spot and			effectiveness of the climate-resilient livelihood programs. T2. Document best practices, lessons learned, and case studies to inform future initiatives and policy development. T3. Facilitate knowledge sharing and networking among project participants, local communities, and relevant stakeholders through workshops, conferences, and online platforms.	

	Commercialization Regulations, taking into consideration the input from the SADC Member States. T2. Launch and sensitization of Registration Harmonization and Commercialization Regulations in all SADC Member States. 3.0. Establish and institutionalize a regional Biosafety risk assessment mechanism. T1. Technical review meeting to nominate PoE members. T2. Review, update National	address information gaps along with the FV and nuts VCs, providing real-time data on market trends, production forecasts, logistics, and quality standards. T4. Engage IT Providers to develop/Improve digital trading platform. T5. Support Training of stakeholders on Platform Use. T6. Facilitate the establishment of integrated digital trading system for market visibility and connectivity for value chain actors.	futures exchanges in the ESA Region dealing with input markets.				

	Biosafety Authorities including Standardization of application forms and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). T3. Establish, institutionalize a regional biosafety risk assessment mechanism through selection, and technical support to SADC Regional Panel of Experts on biotechnology and biosafety. T4. Induction training for PoE members, including a review of dossiers for a specific product or products.	T7. Support Convening platform to pool resources from private investments, public sector initiatives, and donor funding to support infrastructure, capacity building, and technology adoption along the FV and nuts VCs. T8. Undertake detailed regional assessment to identify potential areas for establishing production clusters based on comparative advantages, resource availability and market demand.					

	3.2. Strengthen Biosafety regulatory capacity in selected SADC member states. T1. Annual data collection in SADC Member States for updating policies and products' development. T2. Testing of the regional risk assessment process through appropriate case studies. Import application: Crop-specific trait. T2. Popularize the "case study" PoE opinion among select Member States.	2.3. Support establishment/improvement of regional production cluster. T1. Support Capacity Building for Aggregation and Cooperative - strengthen the operational skills of producer cooperatives and aggregation centers to improve efficiency and bargaining power within the value chain. T2. Support Market Systems Linkage - Develop stronger connections between producers' processors, and					

	T3. Strengthen Biosafety Capacities in SADC member states through SADC Member States Biotechnology and Biosafety status updates, case study meeting/data transportability, Popularize the case study and Economic Assessment. T4. Economic Assessment of Regional Harmonization Approach Using Data Transportability in Risk Assessment. 3.3. Enhance communication awareness and	buyer to ensure a smooth flow. T3. Support investments in shared infrastructure and logistics (appropriate storage, aggregation centers and packaging. T4. Needs assessment conducted of potential cooperatives/associations/SMEs targeting women, youth. T5. Technical support provided to cooperatives and associations to register, develop business and sustainability plans, business					

	communication about South Africa and SADC Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy among member states and stakeholders. T1. Review and put in place data driven Communication Strategy. T2. Strengthen awareness of the South Africa Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy among Member States. T3. Engage and build the capacity of regional networks for media, youth, women and special interest groups to	management, governance, negotiations, financial management. T6. Link SMEs/cooperatives /associations to local markets, regional and international markets. T7. Women's and youth businesses linked to large companies' product buyers locally, regionally and globally. 2.4. Reinforce the extension system and delivery. T1. Support convening of regional workshop for research institutions,					

	effectively popularize the policy. T4. Publicize the experiences of farmers and traders with GM crops in SADC Member States and other parts of the world. T5. Awareness and Communications through development of model data-driven Communication strategy and validation with lead countries including regional workshop with biosafety authorities. T6. Hold annual regional Biosafety	academia and private sector players to formulate deployment mechanisms of innovative solutions, and adoption within local contexts. T2. Support research initiative aligned deliver climate smart technologies. T3. Support accessibility and adoption of appropriate climate smart agriculture technologies and mechanization. T4. Support the translation of the developed and validated Publications to the					

	and Biotechnology meetings in moving forward SA-BBIP. T7. Report progress on moving forward SA-BBIP to the Ministers of Agriculture and Natural Resources / Council of Ministers and SADC Summit.	commonly most used languages in the region. T5. Promote Access to Genomic technologies - Support investments in technologies that accelerate the breeding of high yielding and resilient crop varieties. T6. Support establishment of trial farms in Different agro-ecological zones to test and validate the performance of new varieties under varying climatic conditions. T7. Establish a private-sector logistics					

		engagement platform to enhance regional coordination, foster strategic partnerships, and support evidence-based research and advocacy in the logistics sector. T8. Support compliance to Private Voluntary Sustainability standards systems to promote sustainable production and business practices. T9. Development and rollout of early warning and monitoring systems (EWS) to mitigate shocks. T10. Mapping, review and needs assessment of					

		existing early warning systems. T11. Establish early warning systems to help value chain actors anticipate and mitigate climate risks. T12. Design programme to support existing EWS frameworks or development to enhance planning and mitigate against shocks.					

Budget and use of funds

PROJECT 1: South Africa Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (SA-FAUP)

OUTCOME 1: Accelerates the development and harmonization of regulatory frameworks and Implementation Plan for Organic fertilizer for South Africa**, as reference to SADC Member states**

Output 1.1. Develop and Harmonize Organic and Inorganic Fertilizer Frameworks for South Africa

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 South Africa and the SADC Member States	National consultants	250	10,5	20	1	52,500.00
Regional synthesis report taking into consideration national reports, SADC, EAC and COMESA.	Regional consultant	500	1	20	1	10,000.00
Development of SADC Harmonised Fertilizer Regulations.	Technical workshops	1500	30	3	1	135,000.00
Development of the SADC Harmonised Fertilizer Regulations Implementation Plan.	Regional consultant	500	1	20	1	10,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**252,500.00**

Output 1.2. Establish Zero Tarrif and common external tarrifs (CET) Harmonisation for Fertilizer Trade in the SADC Member states.						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Development of SADC Fertilizer CET.	Regional consultant	500	1	40	1	10,000.00
Technical customs meetings held on fertilizer CET drafting of the SADC CET conducted.	Regional workshop	1500	40	2	4	240,000.00
Validation and launch of SADC Fertilizer CET conducted.	Regional workshop	1500	40	2	5	300,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**550,000.00**
Output 1.3. Development of new SADC Soil Fertility Maps to assist fertilizer Blending companies in coming up with new suitable fertilizer Blends.						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Conduct soil analysis and develop soil fertility maps based on the soil analysis for the SADC region	National consultant	300	21	20	1	126,000.00
Develop new fertilizer recommendations based on the soil analysis that will include the missing nutrients, validate the findings via fertilizer trials	Regional consultant	500	1	30	1	15,000.00

Work with fertilizer blending companies to develop the new fertilizer blends (promote the sourcing of the nutrients from both organic and mineral fertilizer sources).	Regional consulant	500	1	30	1	15,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**156,000.00**
Output 1.4. Developing SADC Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines with existing strategies						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Conduct a critical review and analysis of existing subsidy programs in the SADC region and elsewhere to determine key principles and associated actions for developing "smart" fertilizer subsidy programs for the region.	Regional consultant	500	1	30	1	15,000.00
Develop Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines comprised of best practices to support SADC Member States in the implementation of "smart" subsidies that use e-vouchers and have exit strategies.	Regional consultant	500	1	20	1	10,000.00
Regional validation and launch of the SADC Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines.	Regional Workshop	1500	50	1	2	150,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**175,000.00**

OUTCOME 2: Establish and Strengthen the Agriculture input distribution networks using the hub agrodealer model including national and regional fertilzier trade and agrodealer association in the SADC member states						
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)***
Conduct needs assessments of the existing regional fertilizer associations; 5 existing national fertilizer associations; and 5 existing agrodealers associations	Regional consultancy	500	1	30	1	15,000.00
Develop and deliver capacity building support	National consultants	300	21	55	1	346,500.00
Conduct a study and recommend 5 countries for the establishment of new fertilizer associations or agrodealers associations	Regional consultant	500	1	20	1	10,000.00
Convene a regional meeting of regional and national fertilizer associations to raise awareness about the initiative, share lessons learned and agree on next steps to strengthen/establish regional and national fertilizer associations in SADC.	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)***
Establish a credit guarantee fund for the project	Regional fund	600,000.00	1	1	1	600,000.00
Profile Screen and select 5 hub-agrodealers in 10 selected countries.	National Consultants	300	10	10	1	30,000.00
Implement capacity building of hub agrodealers	Direct National engagement	10000	1	1	5	50,000.00
Develop linkages with suppliers and execute the credit guarantee scheme	Regional consultancy	500	1	5	5	12,500.00
Provide support, monitor and report on APC performance	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 capacity needs assessment of existing Hubs and agrodealers in 10 countries for: a) business and technical services; b) safe application and use of nutrient technology;	National Consultants	300	10	10	1	30,000.00

Develop an appropriate training curriculum	Regional Consultants	650	1	5	1	3,250.00
Provide appropriate training to the targeted groups in each country	Regional consultancy	650	1	3	5	9,750.00
Convene a regional trade fair to facilitate business linkages with suppliers in the region	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 South Africa ***and SADC region***						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Conduct feasibility of green ammonia production.	Regional consultancy	500	1	40	1	20,000.00
Link fertilizer blenders with green ammonia for blending through 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: South Africa Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme (SA-BHAP)						
OUTCOME 1: Assesment reports of existing Bioprotectants registration and commercialization in SADC member states						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Convene a regional inception workshop for all SADC 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 SADC member states						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Consultative Technical Workshops for the development of SADC Harmonised Bioprotectants' regulations.	National workshops	1500	50	2	1	150,000.00

Develop Mutual Recognition Pillars and Modalities on Bioprotectant regulations SADC Legal Drafting Committee convened.	Regional consultants	650	7	25	1	113,750.00
Validation workshop of the SADC Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations.	Regional workshop	1500	50	2	1	150,000.00
SADC Organs Meetings: Committee on Agriculture; SADC Council of Ministers to review and adopt the SADC Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations	Regional workshop	1500	50	2	1	150,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**563,750.00**
OUTCOME 3. SADC Harmonised Bioprotectants regulations strategic Implementation Plan in place						
Output 3.1. Strategic implementation plan of the SADC bioprotectant registration harmonization and commercialization regulations developed						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Development of Implementation Plan of the SADC Registration Harmonization and Commercialization Regulations, taking into consideration the input from the SADC Member States.	Regional consultants	650	7	25	1	113,750.00

Launch and sensitization of Registration Harmonization and Commercialization Regulations in SADC Member States	National workshop	1500	25	1	21	787,500.00
					Sub total(USD)	**901,250.00**
				Total Project Funds (USD)		**1,522,500.00**
PROJECT 3: South Africa Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (SA-BBIP)						
Output 3.1.Establish and Institutionalize a regional Biosafety risk assessment mechanisms						
Description	***Means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Technical review meeting to nominate PoE members	Regional workshop	1500	30	1	1	45,000.00
Review, update National Biosafety Authorities including Standardisation of application forms and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).	Consultant	650	1	25	1	16,250.00
Establish, institutionalize a regional biosafety risk assessment mechanism through selection, and technical support to SADC Regional Panel of Experts on biotechnology and biosafety.	Consultant	650	1	25	1	16,250.00

Induction training for PoE members, including a review of dossiers for a specific product or products.	Consultant	650	1	10	1	6,500.00
					Sub total(USD)	**84,000.00**
Output 3.2. Strengthen Biosafety regulatory capacity in selected SADC member states						
Description	***Means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Annual data collection in SADC Member States for updating policies and products' development.	Consultant	650	1	20	1	13,000.00
Testing of the regional risk assessment process through appropriate case studies. Import application: Crop-specific trait.	Consultant	650	1	20	2	26,000.00
Popularize the "case study" PoE opinion among select Member States.	Consultant	650	21	10	1	136,500.00
Strengthen Biosafety Capacities in SADC member states through SADC Member States Biotechnology and Biosafety status updates, case study meeting/data transportability, Popularize the case study and Economic Assessment.	Workshops	1500	50	5	1	375,000.00

Economic Assessment of Regional Harmonization Approach Using Data Transportability in Risk Assessment.	Consultant	650	1	10	1	6,500.00
					Sub total(USD)	**557,000.00**
Output 3.3. Enhance communication awareness and communication about SADC Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy among member states and stakeholders.						
Description	***Means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Review and put in place program data driven Communication Strategy.	Consultant	650	1	20	1	13,000.00
Strengthen awareness of the SADC Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy among Member States.	Consultant	650	1	20	1	13,000.00
Engage and build the capacity of regional networks for media, youth, women and special interest groups to effectively popularize the policy.	National Consultant	300	21	10	1	63,000.00
Publicize the experiences of farmers and traders with GM crops in SADC Member States and other parts of the world.	Consultant	650	1	30	1	19,500.00

Awareness and Communications through development of model data-driven Communication strategy and validation with lead countries including regional workshop with biosafety authorities.	Consultant	650	1	20	1	13,000.00
Hold annual regional Biosafety and Biotechnology meetings in moving forward program.	Workshops	1500	25	1	1	37,500.00
Report progress on moving forward program to the Ministers of Agriculture and Natural Resources / Council of Ministers and SADC Summit.	Consultant	650	1	15	1	9,750.00
					Sub total(USD)	**168,750.00**
				Total Project Funds (USD)		**809,750.00**
PROJECT 4: South Africa Seed Harmonisation and Cerification Programme (SA-SHCP)						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Develop SADC Regional Seed digital tracking and traceability systems.	Consultant	650	1	25	1	16,250.00

Support small and medium private seed companies through testing their varieties in second SADC Member State to enable them to register their varieties on the SADC Variety Catalogue.	workshops and Meetings	1500	25	5	1	187,500.00
Support full domestication of the SADC Seed Trade Harmonisation Regulations	Workshops and Meetings	1500	25	3	2	225,000.00
Provide technical assistance to support seed companies with application, registration of varieties on SADC Variety Catalogue and acquisition, activation and trading using SADC Regional Seed Labels conducted.	Consultant	650	1	25	1	16,250.00
Support the full implementation of the Seed Labels in close collaboration with the South Africa and SADC Seed Committee.	Consultant	650	1	50	1	16,250.00
Support data collection and Input into the COMSIS platform	Consultant	650	1	60	1	19,500.00
Conducting COMSIS Data validation meeting.	workshops and Meetings	1500	80	3	1	180,000.00
Development of the COMSIS software	Procuring	190000	1	1	1	95,000.00
Maintenance of COMSIS Software	Procuring	25000	1	1	1	12,500.00

				Total Project Funds (USD)		**768,250.00**
PROJECT 5: South Africa Horticulture Accelerator (SA-HA)						
OUTCOME 1: Faciliatte Development of sustainable and resilient Value Chain(s)						
Output 5.1.1. Established Regional Platforms and mechanisms for coordination among value chain actors						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Facilitate Establishment of SA HA National Chapters	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	5	187,500.00
Conduct SA HA Stakeholders Mapping and Forums	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	5	187,500.00
Organize regional Workshops/Forums for network Establishment	Workshop	1,500.00	30	1	1	45,000.00
Facilitate establishment and coordination of multistake holder collaboration	Workshop	10,000.00	1	1	1	10,000.00
Facilitate workshop and seminars at national level - at least 4 workshop/seminar per partner state	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	4	150,000.00
Facilitate Public Private Dialogue workshop and seminars at Regional level	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	2	75,000.00

Resource Mobilization systems for SA HA enhanced	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
				SUB TOTAL (USD)		**675,000.00**
Output 5.1.2. Trade Information, data Management and other instruments for Deepening Trade Agreements and integration developed and operationalized						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Leveraging the platform to integrate digital trading systems, improving market visibility and connectivity across the region	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Support the enhancement of the Trade Information Portals through addition of processes for prioritized products and include the regional corridor mapping, agricultural commodities, and products.	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Develop Centralized digital platform to address information gaps, providing real-time data on market trends, production forecasts, logistics, and quality standards	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Engage IT Providers to develop/Improve digital trading platform	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00

Support Training of stakeholders on Platfrom Use	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Faciliate the establishemet of integrated digital trading system for market visibility and connectivity for value chain actors	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Support Convening platform to pool resources from private investments, public sector initiatives, and donor funding to support infrastructure, capacity building, and technology adoption.	Regional workshop	1500	25	1	1	37,500.00
Undertake detailed regional assessment to identify potential areas for establishing production clusters based on comparative advantages, resource availability and market demand.	Regional consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
				SUB TOTAL (USD)		**72,500.00**
Output 5.1.3. Support establishment/improvement of regional production cluster						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Identify potential cluster locations	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00

Support Capacity Building for Aggregation and Cooperative -strengthen the operational skills of producer cooperatives and aggregation centres to improve efficiency and bargaining power within the value chain	Consultant	500	1	15	1	7,500.00
Support Market Systems Linkage - Developstronger connections between producers processors, and buyer to ensure a smoothflow	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Support invetsments in shared infrastructure and logistics (appropriate strorag, aggregation centersand packaging	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Needs assessment conducted of potential cooperatives/associations/SMEs targeting women, youth	National Consultant	300	1	10	1	3,000.00
Technical support provided to cooperatives and associations to register, develop business and sustainability plans, business management, governance, negotiations, financial management.	National Consultant	300	1	10	1	3,000.00
Link SMEs/cooperatives/associations to local markets, regional and international markets	National Consultant	300	1	10	1	3,000.00

Women's and youth's businesses linked to large companies product buyers locally, regionally and globally	National Consultant	300	1	10	1	3,000.00
				SUB TOTAL (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***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Support convening of regional workshop for research institutions, academia and private sector players to formulate deployment mechanisms of innovative solutions, and adoption within local contexts	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support research initiative aligned deliver climate smart technologies	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support accesability and adoption of appropriate climate smart agriculture technologies and mechanisation	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support the translation of the developed and validated Publications to the commonly most used languages in the region	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00

Promote Access to Genomic technologies - Support investments in technologies that accelerate the breeding of high yielding and resilient crop varieties	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support establishment of trial farms in Different agro -ecological zones to test and validate the perfomance of new varieties under varying climatic conditions	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Leverage Public Private Partnerships by engaging private seed companies in co developing and disseminating improved crop varieties for rapid commercialisation and farmer adoption	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Establish a private-sector logistics engagement platform to enhance regional coordination, foster strategic partnerships, and support evidence-based research and advocacy in the logistics sector.	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Support compliance to Private Voluntary Sustainability standards systems to promote sustainable production and business practices	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Development and rollout of early warning and monitoring systems (EWS) to mitigate shocks	National Consultant	300	1	15	5	22,500.00

Mapping, review and needs assessment of existing early warning systems	National Consultant	300	1	15	5	22,500.00
Establish early warning systems to help value chain actors anicipate and mitigate climate risks	National Consultant	300	1	15	5	22,500.00
Design programme to support existing EWS frameworks or development to enhance planning and mitigate against shocks (SADC food balance sheet)	Regional consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
				Sub Total (USD)		**317,500.00**
Output 5.2.2. Improved post-Harvest management circulatory						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Advocate circularity by repurposing of agricultural waste into value by-products, such compost or bioenergy, to reduce environmntal 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 Implentation of SADC Food Safety Regulatory and Operational framework initiated in key trade corridors						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***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 Foodsafety 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***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Strengthen of working capital and bridgingfinance	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 policyreform 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 credit worthiness, keeping good records and developing bankable business proposals	Training	1500	25	10	5	1,875,000.00
				Sub Total (USD)		**4,417,500.00**
Output 5.2.5. Faciliating regional and international collaboration for Harmonisation of Trade stands and SPS Regulations						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Facilitate the reduction or elimination of firmal and informal Tariff and Non Tariff Barriers	Consultant	500	1	5	5	25,000.00

Support the harmonmisation of regional food safety regulations, pesticides, and quality standards to facilitae trade	Consultant	500	1	5	5	25,000.00
Develop simplified and guides on compliance with manuals and guides on compliance with SPS regulations and harmoised quality strandars	Consultant	500	1	5	5	25,000.00
Support the establishment of Trade Experts Engagement Networks to enable provision of rapid responses on emerging issues related to trade policy, trade facilitation, SPS and SQI. The delivery modality shall be as follows:	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 for purposes of facilitating sharing the analysis and information collected.	Regional Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Capacity building to VC actors within the clusters on GAPS, Plant health, Social, Environment and Food safety standards	National Consultants	300	5	5	5	37,500.00
Support the translation of the developed and validated NTBs toolkit/factbook to the commonly most used languages in the region	National Consultants	300	5	5	5	37,500.00

Selection and profiling of target border points and target via a review of existing cross-border assessment reports and conducting cross-border assessments.	National Consultants	300	5	5	5	37,500.00
Regional stakeholder engagement for validation and dissemination of border assessment findings	workshop	1500	25	2	5	375,000.00
Conduct Assessment of key phytosanitary risks affecting trade in plants and plant products	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Consultancy to conduct study on key pest risks of food security and trade concerns in plant and plant products in the region (harmful organisms, plant protection products, etc)	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Expert Group meeting to develop pest risk management recommendations/options on plants and plant products (seed, pest control products, etc)	Regional workshop	1500	25	1	1	37,500.00
Expert Group meeting to develop risk management recommendations/options for plant health risks	Regional workshop	1500	25	1	1	37,500.00

Support compliance with qualiy control and SPS standards - provide technical assistance and training to help stakeholders comply with domestic and international quality and SPS requirements, ensuring market readiness	Regional Consultant	1500	25	1	1	37,500.00
				Sub Total (USD)		**760,000.00**
Output 5.2.6. Support development and validation of SA HA Cross Cutting strategies/methodology and impact assessment informed by gender and youth analysis						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***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 rollout of data collection on job creation across the Member states with a focus on jobs for women and youth	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Capacity building of SA HA National Chapters on approved job creation methodology and market systems approach	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
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	1500	25	2	5	375,000.00
Support development and validation of SA HA marketing and information	workshop	1500	25	2	5	375,000.00
				Sub Total (USD)		**875,000.00**
SA HA IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Hosting of the SA HA General Assembly		1500	50	2	5	750,000.00
SA HA Board Meetings		1500	5	1	4	30,000.00
Technical Committee Meetings		1500	5	1	4	30,000.00
National Chapter Consultative Meetings		20000	5	1	4	400,000.00
Support B2B Business Forums		1500	5	1	4	30,000.00
Project Visibility		20000	1	1	1	10,000.00

Support to Private Business to improve and out scale SA HA Operations Inclusive of Small-Holders		10000	1	1	5	25,000.00
M&E (Baselines, data collection, project evaluations)		1500	1	10	5	75,000.00
Communication		10000	1	1	5	25,000.00
Host Forum on Gender/Youth and climate Change		5000	1	1	5	25,000.00
Support participation in the National Chapters forums		5000	2	1	5	50,000.00
Mainstreaming activities (Environment, Climate Change and Gender)		5000	1	2	5	50,000.00
				Sub Total		**1,450,000.00**
				Total Project Funds		**8,787,000.00**
				Combined Program Funds		**14,633,000.00**

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
					Sub 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
					Sub 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
					Sub 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
					Sub 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
					Sub Total	**3 125 000**
Merger of Programs	SA HA, FAUP etc	500 000			1	500 000

Total						**500 000**
				Total SDEP		**27,330,000.00**
				Program + SDEP Total		**41,963,000.00**

SECTION 3 – FEASIBILITY

3.1 RISK MANAGEMENT

3.1.1 Significant risks facing the programme

This Programme is largely a capacity development programme with limited to no environmental or social risk envisaged. Additionally, the process of mobilizing and involving communities around the sites combined with the progressive hands-on capacity building of critical masses of actors will result in the development of local capacity to mitigate foreseen risks, which might arise during the Project implementation. Risks like time constraints, acceptability of activities, commitment to implementing parties, and/or a shift in interest of the SADC Alliance are to be observed and mitigated through the embedded monitoring tools of the Programme.

3.1.2 Environmental and Social Risks

South Africa recognizes that agriculture-based enterprises including crop production, livestock, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture have the potential of generating negative environmental and social impacts. As such, South Africa developed a framework for Environmental and Social Management to provide guidance for managing environmental and social risks when implementing sustainable development interventions. The aim is to protect and sustainably use natural resources and social capital whilst meeting society's growing needs by offering decent and resilient livelihoods through agriculture development, and a better policy environment.

The South Africa Climate Change division is the agency responsible for ensuring that development projects/programmes are compliant with the environmental management precepts. The agency ensures that projects/programmes are conducting environmental and social impact assessments together with risk management plans.

3.1.3 Risk management strategy

In a bid to manage and mitigate risks throughout the programme cycle, an internal control framework with clear segregation of duties and responsibilities will be set up under the direct supervision of the CEO of the programme leader, with support of the Programme technical and operational teams.

A comprehensive project Risk Log, detailing the risks envisaged to affect the programme, the risk level, assumptions and mitigation measures that will be put in place to manage the risks. It will be closely monitored for progress on the mitigation measures and updated regularly to ensure that appropriate strategies are in place to address any emerging threats to the successful implementation of the Programme. This will be done on an annual basis as part of annual work planning and budgeting process. The overall South Africa Programme Steering Committee (SAPSC) or the SAFPS-EI Board will be regularly briefed on the status of the risk management strategy and guidance sought on the appropriate action to be taken if the need arises. Likewise, all implementing partners and key stakeholders will be kept informed of any significant residual risk exposures that may affect them.

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
		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

ENTERPRISE	NATURE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	SOURCES OR CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	EFFECTS
		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 - Integration of solar water pumps	- Loss of land productivity - Low crop yield and stunted growths - Poor quality of produce - 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	- Increases costs and time to access water for non-agricultural uses - Depleting water level - Scarcity of water availability throughout the year

ENTERPRISE	NATURE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	SOURCES OR CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	EFFECTS
				- Technologies that require less water will be favoured including fruit tree varieties, which are more adaptable to local conditions	
		ii. Poor human health	- Fertiliser and Pesticide exposure during application - Consumption of food products with fertiliser and pesticide residues	- Sustainable agricultural practices including climate and environmentally smart agriculture will be part of all agronomic training	- Morbidity, loss of human life and increased healthcare costs - Labour constraints due to poisoning - Lack of Awareness of danger to human health
		i. Social disturbances	- Improved household income	- Gender awareness, education, and communications including Dimitra Clubs	- Migration - Increase in gender-based violence - Creation of islands of wealth within a region

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

ENTERPRISE	NATURE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL IMPACTS	SOURCES OR CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS	MITIGATION MEASURES	EFFECTS
			diversified food		

SECTION 4 – IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The SAFPS-EI CEO shall serve as the budget holder and oversee operational, financial, and managerial aspects of the programme. A dedicated technical and operational team will be employed to ensure the successful execution of the initiative.

The flagship programme comprises five distinct areas of agricultural development and will be implemented under the leadership of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development (DALRRD) or the relevant government authority, in close cooperation with the SADC Secretariat. Oversight responsibility will rest with the South African government, alongside structured coordination with targeted countries in the region.

Institutional and Regional Cooperation

The **SA-FPS-EI programme** will receive **regular technical support** from various **SADC divisions**, including:

✓ **Statistics** – For data-driven decision-making and programme evaluation.

✓ **Gender** – Ensuring gender inclusion in agriculture development.

✓ **Climate Change** – Aligning agricultural policies with **climate-smart, resilient farming strategies**.

As a **sector-wide, value chain-based programme**, SA-FPS-EI will collaborate with relevant regional and continental organizations. **The following institutions may serve as key partners, though additional bodies may be included as necessary:**

✓ **SACAU (Southern African Confederation of Agricultural Unions)** – Represents **farmers' organizations** in Southern Africa, supporting policy advocacy and knowledge sharing.

✓ **AgriSA** – A critical industry body representing **commercial and emerging farmers** in South Africa.

✓ **AFSTA (African Seed Trade Association)** – Supports seed sector harmonization and certification.

✓ **AUDA-NEPAD (African Union Development Agency - New Partnership for Africa's Development)** – Facilitates continental agricultural development and innovation.

✓ **AFCTA Secretariat (African Continental Free Trade Area Secretariat)** – Ensures trade policy alignment and cross-border market facilitation.

✓ **NAMC (National Agricultural Marketing Council)** – Supports **market development and agribusiness linkages** within South Africa.

These **institutions and industry groups** will provide **sectoral guidance, capacity-building, and regulatory alignment** for SA-FPS-EI's implementation.

Programme Steering Committee (PSC)

A **Programme Steering Committee (PSC)** for **SA-FPS-EI** will be established by the **Ministry of Agriculture** in coordination with:

✓ **The South African Government** (relevant ministries).

✓ **SADC Secretariat** (Agriculture, Climate Change, and Trade Divisions).

✓ **Development partners**, including **AfDB (African Development Bank)** and **EUSL (European Social Label)**.

Role of the PSC:

✓ **Provide strategic direction** for SA-FPS-EI.

✓ **Ensure policy coherence and institutional coordination** between the government, SADC, and trade

partners.

✓ **Approve annual budgets, work plans, and progress reports** for the programme's implementation.

✓ **Monitor programme performance and impact** to ensure accountability and efficiency.

The **PSC shall convene on a semi-annual basis**, or **more frequently if required**, to review implementation progress and resolve strategic challenges. The **exact mandate and membership structure** will be finalized **during the inception phase**, in coordination with other **Flagship Programme components**.

Programme Implementation Unit (PIU)

A **Programme Implementation Unit (PIU)** will be established under the **Flagship Programme**, embedded within the **SADC Secretariat**. The **PIU will support** the **Programme Technical Committee (PTC) and PSC**, ensuring **effective technical implementation and coordination** across all programme components.

Key Functions of the PIU:

✓ **Provide day-to-day oversight and programme management**, ensuring alignment with **KPIs and annual work plans**.

✓ **Coordinate technical assistance and implementation across South Africa and other SADC member states**.

✓ **Facilitate collaboration among government agencies, research institutions, and private-sector partners**.

Composition of the PIU:

The **PIU will include** specialized professionals from **South African institutions, SADC divisions, and programme-affiliated entities**. Key personnel may include:

✓ **Agriculture Inputs Specialist** – Overseeing seed, fertilizer, and input supply chains.

✓ **Legal and Grants Management Specialist** – Managing compliance, financial disbursement, and funding oversight.

✓ **Organizational Development and Capacity Building Specialist** – Supporting training and farmer cooperative development.

✓ **Administrative Assistant** – Handling coordination, reporting, and administrative functions.

✓ **Plant Protection and Biotechnology Specialist** – Overseeing pest management, bio-protectants, and biotechnology integration.

The **PIU will convene regularly**, as needed, to ensure **efficient programme execution**, regulatory compliance, and strategic coordination with key stakeholders.

By **leveraging strong institutional partnerships, a structured governance framework, and multi-sectoral collaboration**, SA-FPS-EI will establish a **well-coordinated, impact-driven agricultural transformation initiative**, ensuring long-term resilience, sustainability, and economic growth for South Africa's horticulture sector.

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

South Africa and SADC Region's total hectarage of farming that is attributable to Smallholder stands at hundreds of thousands of Square meters. For the ASFPS-EI 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 ☒ **Name of the Area (Name of the FO, District, T/A, Village)** ☒ **Proposed location of the project (Include a site map of at least 1:10,000 scale / or coordinates from GPS)**	
Land resources ☒ **Topography and Geology of the area** ☒ **Soils of the area**	

Category of Baseline Information	Brief Description
✗ **Main land uses and economic activities**	
Water Resources ✗ **Surface water resources (e.g. rivers, lakes, etc.) quantity and quality** ✗ **Groundwater resources quantity and quality**	
Biological resources ✗ **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 exercises

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 SAFPS-EI 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)

SAFPS-EI Chief Executive Officer

SA-HA Regional Coordinator
SAFPS -EI Agri-Business and Policy Advisor
SAFPS -EI Finance and Planning Officer
SAFPS -EI Knowledge, Events, Communication and Programme Officer.

EUSL SAFPS-EI STAFF

Programme Development Manager
FlexSus and Technical Manager
Visual Design Manager
Implementation Manager

Final Summary

The South Africa Food Production and Security – ECHO Implementation (SAFPS-EI) is an initiative designed to transform South Africa's horticulture sector into a competitive, resilient, and high-value industry. By integrating climate-smart agriculture, modern infrastructure, and strategic policy alignment, the program addresses key challenges in productivity, trade, finance, and sustainability.

Through targeted investments in irrigation, logistics, and market access, SAFPS-EI will boost yields, reduce post-harvest losses, and expand export opportunities under SADC and AfCFTA frameworks. By unlocking finance for smallholders and agribusinesses, strengthening value chains, and ensuring compliance with international SPS standards, the program lays the foundation for a thriving, globally competitive horticulture sector.

By 2035, SAFPS-EI aims to position South Africa as a leader in intra-African trade, drive inclusive economic growth, and create sustainable livelihoods for thousands of farmers and SMEs. With public-private partnerships, research-driven solutions, and digital transformation, the program will not only ensure food security and market expansion but also establish South Africa as a hub for innovation, investment, and agricultural excellence in the region.