



Call for Proposals - FAQ

Impact and innovation in commodity value chains

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) invites applications for financial support from qualifying projects. The CFC can offer a range of financial and technical instruments of support to meet specific needs of SMEs (small and medium enterprises)/enterprises, cooperatives, and institutions along the entire commodity value chain in its Member States.

Eligible projects are based in one of the 101 CFC Member States and intend to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals by investing in commodity value chains. Successful applications will demonstrate clear and visible potential to achieve sustainable positive impact on the livelihoods of the poorest people who depend on commodities and help create a nexus between the smallholders and SMEs/businesses.

Should the CFC Open Call application form be completed in English?

Application forms may be submitted in English only.

Is my country eligible to apply for the Open Call for Proposals?

Yes, if the country where your project will operate is a CFC **Member State***, you are eligible to apply for the proposal.

Can an organisation in a Non-Member State of the CFC apply?

Yes, provided that all activities financed by the CFC are implemented in a CFC Member State.

Can a start-up company apply?

The CFC does not finance start-up companies. Eligible proposals must demonstrate a track record of at least 3 years (addressing substantive as well as financial issues).

The existence of a credible historical period of operations (documented by audited financial statements) is important.

Does the CFC provide humanitarian/educational/medical aid?

The goal of the CFC is to advance development in commodity-dependent developing countries.

Matters covered by other international organisations, such as research, humanitarian aid, educational, and medical issues fall outside the CFC's mandate.

What is the maximum amount of CFC funding?

The CFC funds agribusinesses with loans and other debt instruments. The maximum amount is USD 2 million for regular projects, and up to USD 300,000 under the Fast-Track procedure. However, we show some flexibility when we have projects with higher impacts and a good finance case.

What is the interest rate for the loans?

This will be determined depending on the type of project and the risk attached to it. As an impact first entity, the CFC offers affordable and competitive financing terms and conditions that are tailored to the risk profile and requirements of the borrower. The CFC also offers cheaper rates for projects backed up by sovereign guarantee.

Is there a grace period for the loans?

For certain projects with the appropriate risk profile, the CFC can offer a grace period on its loans, not exceeding 2 years.

Have I not received any response on my application to the Call?

The CFC will only contact proponents of proposals that are deemed suitable for further consideration by the Consultative Committee.

If you have not heard from us two weeks after the dates of Consultative Committee meeting, the proposal was not recommended for follow-up.

How do I complete the Impact section of the application form?

Please provide a summary of impact indicators consistently with the impact projections in the Excel template attached with the application.

How to apply?

Please refer to the website for more information or application documents: www.common-fund.org

For questions, please contact: Opencall@common-fund.org

*Check the list of CFC Member States at www.common-fund.org/about-us/member-states/