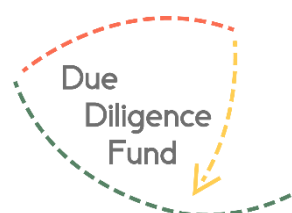


# Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chains Initiative (SASI)

## Due Diligence Fund

## Terms & Conditions



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## Background Information

Commissioned by the **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**, the **Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH** promotes the implementation of corporate due diligence on human rights and the environment (HREDD) in global agricultural supply chains. Considering recent supply chain legislation, such as the German Supply Chain Due Diligence Act (LkSG), the EU Directive on Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence (CSDDD) and the EU Regulation on Deforestation-free Products (EUDR), GIZ implements the **Due Diligence Fund (DDF)** as part of the **Sustainable Agricultural Supply Chain Initiative (SASI)**.

The aim of the DDF is to **identify innovative approaches for the implementation of corporate HREDD processes**. European companies in the agricultural sector, pairing up with commercial actors in producing countries and/or Public-Interest Partners can apply for funding for their project ideas, focusing on the rights of primary producers and the environment upstream their supply chains. The DDF funds the best project proposals in their practical adoption on the ground in countries included in the OECD DAC List<sup>1</sup> of ODA recipients and disseminates practical lessons learned from project implementation to the public (see [Learning Report](#)). A particular focus is on fostering engagement with all stakeholders – including the potentially or directly affected rightsholders - and to incentivize modes of shared responsibility along supply chains. The DDF thus develops solutions to meet the challenges of effectively implementing HREDD in agricultural supply chains and provides actual improvements regarding the living conditions of producers in global agricultural supply chains.

Since 2022, a total of 30 projects have been selected for funding across four previous rounds.

The following Terms & Conditions set the framework for the implementation of the **fifth call for proposals** of the DDF competition.

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<sup>1</sup> The list of official development assistance (ODA) recipients is published every two years by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) ([see annex](#)).

## I. Conditions of participation

### 1 Partnership Eligibility

#### 1.1 Consortium Composition:

- a) Applications can only be made as a **consortium**, consisting of
  - i. one or more “**Commercial Partner(s) (EU+)**” with legal personality and registered office based in the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA), Switzerland or the United Kingdom (UK).  
  
**and at least one of the following:**
  - ii. one or more “**Commercial Partner(s) (Local)**” with legal personality and registered office based in a country listed by the OECD DAC ([see annex](#)).
  - iii. one or more “**Public-Interest Partner(s)**” that has previous experience in the project country or other relevant experience with regards to the project proposal. No geographic restrictions apply.
- b) The consortium is formalized by joint signature of the application documents.
- c) Only one application per consortium is possible. Individual applicants may submit multiple applications with different partners.
- d) The applicants are jointly responsible for implementation and reporting.

#### 1.2 Legal and Administrative Requirements:

- a) Corresponding proof of legal personality must be submitted with the short proposal (see template).
  - i. For all partners, entry in the commercial register or alternative proof of registration customary in the country.
  - ii. For Public-Interest partners, additionally, proof of their status as organisation for the public good customary in their country and statutes.
- b) The Commercial Partner(s) (EU+) must have at least eight employees and an annual turnover of at least EUR 800,000. To prove this, at least two annual financial statements of each Commercial Partner (EU+) must be submitted. If the partner cannot provide financial statements, it may submit balance sheets instead.
- c) The consortium has the required resources, and their staff must have the relevant professional skills to manage the project.
- d) There are no allegations or investigations of corruption against senior staff or the management of any of the applicants.
- e) Applicants are neither listed on the sanctions lists of the Federal Republic of Germany, the European Union, or the United Nations.

#### 1.3 Operational Eligibility:

- a) Eligible companies are those
  - i. whose **operations, products** or **services** are connected to an agricultural supply chain (upstream or downstream), including through **production, processing, distribution** or **enabling services**, and
  - ii. that can **cause, contribute to**, or be **directly linked to** actual or potential adverse human rights or environmental impacts, and

- iii. that have **leverage** or can reasonably seek to **build leverage** (including through collaboration), to prevent or mitigate those impacts.
  - iv. Entities providing only advisory or standalone technical services without such influence are excluded as Commercial Partners but may participate as “Supporting Entities”.
- b) **Supporting Entities:**
- i. Additional supporting entities may participate in the implementation of the project. This applies worldwide both to additional private sector actors and organisations for the public benefit, as well as to other actors (e.g. associations, multi-actor partnerships, universities, state actors). They can be an integral part of a project to ensure adequate stakeholder engagement and representation.
  - ii. Supporting entities are not formal members of the consortium and hence, not formally responsible for the joint implementation of the project.

## 2 Project Eligibility

- a) **Project scope:**
- i. **EU-relevance:** Products produced in the selected supply chain(s) are traded in the EU Single Market.
  - ii. **On-site measures:** The project provides for on-site measures in one or more of the OECD DAC-listed countries ([see annex](#)) during the funding period.
  - iii. **Eligible activities:** Funding will only be provided for activities that are primarily designed to prevent or mitigate previously identified risks or strengthen sectoral or regional due diligence systems.
- b) **Due diligence logic:** The project contributes to better fulfilment of corporate HREDD obligations, with a special regard to one or several central due diligence processes (e.g. risk assessment, prevention or mitigation measures, digitalisation and traceability, grievance mechanisms, meaningful engagement and collaboration, gender equity and social inclusion).
- c) **Beyond compliance:** the project objectives go beyond applicable legal obligations, e.g. EUDR, CSDDD or relevant national legislation.
- d) **Duration:** DDF funding can only support activities that take place within the approved funding period.
- i. The maximum funding period is 18 months. The earliest start date is January 1, 2027, and the latest end date is June 30, 2028.
  - ii. The overall project may start earlier and/or run longer, but only activities within the funding period are funded. In this case, significant project milestones must be plausibly reached within the funding period.

## 3 Funding Requirements

- a) **Funding amount:** GIZ provides funding for selected project proposals through two funding windows:
- i. **Funding Window A:** EUR 50,000 - EUR 124,999.
  - ii. **Funding Window B:** EUR 125,000 - EUR 250,000.

Projects under Funding Window B are subject to higher requirements in terms of project governance, scalability and impact ([see section IV](#)). Projects funded under Window B

are required to undergo a financial audit commissioned by GIZ. Funding recipients must remain available for this purpose for up to 12 months after the project end.

- b) **Funding recipient:** Funding is provided through a grant agreement between GIZ and a designated funding recipient. GIZ's guidelines for awarding financing apply.
- i. A prerequisite to qualify as funding recipient is a successful commercial and legal eligibility check (KEP) performed by GIZ ([see section II. 3 d](#)).
  - ii. The designated funding recipient needs to be part of the partnership; Commercial Partners (EU+) may only receive funds in exceptional cases. This applies if:
    - Commercial Partners (Local) are ineligible to receive funds,
    - no suitable Public-Interest partner is available, and
    - the company assumes operational responsibility with demonstrable supply chain leverage.
  - iii. Germany-based Commercial Partners cannot receive funding.

#### 4 Requirements of Consortium Contributions

- a) **Co-funding:** The Commercial Partner(s) (EU+) must match DDF funding with an **own contribution**.
- i. The minimum required own contribution depends on the company size of the **largest** Commercial Partner (EU+) (see Table 1).
  - ii. If multiple Commercial Partners (EU+) participate, they may split the required own contribution among themselves, provided the total meets the minimum specified in Table 1.
- b) **Special provisions:**
- i. If a Commercial Partner (both EU+ or Local) belongs to a corporate group with registered offices in the EU, EEA, UK or Switzerland, the size of the group including subsidiaries and affiliated partners is considered for determining the required own contributions. The DDF uses the EU Commission's User guide to the SME Definition for calculation.<sup>2</sup>
  - ii. In the case above, own contributions by a Commercial Partner (Local) also count toward the minimum own contributions set out in Table 1.
  - iii. Supporting entities may provide part or all of the required co-funding, provided they are a foundation or an organisation of which the Commercial Partner (EU+) is a member.
  - iv. Other Commercial Partners (Local) and Public-Interest Partners are invited to make an additional contribution to the project in accordance with their financial capacities.
- c) **Contribution types:** The own contribution can be provided through cash payments or in-kind services (e.g. provision of staff, real estate, etc.). In-kind contributions are only eligible if they are directly linked to the project's activities, e.g. through participation in workshops, governance meetings or field trips.

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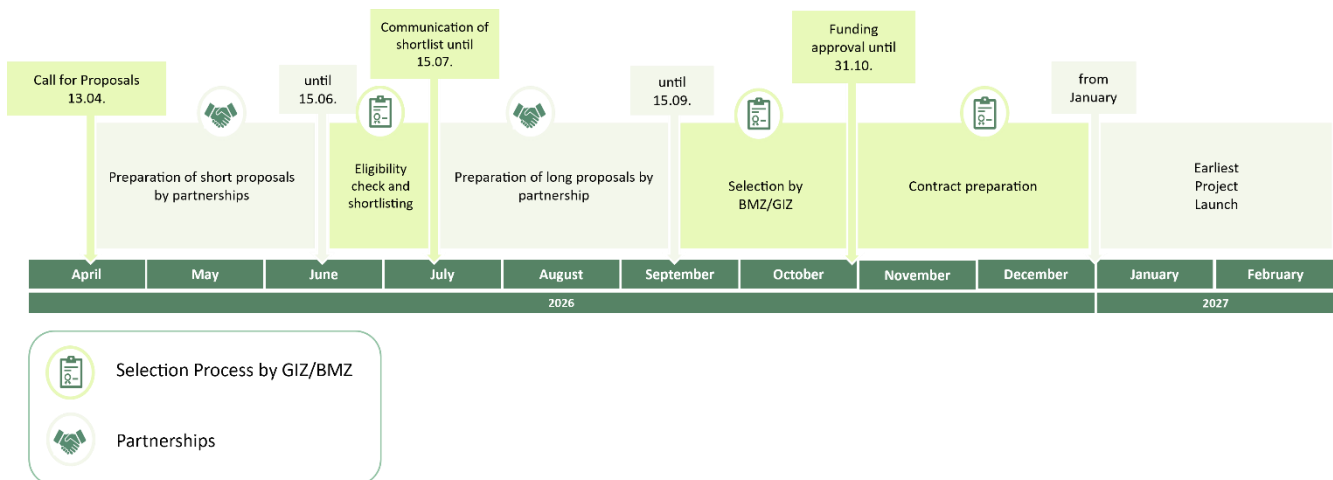
<sup>2</sup>[User Guide to the SME Definition](#)

Table 1: Thresholds to determine the amount of the financial contribution of Commercial Partners (EU+) based on the EU commission’s methodology to assess SME status. If a company falls into two different categories, the bigger category applies.

Category	Number of employees	Net turnover in EUR per year	Level of own contribution
1 (SME)	up to 249	up to 50 million	at least 25% of DDF funding
2	up to 1000	up to 450 million	at least 50% of DDF funding
3	above 1000	above 450 million	at least 100% of DDF funding

## II. Application and Selection process

The DDF competition is conducted in a multi-stage process:



### 1 Submission of a Short Proposal

- Consortia can apply to the DDF by submitting a **short proposal**, containing A. **applicant information** and B. a brief **concept note**. The templates provided on the [Website](#) have to be used.
- The deadline for submitting the short proposal is **June 15, 2026**. A prior submission is possible.
- GIZ strongly encourages interested actors to contact DDF ([ddf@giz.de](mailto:ddf@giz.de)) to discuss their project outline beforehand. GIZ offers one individual appointment per consortium.
- Only complete applications (including all required signatures and supporting documents) submitted within the deadline will be accepted.

### 2 Shortlisting

- To determine eligibility, GIZ reviews the submitted short proposals based on their consistency with the **Conditions of Participation** (section I.).

- b) Among the eligible proposals, projects are shortlisted based on their expected contribution to the overarching goals of the DDF. The shortlisting is carried out on the basis of the selection criteria (section IV), in particular **Innovation, Scalability, Additionality** and **Portfolio synergies**.
- c) The results will be communicated until **July 15, 2026**. The shortlisted consortia are then invited to submit a **long proposal**.

### 3 Submission of a Long Proposal

- a) The shortlisted consortia submit a long proposal, including updated applicant information (in case of changes) and a project proposal. Templates will be provided.
- b) All activities planned in the project proposal are relevant for its evaluation against the selection criteria, including those that are not financed by the DDF. Administrative information is not part of the assessment.
- c) The deadline for submitting the long proposal is **September 15, 2026**.
- d) A prerequisite for the selection of the project is a successful commercial and legal eligibility check (KEP) of the funding recipient. For this, the designated funding recipient is obliged to submit a filled-out questionnaire with supporting documents attached, by **August 15, 2026**. The questionnaire will be provided by GIZ.

### 4 Funding Approvals

- a) All project proposals are evaluated based on the **selection criteria** in section IV.
- b) **Funding approvals** will be issued by BMZ based on recommendations from the selection committee. The selection committee consists of GIZ experts with relevant technical and regional backgrounds.
- c) The decision will be announced by GIZ until **October 31, 2026**.
- d) The consortium formally accepts the DDF funding conditions by signing a **cooperation agreement** with GIZ. Funding will be issued based on a successfully concluded **grant agreement**.
- e) The funding approval may include conditions set on the partnership to amend the project proposal before the conclusion of the cooperation agreements and initiation of the grant contracting process.

## III. Implementation and Dissemination

### 1 Project Implementation

- a) The consortium members assume joint responsibility for project implementation and reporting.
- b) The consortia agree to regular progress updates. This includes submission of a detailed (technical) progress report every six months and a final report including meaningful photos and quotes. Guidelines on reporting and communication are agreed on via the cooperation agreement.
- c) GIZ offers to provide technical backstopping during project development and implementation.

## 2 Learning and Dissemination

The aim of the DDF is to share lessons learned from each project with the wider agri-food sector. To this end, lessons learned will be identified, discussed and publicly disseminated. Project partners agree to collaborate with GIZ and commissioned parties to identify and openly sharing selected learnings, challenges, methods, and tools developed during the project, including by participating in at least one event hosted by GIZ.

## IV. Selection Criteria for projects

All eligible projects will be assessed against the following requirements. Projects selected for funding will be those that best fulfil these requirements.

**General note:** additional guidance for the fulfilment of the selection criteria can be found in the application templates and FAQs.

Overarching criteria	
Innovation	The project introduces new or improved methods, technologies, or practices in the selected supply chain(s), addressing existing challenges or creating added value.
Scalability	The project applies approaches or practices that can be expanded or replicated in other regions, supply chains, or by additional stakeholders.
	<i>Funding window B only:</i> The project contains an explicit scaling concept.
Additionality	The project leverages private sector contributions (e.g. through significant cash-contributions or by exceeding the required own contributions) and shows additionality of private and public funding.
Portfolio synergies	The project is synergetic or complementary to SASI's existing portfolio or aligns with the bilateral portfolio of German/European development cooperation (i.e. BMZ Reform Agenda and EU Global Gateway). It aligns with SASI's approaches on key topics, e.g. living income and wages, gender equity and social inclusion, deforestation and EUDR compliance, digitalisation and traceability.
Project design and implementation	
Risk-based approach	The objectives are based on an adequate <sup>3</sup> risk assessment of the affected supply chain, extending to the applicable sector and region for relevant risk-factors.
Meaningful engagement	Potentially or directly affected rightsholders or their legitimate representatives (e.g. trade unions, local civil society or governmental organisations) in the project country are meaningfully engaged in the planning and implementation of the project, e.g. through formal and documented consultation formats.
	<i>Funding window B only:</i> Affected rights holders or their legitimate representatives have a formal role in the projects governance system.
Gender equity and social inclusion	The proposal identifies gender-specific adverse impacts in the risk assessment, as well as other relevant forms of structural inequality (e.g. ethnicity, age, disability).
	At least one planned activity must be explicitly designed as a gender-responsive measure, directly addressing an identified risk (e.g. related to rights, resources, and representation). The activity must be reflected in the project logic, budget and monitoring framework.

<sup>3</sup> A risk assessment may be prepared as part of a regular due diligence process or on obtaining substantiated knowledge. It should combine desk-based scoping with on-the-ground verification and stakeholder engagement to ensure accurate and comprehensive information.

Safety and Do-No-Harm	The proposal contains adequate considerations of security, safety and well-being during project implementation and safeguards to ensure adherence to the do-no-harm principle.
Governance	The governance structure enables efficient and effective project implementation. Each partner plays a significant role in the project's execution.
Monitoring	The nature and extent of the intended changes are measurable during the project period.
	The project proposal contains a tangible M&E concept with SMART indicators as well as a concept for the follow-up of the implemented measures beyond the funding period.

## Annex: OECD DAC List of ODA recipients (2024 - 2026):

Afghanistan	Ecuador	Madagascar	Samoa
Albania	Egypt	Malawi	Sao Tome and Principe
Algeria	El Salvador	Malaysia	Senegal
Angola	Equatorial Guinea	Maldives	Serbia
Argentina	Eritrea	Mali	Sierra Leone
Armenia	Eswatini	Marshall Islands	Solomon Islands
Azerbaijan	Ethiopia	Mauritania	Somalia
Bangladesh	Fiji	Mauritius	South Africa
Belarus	Gabon	Mexico	South Sudan
Belize	Gambia	Micronesia	Sri Lanka
Benin	Georgia	Moldova	Sudan
Bhutan	Ghana	Mongolia	Suriname
Bolivia	Grenada	Montenegro	Syrian Arab Republic
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Guatemala	Morocco	Tajikistan
Botswana	Guinea	Mozambique	Tanzania
Brazil	Guinea-Bissau	Myanmar	Thailand
Burkina Faso	Guyana	Namibia	Timor-Leste
Burundi	Haiti	Nauru	Togo
Cabo Verde	Honduras	Nepal	Tokelau
Cambodia	India	Nicaragua	Tonga
Cameroon	Indonesia	Niger	Tunisia
Central African Republic	Iran	Nigeria	Türkiye
Chad	Iraq	Niue	Turkmenistan
China (People's Republic of)	Jamaica	North Macedonia	Tuvalu
Colombia	Jordan	Pakistan	Uganda
Comoros	Kazakhstan	Palau	Ukraine
Congo	Kenya	Panama	Uzbekistan
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu
Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Paraguay	Venezuela
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Peru	Viet Nam
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Philippines	Wallis and Futuna
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Lebanon	Rwanda	West Bank and Gaza Strip
Djibouti	Lesotho	Saint Helena	Yemen
Dominica	Liberia	Saint Lucia	Zambia
Dominican Republic	Libya	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Zimbabwe