



AGRICULTURE
FAST TRACK

AGRICULTURE FAST TRACK OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

The Agriculture Fast Track is the first and only project preparation fund focused exclusively on agriculture in Africa. Building on the commitments under the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition, the Agriculture Fast Track develops and advances a pipeline of bankable food security projects that support Africa's agriculture transformation agenda.

By defraying front-end project development costs and risks that project sponsors are unable to shoulder alone, the Agriculture Fast Track increases the number of investment-ready agriculture infrastructure projects. The Agriculture Fast Track is not tied to any financing mechanism, but instead develops projects for all types of eventual investment, from development finance institutions to commercial banks to private equity funds.

The Agriculture Fast Track's modest and targeted investments can unlock hundreds of millions of dollars in concessional and commercial financing for agriculture infrastructure needs in Africa.

ACTIVITIES

The Agriculture Fast Track provides grant funding for the initial project development costs of a broad range of agriculture infrastructure projects spanning the entire value chain — from production to market. Project sponsors will apply for funding and can be from the private or public sector and from local or international businesses.

The types of projects supported by the Agriculture Fast Track range from roads to agro-processing facilities to out-grower schemes. Examples of the types of support the Agriculture Fast Track can provide to projects include:

- » An **environmental/hydrological** study for an irrigation system that would support smallholder vegetable production.
- » A **marketing plan** for a hulling facility supported by a nucleus farm and corresponding out-grower scheme, which will create stronger market linkages for smallholders.
- » An **engineering study** to establish a power source for an extraction and refining center; a center which would provide inputs and training to allow new smallholder farmers to enter the supply chain.

ELIGIBILITY

The Agriculture Fast Track is currently open to supporting agriculture infrastructure projects in Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mozambique, and Tanzania. Following an initial pilot phase of implementation, the Agriculture Fast Track will expand to a broader geographic scope of African countries.

PARTNERSHIP

The Agriculture Fast Track is a multi-donor trust fund managed by the African Development Bank and developed with the support of the United States Government, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the Government of Sweden.



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To learn more about the Agriculture Fast Track, including how to apply, please visit: www.afdb.org.