



## Frequently Asked Questions (As of 17 August 2018)

- 1. How will the Fund operate?** The fund is organized as a challenge fund competition. This means that a call for concept note is launched, interested applicants submit their applications which are assessed against the selection criteria. The shortlisted applicants are invited to submit a Business Plan, and the winning concepts are finally selected from this batch. However, final funding approval will be made by the Fund Advisory Committee (FAC), under the auspices of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), with a No-Objection from the World Bank.
- 2. Why did you choose to provide financial support through a challenge fund?** Over the past 15 years, challenge funds have become an established mechanism to help the private sector to overcome risk aversion and deliver social outcomes. Challenge funds have proven to be a cost-effective and catalytic way of casting a wide net, to pick up new ideas from diverse (and often unexpected) sources and to take good, innovative ideas to scale.
- 3. How will the Fund be managed and governed?** The fund will be managed by KPMG IDAS, with oversight from the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) of SCADeP.
- 4. Can an organization that is not-for-profit submit a proposal?** Yes, but only in association or in partnership with a for-profit entity. The lead candidate in any consortium must be a duly-registered private sector firm.
- 5. What are the time periods for the financial support?** The current phase of SLADF is scheduled to end on 31 December 2021. Recipients of funds will be expected to draw down the financial support and report over the course of SLADF's lifetime.
- 6. How do smallholders access the Fund?** Smallholders do not access the funding directly, but will benefit through projects implemented by private sector organizations and agribusinesses that work directly with the smallholder farmers in an arrangement where the smallholder farmer's operations will show significant impacts in various economic, social and sectoral development aspects.
- 7. How does my company apply?** From the website ([www.sladf-sl.org](http://www.sladf-sl.org)), you need to register, and provide a valid email address. You will then receive application form in your inbox. Complete this form and submit it before the indicated deadline to [sladf@kpmg.com](mailto:sladf@kpmg.com).
- 8. Do I have to be based in Sierra Leone to apply?** No. As long as the project is going to be implemented in Sierra Leone and can demonstrate impact on small holder farmers, you can apply for funding from the SLADF.
- 9. Are there any applicable restrictions to the use of the funds?** Yes. The Funds must be used for activities aligned to the overall objectives of SLADF, and as a whole, the objectives of SCADeP. Detailed budgets will be submitted at the Business



Plan stage, and a final budget agreed on between the Fund Management team and the company on usage of the funds.

10. **Which language will the applications be in?** The Fund will only accept applications in English. However, during the presentation at the Business Plan proposal stage, the applicant can make their presentation in the Lingua Franca, Krio.
11. **Who reviews my business idea and how is it kept confidential?** Concept notes and business plans are reviewed by the Fund Manager, the Independent Assessment Panel and The Fund Advisory Committee. All parties sign confidentiality agreements to ensure that your project idea is kept safe. Project ideas are not shared with any outside parties or with other applicants.
12. **Who will own the intellectual property developed by the Project?** If funding is awarded, your contract would include a clause which ensures that all project documentation and intellectual property remains the property of your business.
13. **Where can I get more information on SLADF?** For more information on the Fund, visit: [www.sladf-sl.org](http://www.sladf-sl.org). For contact details, select the contacts link on the website.
14. **How many businesses were awarded funding under the First Round of SLADF?** Nine (9) Agribusinesses were awarded grant funding under the first round of the competition.