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SOUTH SUDAN STAPLE FOOD PROGRAMME

SDEP AND ECHO IMPLEMENTATION

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Project Title:	South Sudan Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SSSFPS-EI)
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South Sudan Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation
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ACRONYMS AND **ABBREVIATIONS**

AfDB	African Development Bank
CEHA	COMESA EAC Horticulture Accelerator
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 Organisation
RVCs	Regional Value Chains.
SDEP	Social Development and Empowering Programme
SFPSEI	Staple Food Programme, including SDEP and ECHO
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
South Sudan-BBIP	South Sudan Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme
South Sudan -BHAP	South Sudan Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme
South Sudan -FAUP	South Sudan Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme
South Sudan -SHCP	South Sudan Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme
SSSFPS-EI	South Sudan Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The South Sudan Staple Food Programme: SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SSSFPS-EI) is a comprehensive strategic initiative aligned with South Sudan's National Development Strategy (NDS) and Vision 2040. It also integrates the frameworks of the European Social Label (EUSL), particularly the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP) and the Agenda for Social Equity 2074. This programme is designed to accelerate agricultural productivity and strengthen intra-African trade, particularly under the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). Drawing from successful models within the East African Community (EAC) and related regional programmes, the SSSFPS-EI seeks to reinforce South Sudan's food systems while promoting inclusive growth, economic diversification, and climate resilience.

By adapting five targeted programmes initially designed for COMESA, and integrating them with South Sudan's development context, the SSSFPS-EI supports national priorities for food security, agro-industrial development, and sustainable rural transformation.

Programme Structure

The SSSFPS-EI comprises seven strategic programmes, each designed to address key areas of South Sudan's agricultural sector and aligned with relevant regional practices:

1. **South Sudan Bioprotectants Harmonisation Programme (SS BHAP)** – Supports the harmonization and adoption of bioprotectant standards for sustainable pest and disease control. This programme references COMESA's COMBIHAP and will be developed in collaboration with South Sudan's emerging plant protection frameworks to support ecological farming and natural pest control.

2. **South Sudan Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (SS BBIP)** – Facilitates the safe deployment of agricultural biotechnology to enhance crop yields and resilience. This programme will support South Sudan's biosafety regulatory development, working closely with national and regional biosafety focal points to ensure compliance with international best practices.

3. **South Sudan Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (SS FAUP)** – Enhances access to fertilizers and strengthens distribution systems, with a focus on soil health and domestic blending capacity. It will align with South Sudan's policy direction in agriculture and integrate lessons from the EAC and COMESA fertilizer strategies.

4. **South Sudan Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme (SS SHCP)** – Promotes efficient seed system development through streamlined registration, certification, and regional trade harmonization. It will align with EAC's East African Seed Committee (EASC) protocols and support national institutions responsible for seed quality assurance.

5. **COMESA-EAC Horticulture Accelerator (CEHA)** – Continues to operate as a regional anchor initiative supporting climate-resilient horticulture. CEHA will help South Sudan scale its horticulture sector by enhancing productivity, logistics, and market access in line with EAC and COMESA frameworks.

6. **Technology Implementation and Infrastructure Support (SDEP Tech)** – Introduces modular solutions in rural infrastructure, renewable energy, digital agriculture, and water systems. It integrates the **ECHO platform** to ensure operational efficiency, digital connectivity, and improved farmer access to services.

7. **Vocational Training and Capacity Building (SDEP VTCB)** – Strengthens technical and vocational education in agriculture and related fields. It aims to boost employment, institutional capacity, and entrepreneurial skills through tailored training aligned with South Sudan's TVET and rural development frameworks.

Strategic Components

The SSSFPS-EI is built upon three interdependent pillars:

1. **Natural Resource Management** – Promotes regenerative practices to restore soil and water ecosystems while enhancing agricultural productivity and climate adaptation.
2. **Market and Financial Integration** – Facilitates farmers' access to local, regional, and continental markets. Supports the development of inclusive financial tools such as agricultural credit, insurance, and cooperative finance.
3. **Agricultural Policy Harmonization** – Supports the alignment of South Sudan's policies with EAC and COMESA frameworks to enable a coherent, predictable, and investment-friendly regulatory environment.

Policy Development and Alignment

SSSFPS-EI promotes an enabling policy framework by:

- Developing harmonized regulations for seeds, fertilizers, biosafety, and agri-inputs in line with regional standards.
- Strengthening public sector capacities in agricultural policymaking and monitoring.
- Enhancing compliance with Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) protocols to boost export competitiveness and food safety.

Key Focus Areas

- Reforming policies to promote inclusive agri-sector growth.
- Capacity-building through institutional training, mentorship, and systems development.
- Digital transformation and mechanization of agriculture.
- Advancing climate-smart and regenerative farming.
- Empowering women and youth within agricultural value chains.

Implementation Approaches

- **Country-led ownership** – Full alignment with South Sudan's NDS and Vision 2040.
- **Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs)** – Leveraging private capital and innovation to build resilient agri-value chains.
- **Regional integration** – Utilizing South Sudan's EAC membership to facilitate trade and regulatory harmonization.
- **Research and Innovation** – Applying FlexSus data tools and national research platforms for evidence-based decision-making.

Stakeholders

The primary stakeholders for SSSFPS-EI (South Sudan Sustainable Food Production Systems for Empowerment and Integration) may include:

- **Government Entities:** Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Ministry of Finance and Planning, and the Office of the President – Economic Cluster.
- **Development Partners:** African Development Bank (AfDB), World Bank, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), and other key multilateral and bilateral donors active in South Sudan's recovery and resilience efforts.
- **Private Sector and Industry Bodies:** Agricultural cooperatives and producer groups, technology suppliers (e.g. for ECHO systems), vocational training institutions, agribusiness firms, microfinance institutions, commercial banks, and trade or commodity boards where applicable.
- **Research and Academia:** Emerging national universities (such as the University of Juba), technical institutes, and research centers working on climate resilience, food security, and sustainable farming models.
- **Civil Society and NGOs:** Humanitarian and development NGOs active in agriculture, food security, rural livelihoods, and climate adaptation, especially in support of smallholder farmers and displaced populations.

Key Focus Areas for SSSFPS-EI

Drawing from successful regional frameworks, **SSSFPS-EI** will focus on:

- **Developing integrated agricultural policies** in line with best practices from RECs such as the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).
- **Stimulating agricultural investment** to support productivity improvements, rural infrastructure, and inclusive value chain development.
- **Facilitating regional agricultural trade** through enhanced production efficiency, logistics networks, and market linkages, especially under AfCFTA.
- **Mobilizing private sector engagement** through public-private partnerships (PPPs) and transparent regulatory frameworks designed to de-risk investments.

Targets and Goals

SSSFPS-EI targets a **10% annual growth in intra-African agricultural trade** over the coming decade. Focus commodities will align with South Sudan's food security strategies and natural resource endowment:

- **Staple Crops:** Sorghum, maize, cassava, millet, and groundnuts.
- **High-Value Crops:** Sesame, shea, gum arabic, vegetables, and fruits with export potential (e.g. mangoes, okra).
- **Livestock and Fisheries:** Cattle, goats, poultry, dairy, tilapia, and catfish.

Productivity improvements will be achieved through:

- **Scaling access to quality inputs**, including improved seed varieties, fertilizers, and agro-ecological methods.
- **Expanding small-scale irrigation** coverage beyond current minimal levels, aiming to reach over 30% by 2035 in select zones.
- **Integrating South Sudanese producers into regional value chains** to stimulate exports and reduce dependency on food imports.

Contextual Overview

Agricultural Landscape in South Sudan

South Sudan's agricultural sector holds vast potential due to its fertile land, diverse agroecological zones, and significant water resources. However, years of conflict, underinvestment, and institutional fragility have limited sectoral performance. The majority of production is subsistence-based, and market systems remain informal and poorly structured.

Agriculture contributes over 40% to GDP and employs more than 80% of the population, yet productivity is among the lowest in the region. The country faces recurring food insecurity, with over half the population in need of humanitarian assistance during lean seasons.

Revitalizing agriculture is central to South Sudan's economic diversification, poverty alleviation, and peacebuilding efforts. Enhancing resilience, strengthening value chains, and improving trade facilitation will be key to unlocking the sector's potential.

Key Challenges

SSSFPS-EI is designed to address the following structural barriers:

- **Low Productivity:** Caused by limited access to quality inputs, irrigation, agricultural extension, and mechanization.
- **Market Isolation:** Poor road infrastructure, fragmented supply chains, and weak market information systems hinder internal and regional trade.
- **Policy and Institutional Gaps:** Incoherent agricultural policy frameworks, weak institutional capacity, and lack of investment incentives deter private actors.
- **Environmental and Climate Vulnerability:** The country is highly susceptible to climate shocks such as floods, droughts, and erratic rainfall, which threaten livelihoods and food systems.

Regional Integration and Lessons from EAC & IGAD

As a member of IGAD and EAC, South Sudan is strategically situated to benefit from regional trade, research, and agricultural harmonization frameworks. SSSFPS-EI will draw from existing regional experiences to support policy coherence and operational scaling.

Relevant initiatives include:

- ACTESA (Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa) under COMESA, which promotes harmonized trade policies and improved access to regional markets.

- COMSHIP (COMESA Seed Harmonization Implementation Plan) and COMFREP (COMESA Fertilizer Policy Framework), which facilitate cross-border availability of certified inputs.
- IGAD's Regional Resilience Analysis Unit (RAU) and Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI), offering data, policy tools, and investment frameworks to enhance resilience and food systems transformation.

By internalizing these regional strategies, SSSFPS-EI will position South Sudan as a catalytic partner in advancing resilient and inclusive food systems in Eastern and Central Africa.

Mandate and Focus of SSSFPS-EI in South Sudan

SSSFPS-EI will align with South Sudan's national development priorities—including the Revitalized National Development Strategy (R-NDS), the National Agriculture and Livestock Extension Policy (NALEP), and the National Agriculture Investment Plan (NAIP)—while drawing upon proven regional approaches from IGAD, the EAC, and broader continental frameworks.

Its core focus areas include:

- Staple Crops and Market Development: Enhancing the productivity and competitiveness of key staple crops such as sorghum, maize, cassava, and groundnuts, alongside pulses and emerging horticultural crops (tomatoes, okra, onions), all of which form the nutritional and economic backbone of South Sudan's rural livelihoods.
- Seed and Input Systems: Establishing a national seed policy and certification framework, with reference to the COMESA Seed Harmonization Implementation Plan (COMSHIP) and EAC practices, to ensure quality assurance, local production, and regional seed trade.
- Livestock and Fisheries: Strengthening pastoral and agro-pastoral systems—including cattle, goats, poultry, and dairy—and developing inland fisheries and aquaculture in the Sudd wetlands and Nile basin, supporting food diversification and income generation.
- Value Chain Enhancement: Developing agri-value chains through support to rural logistics, agro-processing infrastructure, cold storage, and inclusive trade networks, in close collaboration with farmer cooperatives and local enterprises.

Strategic Role of SSSFPS-EI

SSSFPS-EI is envisioned as a national coordination platform supporting South Sudan's agricultural transformation agenda. Its strategic functions include:

1. Agricultural Policy Development: Aligning national frameworks with continental priorities such as the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), the African Union Agenda 2063, and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
2. Investment and Trade Facilitation: Creating a favourable environment for agribusiness investments, advancing public-private partnerships (PPPs), and facilitating structured agricultural markets that serve both domestic and regional consumers.
3. Research, Innovation, and Capacity Building: Leveraging FlexSus digital tools, research from South Sudanese institutions and regional centres of excellence (e.g., IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre), and adaptive knowledge systems to inform evidence-based policy, build capacity, and modernize extension services.

Current Focus Areas

In its foundational phase, SSSFPS-EI will prioritize four strategic pillars:

1. **Policy Harmonization**: Developing enabling regulatory frameworks consistent with IGAD and EAC best practices to promote intra-African agricultural trade and regional integration.
2. **Investment Promotion**: Introducing targeted incentives for private sector participation in agricultural inputs, mechanization, processing, and rural enterprise development.
3. **Trade Facilitation**: Expanding market access under AfCFTA, improving infrastructure and trade corridors (e.g. Nimule–Juba–Bor axis), and strengthening market information systems and logistics platforms.
4. **Sector-Specific Interventions**: Implementing reforms in climate-smart agriculture, livestock productivity, seed systems, fertilizer distribution, and irrigation schemes, with attention to environmental sustainability and gender inclusion.

Through these targeted actions, SSSFPS-EI aims to position South Sudan as a future-oriented participant in regional food systems, strengthen national food security, stimulate inclusive economic growth, and enhance resilience in line with national, regional, and global development commitments.

Partnership with the European Social Label (EUSL)

The implementation of SSSFPS-EI in South Sudan is reinforced by a strategic partnership with the European Social Label (EUSL)—a membership-based, mission-driven organization focused on socio-economic transformation through Charity as a Business (CaaB) and innovative forms of cross-sector collaboration.

Given the urgent need for climate-resilient, inclusive, and scalable solutions in South Sudan's agriculture sector, EUSL contributes a tested framework that blends local empowerment with strategic investment logic. This partnership enables SSSFPS-EI to embed the Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP)—a flagship mechanism designed to align government priorities with private capabilities, laying the groundwork for systemic agricultural reform.

SDEP has demonstrated its viability in varied regional settings and has garnered attention from institutions such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), academia, and impact investors. In South Sudan, it will serve as a policy and implementation enabler, supporting infrastructure development, inclusive financing models, and institutional reforms. Mechanisms developed under the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA), among others, will be contextually adapted to meet South Sudan's unique needs and opportunities.

Key Components of the EUSL Partnership within SSSFPS-EI

Modular Infrastructure Platform: ECHO

At the center of SSSFPS-EI's infrastructure and rural development strategy is ECHO—a modular, scalable, and climate-resilient infrastructure platform designed to deliver integrated public services. Tailored to South Sudan's context of post-conflict reconstruction and institutional emergence, ECHO facilitates critical functions such as:

- Decentralized renewable energy generation

- Community-level water purification and irrigation systems
- Waste management and circular resource use
- Digital inclusion and rural broadband connectivity

The ECHO system will be strategically deployed in agricultural zones, growth corridors, and cross-border trade hubs, serving as catalysts for agro-industrial development. This modular approach responds directly to South Sudan's pronounced infrastructure deficits, while aligning with COMESA's and IGAD's priority areas of intra-regional integration and rural transformation.

Importantly, ECHO does not only provide physical services—it acts as a national innovation testbed. It enables continuous data collection and real-time performance feedback, supporting policymakers, researchers, and practitioners in refining interventions. By linking infrastructure deployment to research-based policymaking, SSSFPS-EI ensures adaptive governance and evidence-based agricultural reform.

Research, Data Systems, and Climate Resilience

Given South Sudan's exposure to climate volatility, fragile ecosystems, and erratic rainfall, building systemic resilience is paramount. SSSFPS-EI incorporates FlexSus, a digital decision-support system co-developed with academic partners, to enable:

- Remote sensing and real-time monitoring of agricultural zones
- Soil diagnostics, yield modeling, and input-use efficiency analytics
- Climate forecasting and early-warning systems for flood and drought preparedness
- Evidence-based land-use policy, ecosystem stewardship, and sustainable water management

FlexSus will be operationalized in close collaboration with South Sudanese institutions, supported by regional academic networks and global partners. This approach not only strengthens South Sudan's anticipatory capabilities but also enables climate-financed programming aligned with the African Development Bank's mitigation and resilience priorities.

Digital Inclusion and Rural Connectivity

To bridge the digital divide and ensure equitable access to market information and support services, SSSFPS-EI establishes a community broadband initiative, prioritizing underserved rural populations. This initiative will provide:

- Digital access to extension services, financial tools, and market intelligence platforms
- Integration of rural youth and women into digital value chains
- Connectivity for rural schools, cooperatives, and agricultural clusters

By linking rural producers with real-time demand signals and financial services, this component reduces informational asymmetries, fosters inclusion, and strengthens the rural economy's integration into national and regional trade networks. It further supports the implementation of AfCFTA-aligned digital trade protocols.

Vocational Training and Capacity Building

Recognizing the importance of local knowledge, skills development, and institutional maturity, SSSFPS-EI embeds a robust capacity-building architecture across all project components. This includes:

- **Farmer-focused training programs** in climate-smart agriculture, precision farming, regenerative land practices, and agro-processing
- **Public-sector leadership development**, equipping national and state officials with policy formulation, implementation, and regulatory oversight skills
- **Agro-entrepreneurship and cooperative management training**, promoting business literacy, financial planning, and sustainable enterprise development

A unique element of SSSFPS-EI is its field-academic integration model, wherein postgraduate students from local and regional universities are embedded into project zones to facilitate knowledge transfer. This model enhances innovation diffusion, improves research relevance, and nurtures a generation of agricultural leaders rooted in local realities.

Through these integrated systems—spanning infrastructure, research, data governance, and human capital—SSSFPS-EI establishes the foundation for a resilient, equitable, and competitive food system in South Sudan. In strategic partnership with the European Social Label, and underpinned by the proven Charity as a Business (CaaB) model, the program transcends traditional aid paradigms by mobilizing local ownership, institutional accountability, and long-term investment readiness.

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

To unlock scalable investment and foster innovation, SSSFPS-EI collaborates with the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA)—a sister entity of EUSL focused on mobilizing capital and technology through blended finance and PPPs. GSIA plays a pivotal role in delivering catalytic infrastructure projects across South Sudan's agricultural landscape.

Under GSIA's stewardship, SSSFPS-EI will:

• Expand access to high-quality agricultural inputs, including the establishment of certified seed laboratories, fertilizer innovation hubs, and biological protection centers, ensuring smallholders and pastoralists have access to productive and ecologically sound tools.

• Mobilize private-sector capital to develop processing facilities, climate-resilient storage infrastructure, and regional logistics corridors, thereby enhancing value addition and efficient market integration—locally, regionally, and globally.

• Support policy alignment with regional frameworks, including the adoption of seed harmonization protocols modeled after COMESA's COMSHIP, facilitating South Sudan's deeper integration into continental agricultural trade ecosystems.

GSIA's structured financing mechanisms ensure that SSSFPS-EI is not dependent on ad hoc donor cycles. Instead, it rests on commercially viable models that balance measurable social returns with long-term financial sustainability.

Strategic Goals and Regional Alignment

SSSFPS-EI is anchored in a forward-looking vision that blends innovation, inclusion, and integration to build a resilient agricultural economy for South Sudan. The initiative pursues the following strategic outcomes:

• Advancing a circular economy by embedding waste-to-energy systems, regenerative agricultural

methods, and sustainable resource management practices throughout production and consumption cycles.
• Fostering resilient and self-sufficient rural economies, reducing reliance on humanitarian aid by promoting local entrepreneurship, cooperative ownership, and decentralized value chains.
• Positioning South Sudan as a key player in intra-African agricultural trade, in line with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), COMESA, and IGAD priorities, thereby strengthening both food sovereignty and economic competitiveness at the regional level.

RATIONALE

The rationale for SSSFPS-EI is rooted in South Sudan's urgent imperative to transition from subsistence and emergency-driven agriculture to a stable, productive, and inclusive sector that drives national development and peacebuilding. Drawing on regionally endorsed frameworks such as COMESA's ACTESA and tailored to South Sudan's fragile yet opportunity-rich context, SSSFPS-EI is built on three foundational pillars:

1. **Restoring and Preserving Natural Capital**
   SSSFPS-EI prioritizes environmental integrity through the adoption of climate-smart agriculture, regenerative land-use systems, and ecosystem restoration. Integrating climate resilience strategies across the agricultural value chain will safeguard South Sudan's biodiversity, soil health, and water resources—laying the foundation for long-term food system stability.

2. **Creating an Inclusive and Enabling Environment**
   The initiative empowers smallholder farmers, returnee communities, youth, and women-led enterprises by improving access to financial tools, strengthening extension systems, and simplifying regulatory frameworks. Financial inclusion, social equity, and equitable market participation are positioned as core enablers of South Sudan's agricultural modernization.

3. **Expanding Market and Financial Access**
   SSSFPS-EI supports the dismantling of trade barriers, mobilization of blended capital, and upgrading of core infrastructure to connect South Sudan to domestic, regional, and international agri-value chains. Strategic public-private partnerships and incentive-driven investment frameworks will cultivate a responsive and dynamic financing ecosystem.

With agriculture central to South Sudan's recovery, economic diversification, and Vision 2040, SSSFPS-EI represents a catalytic platform to:

• Scale productivity through the deployment of appropriate technologies, mechanization, and innovation grounded in local realities.
• Strengthen trade and logistics capacity through investment in value-added processing and cross-border market infrastructure.
• Build food and climate resilience, ensuring that agricultural development contributes not only to growth but also to peace, stability, and ecological regeneration.

By advancing evidence-based policymaking, cross-sectoral partnerships, and strategic regional alignment, SSSFPS-EI redefines South Sudan's place in Africa's agricultural renaissance—anchored in innovation, inclusive design, and sustainability.

Merging Programmes under SDEP for Greater Impact – South Sudan Context

To drive systemic and sustainable agricultural transformation, SSSFPS-EI will consolidate and integrate five key agricultural and food security programs within the broader framework of the Social Development and Empowering Programme (SDEP), implemented through the ECHO platform. This comprehensive integration draws on the ACTESA Merger Assessment Framework, ensuring that each program retains its strategic focus while contributing to the overarching mission of:

- Increased productivity and food sovereignty
- Efficient and inclusive trade facilitation
- Research-led policy innovation and institutional development
- Sustainable rural transformation through community ownership and circular economic principles

Where pre-existing national initiatives are already active—whether through government agencies, NGOs, or donor-driven projects—SSSFPS-EI will focus on *harmonization rather than duplication*, ensuring alignment with South Sudan's national development plans and optimizing the use of limited resources.

With EUSL, GSIA, and regional partners providing design and technical leadership, SSSFPS-EI will launch and integrate the following flagship programs:

1. South Sudan Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme (SS-BHAP)

Adapted from: COMBIHAP – COMESA Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme

To support South Sudan's transition to climate-resilient and ecologically sound agriculture, SS-BHAP will:

- Establish a national regulatory framework for sustainable bioprotectants (e.g., biopesticides, biofertilizers).
- Promote harmonized regional standards for trade and adoption of organic inputs.
- Reduce reliance on synthetic inputs and foster agroecological approaches that improve soil health, biodiversity, and environmental outcomes.

Pilot sites will be launched across South Sudan's major agro-ecological zones to demonstrate the scalability of eco-friendly farming systems under local conditions.

2. South Sudan Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (SS-BBIP)

Adapted from: COMBIP – COMESA Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme

Biotechnology holds promise for food security and climate resilience in South Sudan but must be approached with clear safeguards. SS-BBIP will:

- Develop a biosafety regulatory framework aligned with international norms.
- Build institutional capacity for biotechnology governance and oversight.
- Enable safe and regulated deployment of biotech solutions (e.g., drought- and pest-resistant seeds).

Through SSSFPS-EI, EUSL will support South Sudan in establishing a **national biosafety authority**, ensuring responsible innovation, local accountability, and environmental sustainability.

3. South Sudan Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (SS-FAUP)

Adapted from: COMFREP – COMESA Fertilizer Regional Programme

Access to appropriate, affordable fertilizers is vital for improving yields. SS-FAUP will:

- Facilitate localized blending of fertilizers tailored to soil-specific needs.
- Introduce market transparency tools to regulate pricing and quality.
- Expand logistics and distribution infrastructure via public-private partnerships.

Investment in blending facilities and regional storage hubs will ensure continuity of supply and promote nutrient-sensitive agriculture in smallholder systems.

4. South Sudan Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme (SS-SHCP)

Adapted from: COMSHIP – COMESA Seed Harmonization Implementation Programme

To accelerate seed sector development, SS-SHCP will:

- Establish a national seed certification system, supported by public-private breeding programs.
- Align regulatory frameworks with regional seed harmonization protocols, particularly through IGAD and COMESA.
- Strengthen multiplication and distribution channels to ensure access to high-quality, climate-adapted seed varieties.

South Sudan's accession to COMESA's COMSHIP framework will be strategically advanced, with EUSL and GSIA providing advisory support and infrastructure investment.

5. South Sudan Horticulture Accelerator (South Sudan-HA)

(Adapted from CEHA – COMESA-EAC Horticultural Accelerator)

Horticulture holds strong potential to drive rural income growth, job creation, and export diversification in South Sudan. Despite its favourable agro-climatic conditions, the sector remains underdeveloped due to persistent post-harvest losses, limited infrastructure, and inadequate market access. The South Sudan Horticulture Accelerator (SouthSudan-HA) aims to unlock this latent potential through a focused, multi-dimensional intervention that will:

- Develop infrastructure for post-harvest handling, cold storage, and logistics, aimed at reducing spoilage, strengthening supply chains, and improving market connectivity.
- Facilitate trade in high-value horticultural products such as mangoes, tomatoes, okra, onions, and passion fruits—linking South Sudanese producers with regional and international markets, particularly within the EAC-COMESA trade corridor.
- Enhance climate resilience in horticulture through precision irrigation systems, protected cropping environments, and sustainable pest and disease management strategies.

Through the Social Development and Empowerment Programme (SDEP) and the Global Social Impact Alliance (GSIA), the European Social Label (EUSL) will catalyze investment in horticultural value chain

infrastructure—processing, storage, and transport—ensuring that South Sudan's horticulture sector evolves into a competitive, climate-smart and export-oriented industry.

Centralized Governance for Unified Progress in South Sudan

The unification of programmatic interventions under the South Sudan Sustainable Food and Productivity Enhancement Initiative (SSSPEI) establishes a structured and coherent framework for agricultural modernization and rural revitalization. This integrated model will:

- Centralize governance and operational delivery, enabling streamlined decision-making and increased accountability across stakeholders and implementation partners.
- Align policies, market systems, and infrastructure development with both East African Community (EAC) and COMESA regional strategies, ensuring regulatory coherence and access to regional trade incentives.
- Enhance the reach and scalability of each intervention, while strengthening South Sudan's emerging role in regional food systems and cross-border agricultural trade.

Supported by SDEP and implemented in partnership with GSIA, the initiative will ensure that South Sudan's agricultural transition remains evidence-based, climate-aligned, and investment-ready, ultimately serving as a replicable model for inclusive agrarian transformation in post-conflict contexts.

Integrating the Five Programmes through SDEP and ECHO

SSSPEI is not merely a conceptual framework—it is a platform for implementation, designed to adapt to South Sudan's unique ecological zones, conflict-affected areas, and evolving institutional capacities. Its core enablers include:

- SDEP as the central governance and resource mobilization mechanism, ensuring that financing, policies, and technical support converge at the point of intervention.
- ECHO as the infrastructure and resilience driver, enabling:
    - Irrigated and climate-smart agricultural systems to ensure year-round production.
    - Decentralized agro-processing units and cold chain infrastructure to mitigate post-harvest loss and enable access to high-value markets.
    - Community-based economic empowerment initiatives, prioritizing smallholder producers, youth employment, and women-led agribusinesses.

By leveraging ECHO's modular renewable infrastructure and FlexSus' real-time decision intelligence, the South Sudan Sustainable Food and Productivity Enhancement Initiative ensures a transition that is resilient, inclusive, and grounded in real-world data—aligning fully with both Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2074.

Research Integration and Institutional Alignment

Each of the above programs will be embedded within a Unified Research and Implementation Framework, in partnership with South Sudanese universities, research centers, and farmer organizations. This ensures national ownership, adaptation to local knowledge systems, and sustained long-term impact.

By merging and harmonizing efforts under SSSFPS-EI, South Sudan stands to benefit from an integrated model that combines *technical rigor*, *financial sustainability*, and *community empowerment*—building an agricultural sector that is:

- Evidence-based
- Regionally harmonized
- Environmentally regenerative
- Socially inclusive
- Globally competitive

PROGRAMME 1: South Sudan Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (South Sudan-FAUP)

OUTCOME 1:

Accelerate the Development and Harmonization of Regulatory Frameworks for Mineral and Organic Fertilizers in South Sudan and Alignment with EAC and CEHA Standards

Output 1.1

Support the Development and Harmonization of Organic and Inorganic Fertilizer Frameworks within South Sudan, aligned with EAC, CEHA, and AU guidelines.

ACTIVITIES:

a) Conduct an inception workshop on the EAC and CEHA harmonized fertilizer regulations, perform national fertilizer regulatory status assessments, and present reports including development of technical agreements to harmonize standards for inorganic and organic/biofertilizers in South Sudan.

b) Draft national regulations harmonized with regional and continental frameworks for inorganic and organic fertilizers.

c) Develop and implement the South Sudan Fertilizer Harmonization Implementation Plan (SSFHIP), which includes the adoption of harmonized fertilizer labeling and a national accreditation system for hub agro-dealers and input suppliers.

d) Develop national guidelines for the production and use of organic and biofertilizers, including best management practices, and identify areas requiring legislation.

e) Implement integrated crop, soil health, and water management strategies to build farm-level demand, including omission trials, demonstration plots, and farmer field schools.

f) Conduct feasibility studies on the use of renewable energy sources for the production of green ammonia by fertilizer blenders in South Sudan.

Output 1.2

Establish Zero Tariffs and Harmonized External Tariff (ET) for Fertilizer Trade within the EAC Region and South Sudan

ACTIVITIES:

a) Hold technical meetings with South Sudanese customs and trade officials on zero tariffs and ET for fertilizer.

b) Draft bilateral and regional agreements on zero tariffs and harmonized tariff structures.
c) Establish South Sudan's harmonized external tariff for fertilizer production and trade within the EAC and CEHA regions.

Output 1.3
Development of New Soil Fertility Maps for South Sudan to Support Fertilizer Blending Companies in Designing Suitable Fertilizer Blends

ACTIVITIES:
a) Conduct national soil analyses and develop soil fertility maps tailored to South Sudanese agroecological zones.

b) Based on soil analysis, develop site-specific fertilizer recommendations including identification of nutrient deficiencies, followed by validation through field trials.

c) Develop and deploy standardized tools for assessing soil fertility, soil health, and sustainable nutrient management needs.

d) Establish a digital information system for fertilizer, crop, and climate decision support at the national and regional levels.

e) Collaborate with fertilizer blending companies to develop nutrient-optimized blends from both organic and mineral sources.

Output 1.4
Develop South Sudan Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines with Exit Strategies

ACTIVITIES:
a) Conduct critical review of current fertilizer subsidy programs in South Sudan and the region to derive principles for effective "smart subsidy" design.

b) Develop national subsidy guidelines, incorporating best practices for e-voucher systems, transparent targeting, and time-bound exit strategies.

OUTCOME 2:
Establish and Strengthen Agricultural Inputs Distribution Networks through the Hub-Agrodealer Model, Including Fertilizer Trade and Agro-Dealer Associations in South Sudan

Output 2.1
Support the Establishment and Strengthening of Fertilizer and Agro-Dealer Associations in South Sudan
Examples:

- Strengthen the South Sudan Fertilizer Association (SSFA), South Sudan National Agro-Dealer Association (SSNADA), and facilitate coordination with regional entities such as FERTASA and EAFA.

Output 2.2
Implement Credit Guarantee Schemes to Address Financial Bottlenecks in the Fertilizer Value Chain via Agribusiness Partnership Contracts

ACTIVITIES:
a) Implement trade credit guarantee mechanisms to enable input suppliers to extend credit to hub agro-dealers, ensuring wider access to fertilizers at the last mile.

b) Set up a revolving fund or insurance-based mechanism to backstop financial risks faced by private sector actors.

Programme 2: South Sudan Bioprotectants Harmonization Programme (South Sudan-BHAP)

Outcome 3: Assessment Reports on Existing Bioprotectant Registration and Commercialization Frameworks in South Sudan

Output 3.1: Convene a national inception workshop involving key South Sudanese stakeholders—including the private sector, NGOs, farmer organizations, academia, and regulatory bodies—to develop a national roadmap for bioprotectant registration, harmonization, and commercialization.
Output 3.2: Conduct a comprehensive assessment of South Sudan's bioprotectant regulatory frameworks, through engagement of national, regional, and international consultants.

Outcome 4: Development of a National Regulatory Framework for Bioprotectant Registration
Output 4.1: Develop harmonized bioprotectant registration regulations specific to the South Sudanese context, aligned with relevant regional and African Union standards where applicable.
Activities:
a) Convene technical consultative workshops for the development of South Sudan's Harmonized Bioprotectant Regulations.

b) Develop mutual recognition pillars and implementation modalities for bioprotectant regulations across South Sudanese regulatory and certification agencies.

c) Organize a validation workshop for the South Sudanese Harmonized Bioprotectant Regulations.
d) Convene South Sudan's legal and policy drafting committee to prepare legal instruments for bioprotectant registration harmonization and commercialization.

e) Host a final validation workshop to review the legal framework and technical agreements for bioprotectant regulation and commercialization.

f) Submit the draft regulations for review and adoption by relevant South Sudanese governance bodies (e.g., Ministry of Agriculture, Parliamentary Agriculture Committee, regulatory authorities).

Outcome 5: South Sudan Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations Strategic Implementation Plan Developed
Output 5.1: A Strategic Implementation Plan for the harmonized bioprotectant registration and commercialization regulations is developed for South Sudan.

Activities:
a) Draft a comprehensive Implementation Plan based on stakeholder consultations, aligned with national agricultural and environmental policies.

b) Launch and disseminate the Harmonized Bioprotectant Registration and Commercialization Regulations through targeted sensitization campaigns across South Sudan's regions and states.

Outcome 6: National Biopesticide and Biocontrol Agent Registration, Harmonization, and Commercialization Regulations Launched in South Sudan
This includes nationwide rollout and institutionalization of the developed regulations through coordinated efforts by public, private, and civil society actors.

Outcome 7: Pesticide Residue Management and Biopesticide Capacity Building Initiated in South Sudan
Activity 1: Establish a programme-level support and coordination structure to guide the implementation of the bioprotectants training and knowledge dissemination programme.
Activity 2: Identify and segment target audiences for capacity building (e.g., regulatory authorities, researchers, extension officers, input suppliers, and farmers) and develop a core training curriculum on Integrated Pest Management (IPM), bioprotectant selection, and safe application.
Activity 3: Establish an in-country training management system to address local capacity needs, especially among frontline extension officers and smallholder farmers, with appropriate delivery mechanisms.
Activity 4: Implement targeted training programmes and awareness campaigns through in-person sessions, demonstration farms, and digital tools (including e-learning platforms) to ensure widespread capacity-building across South Sudan.

Programme 3: South Sudan Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (South Sudan-BBIP)

Outcome 7: Establish and Institutionalize a National Biosafety Risk Assessment Mechanism
Output 3.1: Identify and select potential members of the Panel of Experts (PoE) on biosafety from relevant South Sudanese institutions and stakeholders.

Output 3.2: Convene a technical review meeting to nominate South Sudan's Panel of Experts on biotechnology and biosafety.

Output 3.3: Review and update the structure and operations of South Sudan's National Biosafety Authorities, including standardization of application forms and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

Output 3.4: Establish and institutionalize a national biosafety risk assessment mechanism through the selection and technical empowerment of a South Sudanese Panel of Experts (PoE), drawing from various national expert groups; includes technical nomination meetings and induction training.

Output 3.5: Deliver induction training for the PoE, including review and mock assessment of dossiers for specific biotechnology products relevant to South Sudan's agricultural context (e.g., insect-resistant GM crops, virus-resistant cassava, drought-tolerant varieties).

Outcome 8: Strengthen Biosafety Regulatory Capacities in South Sudan
Output 8.1: Conduct annual data collection in South Sudan to update national policies, regulatory frameworks, and product development databases.

Output 8.2: Pilot and test the national biosafety risk assessment process through carefully selected case studies, including import applications for crop-specific biotech traits.

Output 8.3: Disseminate and popularize PoE case study findings within South Sudanese regulatory and academic communities.

Output 8.4: Strengthen biosafety capacities through national biotechnology and biosafety status updates, technical workshops, and expert consultations, emphasizing case studies, data transportability, and economic analysis.

Output 8.5: Conduct an economic assessment of South Sudan's harmonized biosafety approach using data transportability principles in risk assessment.

Outcome 9: Enhance Awareness and Communication about the South Sudan Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy among Stakeholders

Output 9.1: Review and establish a data-driven communication strategy for the South Sudan BBIP programme.

Output 9.2: Strengthen national awareness and ownership of South Sudan's Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy across government, academia, and civil society.

Output 9.3: Engage and build the capacity of media networks, youth platforms, women's organizations, and other special interest groups to effectively communicate and popularize the national biosafety policy.

Output 9.4: Publicize farmer and trader experiences with genetically modified crops, both in South Sudan and in comparable international contexts.

Output 9.5: Implement targeted awareness and communication actions, including validation of the data-driven communication strategy with lead regions in South Sudan; conduct workshops with biosafety authorities, media, women, and youth, and organize strategic study tours for South Sudanese stakeholders requiring additional exposure.

Output 9.6: Hold annual national biosafety and biotechnology conferences to assess progress, align with evolving global practices, and advance the BBIP agenda.

Output 9.7: Submit progress reports on the BBIP programme to the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment, Parliamentary Committees, and national advisory bodies for biotechnology governance.

Programme 4: South Sudan Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme (South Sudan-SSHP)

Activities:

a) **Develop a National Seed Digital Tracking and Traceability System**
Design and operationalize a digital tracking and traceability system for seed inputs in South Sudan. This system shall include:

- An electronic verification (e-verification) mechanism allowing farmers to confirm product authenticity.
- A yield-feedback loop to capture actual versus declared performance data, supported by inspections, field surveillance, and yield reporting from seed companies, farmers, regulatory agencies, and independent third-party evaluators. This will align with regional seed traceability standards under the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and African Union (AU) frameworks.

b) **Implement the South Sudan Seed Information System (SSSIS)**
In close collaboration with the South Sudan Seed Certification and Regulatory Authority (SSSCRA) and relevant regional partners, operationalize a comprehensive digital platform for managing seed variety data, certification, trade information, and regulatory documentation. This system will serve as the national counterpart to regional platforms such as the COMESA Seed Information System (COMSIS) and interface with IGAD and AU data nodes.

c) **Facilitate Cross-Border Testing for South Sudanese Seed Companies**

Support small and medium South Sudanese seed enterprises to test their varieties in at least one other IGAD or AU-aligned Member State. This will enable inclusion of South Sudanese varieties into the Regional Variety Catalogue, utilizing streamlined Value for Cultivation and Use (VCU) or National Performance Trials (NPT) over one growing season, in accordance with regional seed harmonization protocols.

d) **Support Domestic Alignment of Regional Seed Trade Regulations**
Advance full domestication and implementation of IGAD and AU Seed Trade Harmonization Regulations within South Sudan's legal and regulatory framework. Ensure policy coherence between national laws, regional agreements, and continental strategies for seed trade integration.

e) **Provide Technical Assistance for Seed Registration and Regional Trade**
Offer capacity-building and advisory support to South Sudanese seed companies for:

- Submitting applications and completing registration processes for the Regional Variety Catalogue.
- Acquiring and activating regionally accepted seed certification labels.
- Trading in seeds using harmonized regional platforms compliant with IGAD and AU protocols.

f) **Implement the Regional Seed Labeling System in South Sudan**
Operationalize the use of Regionally Harmonized Seed Labels within the South Sudanese market. Ensure full collaboration between SSSCRA, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security, seed companies, and IGAD/AU regional technical bodies to guarantee uniform standards, traceability, and quality assurance.

g) **Support National Engagement in the Regional Seed Committee**
Facilitate South Sudan's active participation in the operations of the Regional Seed Committee mandated by IGAD and AU Seed Harmonization Regulations. Engage in collective decision-making to resolve cross-border trade challenges and support national companies participating in the Regional Seed Trading Platform.

PROGRAMME 5: COMESA-EAC HORTICULTURE ACCELERATOR (CEHA)

DEVELOPMENT OUTCOMES/TARGETS

The CEHA is envisaged to reach the following Targets by 2035[2]:

1. **Market Growth**: Increase intra-regional trade and global exports. Exports to the global market for fruits to increase to USD950M from the current USD 416 Million. Exports to the global markets for fruits to increase from USD125Million to USD 350Million
2. **Processing Capacity**: Expand processing and preservation volumes. Increase in the proportion of processed fruits from the current 8% to 16%
3. **Efficiency**: Reduce logistics costs, time-to-market, and strengthen traceability.
    i. Reduce time from farm to market by 50%
    ii. Decrease market price relative to farmgate by 25%

[2] Adopted from the EAC Fruits and Vegetables Value chain Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2031

iii. Strengthen traceability - 80% of F&V from clusters fully traceable

4. **Consumption**: Boost consumption of fruits and vegetables for better nutrition. Average affordability increases 25% relative to baseline
5. **Production Volume**:
    i. Increase in Area under fruit production by 5% from 9.5MHa to 10M Ha
    ii. Increase in vegetable production by 5% of area cultivated from 33M to 45M Ha
6. **Farm Productivity**: Increase land and labour productivity and reduce post-harvest losses.
    i. Fruits yields by 4%, Vegetable yields by 3%, labour productivity by 25%
    ii. Reduce post-harvest losses from 40% to 20%
7. **Farmer Economics**: Enhance farmers' profitability and financial resilience.
    i. Farmer profitability increased by 25%
    ii. Monthly cashflow volatility reduced by 50%
    iii. Debt to asset ratio decreased by 10%
8. **Climate-Smart Practices**: Promote sustainable practices while maintaining profitability.
    i. Adoption of climate smart practices while maintaining profitability
    ii. Adoption to grow crop varieties that are resilient to predicted changes in local weather patterns
9. **Policy Harmonization**: Align standards and eliminate trade barriers. Top 5 policy related barriers to trade removed or harmonised
10. **Value Creation**: Increase the marketed value of horticultural products and employment.
    i. USD500Million of increased sales generated
    ii. 100,000 additional jobs created along the value chain

Strategic objectives

Objective 1: To Facilitate the development of sustainable regional horticulture value chains COMESA and EAC regions.

Objective 2: To Ensure Adequate and Profitable Production of Quality, Safe, and Affordable Fruits and Vegetables.

Objective 3: To Stimulate Industry Growth via Strong Enabling Conditions and a Business **Ecosystem** for a resilient horticulture sector that contributes to job creation, nutritional health, and economic empowerment across the region.

Objective 4: To support and encourage research as outlined above, to seek to ensure the effective outcome of the overarching objectives cross-borders in the region.

Results

Result Area 1: **Enhanced Regional Value Chain Coordination** Robust and efficient mechanism of coordination established within the horticulture sector, fostering collaboration and synergies among horticulture stakeholders

Result Area 2: Increased Productivity and Market Access -Increased productivity, profitability, and market access for quality, safe, and affordable fruits and vegetables through, access to quality inputs, adoption of appropriate technologies and strengthened value chain systems. .

Result Area 3: Improved Policy and Business Ecosystem – Strengthened and harmonised policy and regulatory mechanisms and increased number of horticulture value chain actors accessing finance and technical assistance

Result Area 4: Increased Research Driven Development and Reporting – Increasing collaboration within members between public sector stakeholders, research academies, the private sector, and the UNDP, aimed to identify future areas for development, and assist in reaching national key objectives and combine a report thereupon. Further, foster increased cross-border regional and international collaboration, for development and faster more efficient and cost-effective solutions implementations

Output and Main Activities

Result Area 1: Enhanced Regional Value Chain Coordination

This Strategic Objective (SO) focuses on transforming regional horticultural value chains into more efficient, integrated, and resilient systems by addressing fragmentation, reducing transaction costs, and enhancing infrastructure for appropriate storage, logistics, and processing. The aim is to put in place proactively structured frameworks for coordination, cohesion and building synergies among all stakeholders by aligning work plans through close fertilization of knowledge and experience of all partners across the FVVC and leading resource mobilization as well as convening periodically. CEHA RSAP 2025-2035 will prioritize the establishment of structured and proactive coordination frameworks to improve cohesion, reduce inefficiencies, and align stakeholder efforts across the value chain. Key actions include.

i. Established regional platforms and mechanisms for coordination among value chain actors.
ii. Resource Mobilization Mechanisms developed.
iii. Public private dialogue mechanisms improved.
iv. Cross-border collaboration for efficient trade and logistics strengthened.

Established regional platforms and mechanisms for coordination among value chain actors.

To support the efficient functioning of horticultural value chains, this component focuses on building collaborative and responsive coordination mechanisms that align stakeholders, policies, and resources.

i. Establishment of multi stakeholder collaboration supported.
ii. Centralized digital platform to address information gaps along the FVVCs, providing real-time data on market trends, production forecasts, logistics, and quality standards developed.

iii. Access to critical value chain information for stakeholders—including smallholders, processors, exporters, and policymakers—facilitating informed decision-making and improved coordination across the horticulture sector Supported.

iv. Integrated digital trading systems for market visibility and connectivity for stakeholders across the region established.

Resource Mobilization Mechanisms developed:

i. 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 supported

ii. Regional assessment conducted, and potential areas for establishing production clusters have been identified

iii. Organize consultative forums with smallholder farmers, producer cooperatives, agribusinesses, and policymakers to co-design the production cluster framework.

iv. Cluster-specific frameworks that integrate production, aggregation, processing, and export activities supported

v. Engage private sector actors, including processors, exporters, and financiers, to support cluster investments.

vi. Production Clusters, aggregation hubs for Targeted Horticultural Value Chains established and operationalised

vii. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as matching grants and blended finance models, to de-risk investments and ensure sustainable funding for value chain upgrades Identified and supported

viii. Appropriate produce storage facilities, aggregation centres, and logistics hubs within the production clusters to minimize post-harvest losses Developed and improved.

ix. Traceability systems to monitor production quality and supply chain performance supported.

x. Governance structures, operational procedures, and legal frameworks for the production clusters developed formalised.

xi. Compliance manuals for producers and SMESs Developed

xii. Capacity building to farmers and producer groups within the clusters on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and food safety standards Provided

Public private dialogue mechanism Improved:

To ensure the successful transformation of regional horticultural value chains, effective collaboration between public and private stakeholders is critical. Strengthening public-private dialogue (PPD) mechanisms will create an enabling environment for value chain development, policy alignment, and investment promotion.

i. Improved private and public sector coordination.

ii. Frameworks for aligning work plans and interventions by fostering cross-fertilization of knowledge and experiences among stakeholders established and developed.

iii. Public private sector dialogue platform established and operationalised.

Addressing Key Value Chain Challenges

The coordination frameworks under SO 1 will target specific bottlenecks in the FVVC's, including:

i. **Supply Chain Fragmentation**: Connecting smallholders with processors, exporters, and markets to reduce inefficiencies and ensure a steady flow of produce.

ii. **Post-Harvest Losses**: Support investments in shared cold chain systems, storage facilities, and logistics to minimize losses and improve the quality of fresh and processed produce.

iii. **Market Access**: Improving the flow of information to ensure stakeholders can comply with market standards, certifications, compliance to market requirements, and consumer preferences.

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
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:

i. Improved connectivity and reduced fragmentation among stakeholders across the fruit and vegetable value chains (FVVCs).

ii. Streamlined linkages between producers, processors, distributors, and markets, ensuring efficiency and reducing redundancies.

iii. Strengthened partnerships among private sector players, government agencies, donors, and other stakeholders.

iv. Aligned work plans and interventions through cross-fertilization of knowledge and experiences, fostering synergy across the value chain.

v. Secured financial and technical resources to support the development of critical infrastructure, capacity building, and technology adoption.

vi. Leveraged innovative financing mechanisms to ensure sustainability and resilience in value chain investments.

vii. Minimized inefficiencies in production, aggregation, and logistics by establishing regional production and processing clusters.

viii. Enhanced market visibility through improved forecasting, digital trading platforms, and shared infrastructure like cold storage and transport networks.

Result Area 2: Increased productivity and Market access.

This aims to strengthening the region's capacity for horticulture production by addressing critical gaps in research, technology, post-harvest management, and climate-smart agriculture. This will ensure that production systems are efficient, sustainable, and aligned with market demands, contributing to the profitability and resilience of horticultural value chains. More Specifically:

i. Research, Innovation, and Technology for Inputs, Data, and Extension Systems strengthened

ii. Improved Post-Harvest Management and Circularity Promoted

iii. Accessibility and Adoption of Appropriate Climate-Smart Agriculture Technologies Supported

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

This intervention targets the integration of modern technologies, knowledge sharing, and skills development to enhance horticultural production and productivity.

Key Activities:

i. Agricultural research initiatives to deliver climate-smart, high-yielding, and pest-resistant varieties promoted

ii. Partnerships between research institutions, academia, and private sector players strengthened to ensure innovative solutions are scaled and adapted.

iii. Embed Climate Early Warning Systems: Early warning systems to help farmers anticipate and mitigate climate risks, preserve profits, and ensure production continuity established and supported

iv. Sustainable Water Management Promoted: Introduce and scale water-efficient practices, such as drip irrigation, and train farmers on sustainable resource use to ensure adequate water availability for horticulture production.

v. Capacity building to value chain actors to achieve required market standards supported

vi. Facilitated access to high quality inputs and climate smart technologies

vii. Market linkages between producers, aggregators and buyers supported

viii. Trade Missions and partnerships to expand domestic, regional and international market opportunities supported

Improved post-harvest management and circularity enabled

Post-harvest losses in Eastern and Southern Africa's horticulture sector are estimated to range between 30% and 50%, primarily due to inadequate handling, storage, and transportation infrastructure. This loss translates into significant economic and food security challenges, as much of the produce spoils before reaching markets. The absence of sufficient cold storage facilities, coupled with weak logistics networks, exacerbates these losses, and hinders the competitiveness of smallholder farmers in regional and international markets.

Outputs:

i. **Circularity for Waste Management Promoted**: Promote the repurposing of agricultural waste into valuable by-products, such as compost or bioenergy, to reduce environmental impact and generate additional income streams

ii. **Compliance with Quality Control and SPS Standards Supported**: Provide technical assistance and training to help stakeholders comply with domestic and international quality and SPS requirements, ensuring market readiness.

iii. **Aggregation and Cooperative Capacity Enhanced**: Strengthen the operational skills of farmer cooperatives and aggregation centres to improve efficiency and bargaining power within the value chain.

iv. **Market Systems Linkages supported**: Develop stronger connections between producers, processors, and buyers to ensure a smooth flow of goods and reduce inefficiencies.

v. **Develop and Disseminate Post-Harvest Handling Protocols developed**: Minimize spoilage and losses by providing farmers and traders with guidelines on proper handling, storage, and transport of produce.

vi. **Invest in Shared Infrastructure supported**: Facilitate investment in cold storage facilities, aggregation centres, and packaging units to enhance post-harvest handling and value chain efficiency.

Accessibility and adoption of appropriate climate smart agriculture technologies and mechanisation Support

This intervention aims to equip farmers with the tools and technologies needed to adapt to climate change while improving productivity and sustainability.

Key Activities:

i. **Solar-Powered Irrigation Systems Promoted**: Expand access to sustainable, affordable irrigation solutions, particularly solar-powered systems, to increase water-use efficiency and ensure reliable water supply.

ii. **Circular Practices Supported**: Advocate for the adoption of composting, recycling, and reuse of by-products as part of a sustainable production model.

iii. **Awareness of Available Technologies Supported**: Conduct campaigns and training programs to familiarize farmers and value chain actors with the latest climate-smart technologies, fostering widespread adoption.

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

i. Increased productivity and reduced post-harvest losses across the horticulture value chain.

ii. Enhanced resilience of production systems through the adoption of climate-smart and sustainable practices.

iii. Improved access to shared infrastructure and modern technologies, resulting in higher profitability for farmers and agribusinesses.

iv. Strengthened value chains with better compliance to quality standards and market requirements, enabling regional and global competitiveness.

v. Increased Resilience of the Horticulture Sector through adoption of sustainable and climate-smart practices to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change and market disruptions

vi. Increased profitability for farmers and agribusinesses, with equitable distribution of benefits across the value chain.

vii. Creation of new employment opportunities, particularly for women and youth, fostering inclusive development in the region.

viii. Aggregation and processing hubs developed/established/improved to enhance valued addition and market readiness.

ix. Capacity building provided for producers and SMEs on food safety standards

x. Improved availability of data on Horticulture production

Result Area 3: Improved Policy and business ecosystem.

To achieve these CEHA will focus on creating an enabling environment to stimulate growth in the horticulture sector. By addressing key challenges such as access to finance, regulatory hurdles, this pillar aims to foster a resilient, inclusive, and competitive horticulture ecosystem across the region. More specifically:

i. Availability of Finance Across the Value Chain facilitated

ii. Policy, Institutional, and Coordination Framework Among Horticulture Value Chain Actors Strengthened

iii. Regional and International Collaboration for Harmonization of Trade Standards and SPS Regulations supported

Availability of Finance Across the Value Chain Facilitated

Access to affordable and tailored financing is a critical enabler for growth and innovation in the horticulture sector. CEHA seeks to unlock financial resources across the value chain by implementing the following activities:

i. **Availability of Working Capital and Bridging Finance strengthened**: CEHA will work with financial institutions and development partners to provide short-term working capital and bridging finance solutions for actors across the horticulture value chain. This ensures liquidity and addresses seasonal cash flow challenges for farmers, aggregators, and processors.

ii. **Supported SMEs Through Seed, Venture, and Growth Stage Capital Along With Technical Assistance**: CEHA will facilitate access to various stages of financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs), including seed capital for startups, venture capital for scaling, and growth-stage funding for expansion. Complementary technical assistance (TA) will be provided to improve business acumen, operational efficiency, and compliance with market requirements.

iii. **Targeted Finance Policy Reforms on the Composition of the Loan Book promoted**: CEHA will collaborate with policymakers and financial institutions to advocate for policies that prioritize horticulture value chains in the loan portfolios of commercial banks and development finance institutions. This includes incentives to increase lending to smallholder farmers, cooperatives, and agribusinesses.

Policy, Institutional, and Coordination Framework Among Horticulture Value Chain Actors strengthened

Robust policies and well-coordinated institutions are essential for enabling growth and investment in the horticulture sector. CEHA's interventions in this area include:

i. **Simplifying Tariff Regime to Create Growth and Investment supported:**

CEHA will work with regional governments to simplify and streamline tariff structures, making them more predictable and conducive to investment in the horticulture value chain.

ii. **Review of Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) Based on Regional Trade Protocols supported**: CEHA will support the review and update MRAs to ensure they align with regional trade protocols under frameworks like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

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

Quality standards and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) regulations are critical for accessing regional and global markets. CEHA will prioritize collaborative efforts to harmonize and implement these standards through the following activities:

i. **Reduction or Elimination of Formal and Informal Tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers supported**: CEHA will advocate for the removal of both formal (e.g., tariffs) and informal (e.g., delays at border points) trade barriers. This includes engaging policymakers to address regulatory inconsistencies and streamline customs procedures.

ii. **Harmonization of Regional Food Safety Regulations, Pesticides, and Quality Standards to Facilitate Trade supported**: CEHA will collaborate with regional and international stakeholders to harmonize food safety and quality standards, particularly concerning pesticide use and residue limits. These efforts aim to enable producers to meet export market requirements while reducing compliance costs and trade inefficiencies.

iii. Simplified manuals and guides on compliance with SPS regulations and harmonized quality standard supported.

Expected Outcomes

i. Improved access to affordable and diverse financing solutions for horticulture value chain actors.

ii. A simplified and predictable tariff regime that attracts investment and enhances trade.

iii. Strengthened policy and institutional frameworks for better coordination among stakeholders.

iv. Harmonized trade standards and SPS regulations, reducing trade barriers and increasing market access.

v. Enhanced regional and global competitiveness of African horticultural products.

vi. Greater compliance with regional and international trade standards through harmonized policies and regulations.

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

TECHNICAL APPROACH

The South Sudan Staple Food Programme SDEP and ECHO Implementation (SSSFPS-EI) will adopt a comprehensive three-pronged approach to agricultural development, anchored in the interlinked pillars of agriculture policy, agriculture productivity, and agriculture commercialization through value chain upgrading. Together, these pillars represent a unified strategy for revitalizing South Sudan's agricultural sector, addressing both foundational enablers and market-facing components.

Agricultural supply and demand will be shaped by the interaction between a cohesive policy and regulatory environment and a network of empowered institutions, both public and private. These institutions will be equipped to translate strategic ambitions into real-world outcomes. At the heart of the programme lies a commitment to unlocking commercially viable transactions between organized clusters of farmer organizations (FOs) and diverse agri-enterprises—ranging from SMEs to large-scale formal off-takers. This will require targeted interventions across the agricultural landscape, including awareness creation, capacity development, technical assistance, and agribusiness incubation through mechanisms such as MG-FIAM (Market Gateway Facility for Inclusive Agribusiness Mechanisms).

Moreover, the programme will forge networks, stimulate business linkages, and deliver customized support based on the evolving needs at country level. Special attention will be paid to the alignment of national frameworks with regional and continental aspirations—particularly in areas such as seed systems, biotechnology, bioprotectants, horticulture, and fertilizer policy—ensuring that South Sudan plays a role in the harmonization process toward EAC and CEHA integration.

What sets this approach apart is its systemic orientation. Rather than focusing on isolated outputs, the programme views agriculture as a living ecosystem that demands simultaneous action at structural, institutional, and enterprise levels. From this vantage point, agricultural development becomes a means not only for improved productivity but for socio-economic transformation, enabling the transition from subsistence farming to commercial viability, while fostering food security, rural employment, and economic diversification.

The programme is ultimately forward-looking—less concerned with where farmers are now, and more focused on where they, their organizations, and their communities need to be. By embedding principles of inclusion, gender equity, and regional cohesion into the design, the SSSFPS-EI for South Sudan charts a course toward a resilient and competitive agricultural economy—one that aligns with the broader aspirations of African Unity 2063 and EUSL's own Agenda 2074.

THEORY OF CHANGE

The underlying premise of the programme's theory of change is both bold and pragmatic: that by harmonizing agricultural policy frameworks and realigning regulatory systems—particularly in relation to critical inputs such as seeds, planting materials, biotechnology, bioprotectants, horticultural inputs, and fertilizers—South Sudan can lay the foundation for a robust and inclusive agricultural economy.

The programme envisions a transformation driven by value chain clustering and commercialization, wherein smallholder farmers are not only producers, but integral actors in structured markets supported by reliable off-takers, access to finance, and a facilitative ecosystem. This ecosystem must be inclusive, transparent, and responsive to the needs of all stakeholders—from women and youth to cooperatives and SMEs.

Through these interconnected efforts, the programme seeks to catalyze increased investment in agriculture, expand intra-regional trade, and boost household incomes—building a sustainable and

dignified future for farming communities across South Sudan. This transformation is not envisioned in isolation but within a broader continental framework, positioning South Sudan as a regional leader in agri-food systems innovation.

At the core of this vision is a simple truth: for agriculture to flourish, the policy environment must evolve. National agricultural strategies must be aligned with regional frameworks, responsive to global trends, and adaptive to the changing climate and market conditions. Only then can South Sudan attract the level of investment necessary to transform its rural economy and empower its food system actors.

This enabling environment must reduce barriers to entry, mitigate credit risks, and stimulate innovation across the sector—especially among farmer organizations, processors, SME service providers, and exporters. When these conditions are met, agriculture shifts from being a high-risk, low-return sector to one of the most promising engines of national development.

The development hypothesis acknowledges that fragmentation remains a critical barrier—within South Sudan's own policy domains and between regional partners. When policies are disjointed or implemented in isolation, competitiveness is undermined. It becomes difficult to meet international standards, and both local and foreign investments are deterred. Youth disengagement grows, and market linkages deteriorate. In such a context, food insecurity persists—not due to lack of potential, but because of a lack of coherence.

Thus, the SSSFPS-EI's Theory of Change recognizes that the solution lies not just in growing more food, but in changing the way food systems are governed, financed, and connected—both within South Sudan and beyond. By fostering policy coherence, unlocking inclusive finance, and enabling coordinated transformation, the programme aims to create a new future for agriculture in South Sudan: productive, inclusive, and globally competitive.

Agricultural Peacebuilding and Conflict Mitigation as a Pillar of National Resilience

SSSFPS-EI is not only a technical intervention to modernize the country's seed and agricultural inputs sector—it is, more fundamentally, a structural investment in nation-building, stabilization, and long-term peace. In a context shaped by decades of conflict, displacement, and institutional fragility, agricultural systems offer a uniquely inclusive and decentralized platform for restoring trust, generating livelihoods, and rebuilding a sense of shared national purpose.

Through the SSSFPS-EI, seed sector development will serve as a lever to activate a broader peace dividend. Each certified seed, each hectare cultivated, and each market system restored under this programme becomes a micro-intervention against the structural drivers of violence: poverty, exclusion, and state fragility.

Strategic Framing: From Input Markets to Peace Infrastructure

The programme's seed harmonization and certification activities, aligned with COMESA and CEHA regional frameworks, will be explicitly linked to a peace-sensitive implementation strategy. This strategy understands that seed systems are not neutral technical domains but operate within the political economy of land, identity, and mobility—all of which are active conflict vectors in South Sudan.

By embedding peacebuilding mechanisms into every layer of the seed sector—traceability, regulation, market linkages, and regional trade—the SSSFPS-EI will operationalize agricultural systems as infrastructure for peace.

Core Peacebuilding Dimensions

a) Employment as Prevention: Livelihood Creation Across the Seed Value Chain

The SSSFPS-EI will prioritize investments that create inclusive, equitable employment across the seed system. This includes support for:

- Youth-led seed enterprises in peri-urban and rural conflict-affected zones.
- Reintegration of returnees and demobilized individuals through certified seed production cooperatives.
- Gender-inclusive models that elevate women as custodians of seed knowledge and market access.

These investments will contribute not only to economic growth but also to violence prevention, by offering alternative pathways to social and economic agency.

b) Agricultural Clusters for Local Stability

In selected regions, the programme will pilot Integrated Agricultural Peace and Production Zones—geographic clusters where seed production, training, peace dialogue, and infrastructure investments are bundled. These zones will serve as:

- Stabilization anchors in regions experiencing post-conflict volatility.
- Platforms for dialogue between displaced populations, host communities, and returning farmers.
- Evidence bases for scaling agricultural-led stabilization in partnership with humanitarian actors.

c) Data and Early Warning for Conflict Resilience

The digital infrastructure deployed through the national seed traceability platform will be configured to include early warning indicators for:

- Disruption of agricultural inputs due to conflict or political unrest.
- Food system stress due to insecurity, displacement, or natural disaster.
- Market fragmentation that may signal rising tensions.

This data will be used to inform real-time mitigation measures, enabling coordinated responses by government, regional bodies, and peacekeeping or humanitarian partners.

A Contribution to State Legitimacy and Social Cohesion

By visibly delivering services, regulation, and economic opportunity through the agricultural sector, the Government of South Sudan—via the SSSFPS-EI—will strengthen the social contract between state and citizen. In areas where the state has historically been absent or contested, functioning seed systems will be among the first visible signs of governance, lawfulness, and opportunity.

This is not merely a sectoral intervention, but an act of institutional renewal—where food security, rule of law, and peaceful coexistence are cultivated in parallel.

Continental and Regional Coherence

This chapter also reaffirms South Sudan's alignment with:

- The **African Union's Agenda 2063** and its emphasis on silencing the guns through economic transformation.
- The **IGAD Peace and Resilience Framework**, particularly in its emphasis on root causes and regional spillovers.
- The **COMESA and CEHA seed harmonization agendas**, through which agricultural trade becomes a vector for regional interdependence and shared stability.

If peace is to be sustainable, it must be rooted in systems that work. The SSSFPS-EI offers South Sudan a credible, structured pathway to embed peace into the soil of its reconstruction. Through the careful alignment of agricultural reform with peacebuilding logic, the programme affirms that the seed sector can be much more than an input system—it can be a foundation upon which peace, prosperity, and legitimacy grow together.

	Objective Hierarchy – South Sudan SSSFPS EI
Impact	The overarching impact of the programme is to enable the inclusive and sustainable development of food systems across South Sudan and the EAC region, contributing directly to improved food security, enhanced agricultural commercialization, and the empowerment of smallholder farmers and agribusinesses. This transformation will be measured by a set of strategic key performance indicators (KPIs), beginning with the full harmonization and alignment of EAC regulations and laws on agriculture by its Member States. A seamless landscape for agricultural engagement is expected to emerge, in which smallholder farmers (SHFs) and agribusinesses can operate without systemic barriers across borders. Furthermore, the geo-clustering of agricultural value chains will support the commercialization of agriculture among SHFs, creating scale efficiencies and territorial specialization. This evolution will be supported by streamlined regional programming in areas such as seed systems, biotechnology, bioprotectants, and fertilizer usage. KPI 1-EAC regulations/laws on agriculture are fully harmonized and aligned by the Member States KPI 2 -Seamless engagement in agriculture activities by the SHFs and agribusinesses within EAC. KPI 3 -Commercialization of Agriculture by SHFs in EAC through geo-clustering of value chains
Outcomes	The achievement of this impact will be driven by a set of interconnected outcomes: 1. **1. Creation of Enabling Environments Through Policy Harmonization** An increasing number of Member States will have established coherent enabling environments by harmonizing their national agricultural policies, laws, and regulations with EAC regional frameworks. This alignment will include, but not be limited to: **South Sudan Seed Harmonisation Implementation Plan (South Sudan SHCP)**, which will guide the integration of seed systems across borders. **South Sudan Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Plan (South Sudan BBIP)**, ensuring safe and regulated adoption of biotechnologies. **South Sudan Bio-Protectants Harmonisation Programme (South Sudan BHAP)**, supporting sustainable alternatives to synthetic pesticides. **South Sudan Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (South Sudan FAUP)**, advancing soil health through harmonized fertilizer policies. **COMESA EAC Horticulture Accelerator (CEHA)**

<table>
<tr><td></td><td colspan="7">These regulatory alignments will lower trade barriers, reduce market segmentation, and allow for greater fluidity in agricultural input supply and product movement across the COMESA region.

2. Increased Participation of Smallholder Farmers in Agricultural Activities
As the policy landscape becomes more facilitative, smallholder farmers will be better positioned to engage in agriculture as a secure and economically viable livelihood. The enabling environment will reduce risk and enhance support systems, resulting in a higher proportion of SHFs contributing to the agricultural economy.

3. Expansion of Commercial Agriculture Through Inclusive Value Chains
There will be a marked increase in the share of commercial agriculture activities led by SHFs and agribusinesses, facilitated through the development of inclusive, sustainable, and territorially relevant value chains. These value chains will prioritize not only productivity, but also equity and environmental resilience.

The KPIs associated with these outcomes include:

Average income of small-scale food producers, disaggregated by sex and indigenous status, providing insight into the equity and reach of agricultural transformation.

Number of smallholders reached through African Development Bank (AfDB)-supported interventions, particularly those aimed at boosting sustainable production, enhancing market access, and securing land tenure.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Outputs</td><td><u>1.Capacity Development and agriculture Commercialization</u>:

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</td><td><u>2.Value Chain Development:</u>

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</td><td>3 <u>Markets facilities for trade expansion:</u>

KPI 3.1: Number of trade volumes on the geo clustered value chains

KPI 3.2: Number of trade-climate nexus promoted

KPI 3.3: Number of trade volumes</td><td><u>4.Policy Development and Implementation:</u>

KPI 4.1: Member states aligning their regulations/laws to Programme.

KPI 4.2: Member states aligning their regulations/Laws to the Programme.</td><td><u>5. Access to finance</u>

KPI 5.1: Number of targeted agribusiness groups having improved access to finance and financial support services with support of AfDB funded interventions.

KPI 5.2: Number of beneficiaries with access to financial services with AFDB</td><td><u>6. Climate Change</u>

KPI 6.1: Number of vulnerable communities enhanced their capacity to adapt to climate change impacts.

KPI 6.2: Number of climate-resilient livelihoods plans created/promoted.</td><td>7. <u>SDEP/ECHO & PPP</u>

KPI- 7.1: Number of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) system adheres to global standards and aligns with regional priorities.

KPI 7.2: Number of farming communities accessing equitable infrastructure through ECHO Platform.

KPI 7.3: Number of Flexus monitoring tools integrated.</td></tr>
</table>

	agriculture production practices with AFDB support **KPI 1.3:** Number of SHFs and FBOs using high quality seeds following the EAC Guidelines. KPI 1.4 Number of SHFs and FBOs applying the recommended fertilizer in the EAC region KPI 1.5 Number of SHFs and FBOs using the right Bioprotectants recommended in the EAC Region KP1 1.6 Number of SHFs and FBOs engaging the recommended biotechnology practices	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/global standards KPI 3.4-Number of value chain players actively engaged in the agriculture value chains.	coordinated by AFDB support	KPI 4.3- EAC Member states aligning their regulations/laws. KPI 4.4- Member states aligning their regulations/laws,	support: people (all financial services) KPI 5.3 Number and total value of matching grants disbursed to targeted agri-business groups with AFDB support	KPI 6.3 -Number social-economic wellbeing of targeted communities improved. KPI 6.4- Number of sustainable development practices and environment stewardship fostered.	
Main activities and tasks	1.1 Strengthening existing farmer organizations T1. Strengthening Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) by promoting viable models that	2.1. Strengthening existing farmer organizations. T1. Strengthening Farmer Based Organizations (FBO's) by promoting viable models that can	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	4.1 Improving the competitiveness of the staple food sector. T1. Comparative competitiveness benchmarking of national business environments among	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	6.1. Community engagement and needs assessments. T1. Conduct participatory consultations to understand the	7.1. Pre-study phase of the SDEP/ECHO. T1. Test soil fertility, pH levels, and suitability for climate-smart agriculture.

	can sustainably provide needed 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. 1.2. Innovative linkages to markets. T1. Developing methodologies to promote increased farmer integration. T2. Strengthen the relevant public sector stakeholders'	sustainably provide needed 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. 2.2. Innovative linkages to markets. T1. Developing methodologies to promote increased farmer integration. T2. Strengthen the relevant public sector stakeholders' capacity to review, harmonise, and	share best practices and lessons learnt. T1. 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, industrialisation and humanitarian assistance. T2. Collate information generated from the service forums and present them to the advisory committee highlighting impacts, the action needed, potential costs and time frame of the various actions. 3.2. Input market access development and expansion.	ESA member states through analysis and 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 EAC Policy Organs for policy reform and harmonisation. 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	the traditional and non-traditional 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 investment in productive assets and incentivise acquisition of further financing. T1. Develop and field test a matching grants operating manual (inception period).	specific needs and challenges faced by target communities. 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 livelihood practices. T2. Build technical skills related to climate-resilient agriculture, agroforestry, sustainable fisheries, renewable energy,	T2. Identify potential impacts on ecosystems, water, and biodiversity. T3. Engage local communities, governments, and private sector partners. 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. Analyse 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.

	capacity to review, harmonise, 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 enhance adoption of technologies such as drip irrigation, promotion of climate-smart varieties with EAC 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	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 varieties within the programs with EAC 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	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. 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	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 EAC Member States. T1. Technical meetings of customs officials from EAC member states held on zero tariffs and CET for fertilizers. T2. Drafting of agreement on zero tariffs and CET for EAC . 4.3. Development of new EAC 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 EAC region. T2. Develop new fertilizer recommendations	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 apply to the grant levels. T5. Where applicable, link targeted agribusinesses and FOs to other financing arrangements available in EAC Region.	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. 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	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. T9. Train on safe equipment use and occupational health standards. T10. Train on safe equipment use and occupational health standards.

	organisations and adoption of extension models 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 EAC member states. T1. Convene a regional inception workshop for all EAC Member States, to develop a roadmap for regional bioprotectant registration, harmonization and commercialization. T2. Conduct assessment of bioprotectant regulatory frameworks. 2.2. Developed a harmonized bioprotectant registration	farmers to serve as focal points for information dissemination. 2.1. Established Regional Platforms and mechanisms for coordination among value Chain actors. T1. Facilitate Establishment of CEHA National Chapters. T2. Conduct CEHA Stakeholders Mapping and Forums. T3. Organise regional Workshops/Forums for network Establishment. T4. Facilitate establishment and coordination of multistakeholder collaboration. T5. Facilitate workshop and seminars at national level - at least 4 workshop/seminar per partner state. T6. Facilitate Public Private Dialogue	producers and private actors. 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 EAC -wide agricultural commodity exchange. T1. Accessing the existing national commodity exchange available in the EAC region in terms of commodity policy/ credit act and regulatory framework and review capacity gaps to strengthen them. T2. Supporting furthering systems (exchange or electronic) development between existing national commodity exchanges and	based on the soil analysis that will 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 EAC Regional Fertilizer Subsidy Guidelines with Exit Strategies. T1. Conduct a critical review and analysis of existing subsidy programs in the EAC region and elsewhere to determine key principles and associated actions for developing "smart" fertilizer subsidy programs for the region.		success of these initiatives. T3. Promote innovation and knowledge sharing among 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 sustainable livelihood strategies into regional and national	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. 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.

	regulations for EAC member states. T1. Consultative Technical Workshops for the development of EAC Harmonised Bioprotectants' regulations. T2. Develop Mutual Recognition Pillars and Modalities on Bioprotectant regulations EAC Legal Drafting Committee convened. T3. EAC Organs Meetings: Committee on Agriculture; EAC Council of Ministers to review and adopt the EAC Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations. 3.1. Strategic implementation plan of the EAC bioprotectant registration harmonization and commercialization	workshop and seminars at Regional level. T7. Resource Mobilisation systems for CEHA 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 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	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 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 EAC region. T6. Come up with a EAC Regional Commodity exchange and co-ordinate spot and			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 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	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. 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 EAC goals.

	regulations developed. T1. Development of Implementation Plan of the EAC Registration Harmonization and Commercialization Regulations, taking into consideration the input from the EAC Member States. T2. Launch and sensitization of Registration Harmonization and Commercialization Regulations in EAC 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 Biosafety Authorities including Standardisation of application forms and Standard	mapping, agricultural commodities, and products. T3. Develop Centralized digital platform to address information gaps along 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. T7. Support Convening platform to pool resources from private investments, public	futures exchanges in the ESA Region dealing with inputs markets.			and networking among project participants, local communities, and relevant stakeholders through workshops, conferences, and online platforms.	T10. Track project outcomes and compliance with ESG and PPP standards.

	Operating Procedures (SOPs). T3. Establish, institutionalize a regional biosafety risk assessment mechanism through selection, and technical support to EAC 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. 3.2. Strengthen Biosafety regulatory capacity in selected EAC member states. T1. Annual data collection in EAC Member States for updating policies and products' development. T2. Testing of the regional risk assessment process through appropriate case studies. Import	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. 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 centres to improve efficiency and bargaining power					

	application: Crop-specific trait. T2. Popularize the "case study" PoE opinion among select Member States. T3. Strengthen Biosafety Capacities in EAC member states through EAC 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 communication about EAC Biotechnology and Biosafety Policy among member	within the value chain. T2. Support Market Systems Linkage - Develop stronger connections between producers' processors, and buyer to ensure a smooth flow. T3. Support investments in shared infrastructure and logistics (appropriate storage, aggregation centres 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 management, governance, negotiations,					

	states and stakeholders. T1. Review and put in place data driven Communication Strategy. T2. Strengthen awareness of the EAC 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 effectively popularize the policy. T4. Publicize the experiences of farmers and traders with GM crops in EAC Member States and other parts of the world. T5. Awareness and Communications through development of model data-driven Communication	financial management. T6. Link SMEs/cooperatives/associations to local markets, regional and international markets. T7. Women's and youth's 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, 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.					

	strategy and validation with lead countries including regional workshop with biosafety authorities. T6. Hold annual regional Biosafety and Biotechnology meetings in moving forward programs. T7. Report progress on moving forward to the Ministers of Agriculture and Natural Resources / Council of Ministers and EAC Summit.	T3. Support accessibility and adoption of appropriate climate smart agriculture technologies and mechanisation. T4. Support the translation of the developed and validated Publications to the 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 (EAC food balance sheet).					

Budget and use of funds

PROJECT 1: South Sudan Fertilizer Access and Utilization Programme (South Sudan FAUP)

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

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

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 Sudan and the EAC 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 EAC Harmonised Fertilizer Regulations.	Technical workshops	1500	30	3	1	135,000.00
Development of the EAC 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 Tariff and common external tariffs (CET) Harmonisation for Fertilizer Trade in the EAC Member states.						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Development of EAC Fertilizer CET.	Regional consultant	500	1	40	1	10,000.00
Technical customs meetings held on fertilizer CET drafting of the EAC CET conducted.	Regional workshop	1500	40	2	4	240,000.00
Validation and launch of EAC Fertilizer CET conducted.	Regional workshop	1500	40	2	5	300,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**550,000.00**
Output 1.3. Development of new EAC 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 EAC region	National consultant	300	21	20	1	126,000.00
Develop new fertilizer recommendations based on the soil analysis that will include the missing	Regional consultant	500	1	30	1	15,000.00

nutrients, validate the findings via fertilizer trials						
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 EAC 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 EAC 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 EAC 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 EAC 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 agro-dealer model including national and regional fertilizer trade and agro-dealer association in the EAC 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 agro-dealers 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 agro-dealers 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 EAC.	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 Sudan and EAC 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 Sudan Bioprotectants Harmonisation Programme (South Sudan BHAP)						
OUTCOME 1: Assesment reports of existing Bioprotectants registration and commercialization in EAC member states						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Convene a regional inception workshop for all EAC 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 Bioprotectants registration						
Output 2.1. Developed a harmonized bioprotectant registration regulations for EAC member states						

Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Consultative Technical Workshops for the development of EAC Harmonized Bioprotectants' regulations.	National workshops	1500	50	2	1	150,000.00
Develop Mutual Recognition Pillars and Modalities on Bioprotectant regulations EAC Legal Drafting Committee convened.	Regional consultants	650	7	25	1	113,750.00
Validation workshop of the EAC Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations.	Regional workshop	1500	50	2	1	150,000.00
EAC Organs Meetings: Committee on Agriculture; EAC Council of Ministers to review and adopt the EAC Harmonized Bioprotectants Regulations	Regional workshop	1500	50	2	1	150,000.00
					Sub total(USD)	**563,750.00**
OUTCOME 3. EAC Harmonised Bioprotectants regulations strategic Implementation Plan in place						
Output 3.1. Strategic implementation plan of the EAC bioprotectant registration harmonization and commercialization regulations developed						
Description	***Means***	***Unit Cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***

Development of Implementation Plan of the EAC Registration Harmonization and Commercialization Regulations, taking into consideration the input from the EAC Member States.	Regional consultants	650	7	25	1	113,750.00
Launch and sensitization of Registration Harmonization and Commercialization Regulations in EAC 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 Sudan Biotechnology and Biosafety Implementation Programme (South Sudan 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 EAC 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 EAC member states						
Description	***Means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Annual data collection in EAC 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 EAC member states through EAC 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 EAC 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 EAC 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 EAC 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 EAC 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 Sudan Seed Harmonisation and Certification Programme (South Sudan SHCP)						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***

Develop EAC 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 EAC Member State to enable them to register their varieties on the EAC Variety Catalogue.	workshops and Meetings	1500	25	5	1	187,500.00
Support full domestication of the EAC 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 EAC Variety Catalogue and acquisition, activation and trading using EAC 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 Sudan and EAC 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: COMESA EAC Horticulture Accelerator (CEHA)						
OUTCOME 1: Facilitate 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 South Sudan HA National Chapters	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	5	187,500.00
Conduct South Sudan 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 multi stake 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 Rregionallevel	Workshop	1,500.00	25	1	2	75,000.00
Resource Mobilisation sytems for South Sudan HA enhannced	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 Platform Use	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Facilitate 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 centers to improve efficiency and bargaining power within the value chain	Consultant	500	1	15	1	7,500.00
Support Market Systems Linkage – Develop stronger connections between producers processors, and buyer to ensure a smooth flow	Consultant	500	1	10	1	5,000.00
Support investments in shared infrastructure and logistics (appropriate storage, aggregation centers and 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 accessibility and adoption of appropriate climate smart agriculture technologies and mechanization	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 commercialization 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 (EAC 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 rrepurposingagricultural 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 marketsystems linkages	Consultant	1500	1	5	1	7,500.00
				Sub Total (USD)		**22,500.00**
Output 5.2.3. Support Implentation of EAC 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 Food safety Gaps	Consultant	750	1	5	5	18,750.00
				Sub total (USD)		**162,500.00**
Output 5.2.4. Access to Finance across the value chain facilitated						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Strengthen of working capital and bridging finance	Consultant	500	1	10	5	25,000.00
Improve the processing and handling infrastructure, primary and secondary packaging	Consultant	500	1	5	5	12,500.00
Support SMEs through matching Grants funds and agribusiness incubators (MGFIAM)	Funding seed	500 000	1	1	5	2,500,000.00

Advocate for targeted finance policy reform on the composition of the loan book	Consultant	500	1	1	5	2,500.00
Facilitate trade missions and partnerships to expand domestic, regional and international markets	Consultant	500	1	1	5	2,500.00
Targeted capacity building on 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 harmonization of regional food safety regulations, pesticides, and quality standards to facilitae trade	Consultant	500	1	5	5	25,000.00
Develop simplified guides on compliance with manuals and guides	Consultant	500	1	5	5	25,000.00

on compliance with SPS regulations and harmonized quality standards						
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 CEHA 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 South Sudan and CEHA 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 CEHA marketing and information	workshop	1500	25	2	5	375,000.00
				Sub Total (USD)		**875,000.00**
CEHA IMPLEMENTATION AND COORDINATION						
Description	***means***	***Unit cost***	***Persons***	***Man days / Months***	***Frequency***	***Total (USD)***
Hosting of the CEHA General Assembly		1500	50	2	5	750,000.00
South Sudan CEHA 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 CEHA 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)***

Pre-study of ECHO implementation	Soil and Environmental Analysis	50 000			**4**	200 000
	Stakeholder Engagement Workshops	10 000			**10**	100 000
	Infrastructure Feasibility Study	150 000			**1**	150 000
	Policy Alignment Reviews	25 000			**2**	50 000
	Climate Risk Assessment	50 000			**1**	50 000
	Coordination and Overhead	1 750 000			**Fixed**	1 750 000
Total						**2 300 000**
Skills Training						
	Vocational Training (Climate-Smart Agriculture)	50 per participant	30 000			1 500 000
	Renewable Energy Training	1 000 per session			300 sessions	300 000
	Water Management Practices	1 500 per module			120 sessions	180 000
	Post-Harvest Management	750 per session			300 sessions	225 000
	Leadership Training	1 000 per program			250 programs	250 000

	Digital Literacy Programs	1 000 per session			75 sessions	750 000
	Coordination and Overhead	1 000 000			**Fixed**	1 000 000
Total						**4 205 000**
ECHO Deployment				**Aprox Capacity / T.C and p/day**		
	Solar generation	300 000		500 to 750 kWh capacity p/day	**8**	2 400 000
	Solar storage	155 000		1350 kWh capacity	**8**	1 240 000
	Water Purification Systems	480 000		1000 cubic meter p/day	**8**	3 840 000
	Water storage	190 000		1000 cubic meter p/day	**8**	1 520 000
	Hydrogen Production Electrolysers	375 000		500 kWh p/day = 240 kg Hydrogen p/day	**4**	1 500 000
	Hydrogen Storage	350 000		240 kg capacity	**4**	1 400 000
	Water Treatment Plant	370 000		250 cubic meters/day	**5**	1 850 000
	Installation and maintenance	145 000			**5 years**	725 000
Total						**14 475 000**

FlexSus and Research						
	Real-Time Monitoring sensors	5 000 per system			**25 systems**	125 000
	Data Analysis and Reporting tools	10 000 per tool			**25 tools**	250 000
	Training for Local Teams	5 000 per session			**20 sessions**	100 000
	Research and Development	2 250 000			**Fixed**	2 250 000
Total						**2 725 000**
GSIA: PPP Enhancement and connected Research	Compliance Framework Development	250 000			**1 program**	250 000
	ESG Criteria and Reporting Tools	5 000 per tool			**20 tools**	100 000
	Leasing of ECHO Model Setup	1 000 000			**Fixed**	1 000 000
	Training for Stakeholders	5 000 per session			**150**	750 000
	Risk Mitigation	25 000 per package			**5 packages**	125 000
	Administration and overhead	900 000			**Fixed**	900 000

Total						**3 125 000**
General items						
	Merger of Programs CEHA, FAUP etc	500 000			1	500 000
	UNDP	100 000			5	500 000
	FAO	100 000			5	500 000
	Security Measurements	200 000			5	1 000 000
Total						**2 500 000**
				Total SDEP		**29,330,000.00**
				Program + SDEP Total		**43,963,000.00**

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 EAC Alliance are to be observed and mitigated through the embedded monitoring tools of the Programme.

3.1.2 Environmental and Social Risks

South Sudan 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 Sudan 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 Sudan Directorate of Climate Change and Meterology 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 Sudan Programme Steering Committee (SSPSC) or the SSSFPS-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
		iv. Pest resistance and build-up	- Excessive and improper use	- See above	- Increased economic cost of production and reduced enterprise profitability

– ENTERPRISE	– NATURE OF **POTENTIAL IMPACTS**	– POTENTIAL IMPACTS	– SOURCES OR **CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS**	– **MITIGATION MEASURES**	– EFFECTS
			of agricultural pesticides	- Build awareness of the danger and impact of synthetic pesticides to human health	- 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 - Technologies that require less water will be favoured including fruit tree varieties, which are	- 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
				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 and Household Approaches will be delivered across the Project	- Migration - Increase in gender-based violence - Creation of islands of wealth within a region - Breaking up of social systems due to competition

– ENTERPRISE	– NATURE OF **POTENTIAL IMPACTS**	– POTENTIAL IMPACTS	– SOURCES OR **CAUSES OF THE PREDICTED IMPACTS**	– **MITIGATION MEASURES**	– EFFECTS
		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 diversified food	- Community education - Awareness campaigns on the impact of nutrition	- Poor human health (morbidity) - Rise in 1st world illnesses - Weakened immune system

SECTION 4 – IMPLEMENTATION & MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

The SSSFPS-EI CEO shall be the budget holder and oversee operational, financial and management aspects of the programme. The programme will employ a team of technical and operational teams to steer the programme into fruition. The flagship programme contains 5 distinct areas of agriculture development.

The South Sudan programmes will be implemented by the ministry of agriculture or relevant ministry in close cooperation and coordination with EAC secretariate with oversight responsibility for the targeted countries governments. Regular technical support will be provided by other divisions of EAC including Statistics, Gender, Climate Change. As an agriculture development programme built along with the geo clustering of value chain, the programme may also work with sector wide as well as value chain umbrella bodies such as the SACAU (and equivalent), EAFF and AFSTA/NSTA, AUDA NEPAD, and the secretariat of AFCTA as well as regional producer and processor associations. These organizations may be replaced or extended with others.

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

A Programme Implementation Unit (PIU) comprised of SSSFPS-EI Project staff at the EAC secretariat will be established under the Flagship Programme to support the PTC and PSC in order to ensure efficient and effective implementation and coordination of all the technical aspects of the Projects, led by the SSSFPS-EI CEO or equivalent. The PIU will be responsible for the day-to-day oversight and management of the Project to ensure coherence, alignment, achievement of the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), and delivery of the annual work plans. The PIU will meet regularly as needed. In principles, its membership will comprise of project implementation staff, drawn for each country, along with representation from select South Sudan and EAC divisions and units. More specifically, the PIU at the secretariat will comprise an Agriculture Inputs specialist, Legal and Grants Management Specialist, Organizational Development and Capacity Building Specialist, Administrative assistant, and a Plant, Protection and Biotechnology specialist.

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 Sudan and EAC Region's total hectarage of farming that is attributable to Smallholder stands at hundreds of thousands of Square meters. For the SSSFPS-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 includes 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 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 ✗ 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	

Category of Baseline Information	Brief Description
𝓧 Flora (include threatened/ endangered/ endemic species) 𝓧 Fauna (include threatened/ endangered/ endemic species) 𝓧 Sensitive habitats including protected areas e.g. national parks and forest reserves	
Climate - This is needed in flood-prone regions 𝓧 Temperature 𝓧 Rainfall	
Social 𝓧 Number of people potentially impacted 𝓧 Type and magnitude of impacts (i.e. impact on land, structures, crops, the standard of living) 𝓧 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 𝓧 National Parks and Game Reserve, 𝓧 Wet-lands; 𝓧 Areas with rare or endangered flora or fauna									

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

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

PART E: Overall evaluation of screening excercises

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

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

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL MANAGEMENT MONITORING PLAN

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

STAFF REQUIREMENTS

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)
SSSFPS-EI Chief Executive Officer
SSSFPS-EI HA Regional Coordinator
SSSFPS-EI Agri-Business and Policy Advisor
SSSFPS-EI Finance and Planning Officer
SSSFPS-EI Knowledge, Events, Communication and Programme Officer.

EUSL SSSFPS-EI STAFF

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