

Activity Appraisal Document ODA

€ 1.000.000 or more

I REQUESTED DECISION CONCERNS

Application number	4000004440
Short name application	A3-SEED – Triple A-SEED
Long name application	Accelerating Agriculture and Agribusiness in South Sudan for Enhanced Economic Development (A3-SEED – “Triple A-SEED”)
Description application	<p>The A3-SEED – “Triple A-SEED” activity responds to the BHOS policy on food security combating hunger and malnutrition and improving agricultural productivity by amongst others supporting climate smart agriculture. This activity aims at supporting local production, distribution and marketing of quality seeds in the Republic of South Sudan which has for long been a key constraint to improved agricultural productivity in the country. The activity further operationalizes the Dutch government’s commitment to the sustainable development goals and the Paris Climate Accord. Finally the activity is in line with the Dutch partnership areas and the multi donor Partnership for Recovery and Resilience approaches to delivering development cooperation activities in South Sudan.</p> <p>Through this project, incomes of 100,000 people engaged in production of seeds will be increased - half of these beneficiaries will directly realize a 50% increase in yield and income while the other half will indirectly realize a 20% rise in the yield and income from their crops. In this process, 42,000 hectares of farmland will be cultivated following agro-ecological production techniques with climate resilient farming practices. Through advocacy and collaboration with local actors, the project aims to increase local purchase of seeds by individuals, businesses and humanitarians by up to 50%.</p> <p>To achieve the above results, the project intends to utilize a facilitative, private sector led approach to develop the seed and input sectors in South Sudan with less direct involvement of IFDC/KIT in implementation by relying on local partners -with better knowledge of local context- to execute activities.</p> <p>IFDC/KIT will utilize push-pull approaches to design interventions that will stimulate production and productivity by, among others, building capacity of farmers to be responsive to market demands.</p>
Budget holder	JBA

Number business partner	30021112		
Implementing organisation(s)	International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) and KIT Royal Tropical Institute		
<u>Legal relationship</u>	Grant		
<u>Commitment</u> in foreign currency (if applicable)	N/A		
Corporate rate	N/A		
<u>Commitment</u> in euros	EUR 8.500.000		
Funds centre	1702U01010008		
Activity start date	30/11/2020		
Activity end date	30/06/2026		
Contract start date	01/12/2020		
Contract end date	30/11/2025		
Has an evaluation been planned?	Yes, mandatory (see decisiontree in 5.3.6.)		
<u>Aid modality</u>	Other aid		
<u>Donor role</u>	Lead or active donor		
<u>Technical assistance</u>	10<TA<25 Between 10% and 25% of the activity budget		
<u>Beneficiary's country/region</u>	South Sudan		
Countries within the region (if applicable)	N/A		
Allocation country information	100% South Sudan		
Location within the country (be as specific as possible)	Province	Name location(s)	Torit, Bor, Yambio, Rumbek, Juba
<u>CRS Code</u>	31150		
<u>Policy marker weight is 'principal'</u> (no minimum or maximum amount)	VdsZek;		
<u>Policy marker weight is 'significant'</u> (no minimum or maximum amount)	PrivSct, GikhMV, KImAdp, MrktOnt		
<u>Special pledges made by the Minister or State Secretary</u> / and/ or special marks regarding sensitive information	N/A		

II. ACTIVITY APPRAISAL

2.1 Contribution made by the activity to BZ policy objectives (policy relevance)



2.1.1 Description policy relevance

Accelerating Agriculture and Agribusiness in South Sudan for Enhanced Economic Development (A3-SEED – “Triple A-SEED”) project responds to the BHOS policy – investing in global prospects 2018 – that committed the Kingdom of the Netherlands to contribute to combating hunger and malnutrition and improving agricultural productivity by, amongst others, supporting better climate smart agriculture especially in the focus regions such as the Horn of Africa which South Sudan is part. This strong linkage to climate smart agriculture further responds to the Netherlands commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement (PCA). A3-SEED further operationalizes the Dutch Government’s commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and this activity specifically contributes to; SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms; SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable Agriculture; SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

At the country level, A3-SEED operationalizes the Dutch Multi Annual Country Strategy (MACS) for South Sudan covering the period 2019-2022 that, among others, aims at increasing farm productivity, income and employment through enabling farmers gain access to improved seed for food production specifically targeting youth and women farmers in addition to other groups such as IDPs, returnees and ex-combatants. The MACS envisioned that a strategy will be implemented which involves research, multiplication and commercialization of seeds in the country that links clearly with the A3-SEED activity.

This activity will also be implemented in line with the Dutch partnership areas targeting Torit, Yam-bio, Bor, Rumbek and the outskirts of the capital Juba. The Dutch development cooperation activities to be implemented in the above specified locations in order to achieve synergy and greater impact with other Dutch funded activities. This activity is also aligned with the broader multi donor initiative of Partnership for Recovery and Resilience (PfRR) which is an initiative aimed at strengthening coordination of resilience programming among major donors in South Sudan with focus on reducing vulnerability and enhancing recovery of conflict affected South Sudanese population. The locations are a subset of the PfRR with strong alignments in approaches and strategies as well as target areas or what is referred to as Partnership Areas (PA). Under the PfRR, seven areas PAs have been identified, for this collaborative approach to programme implementation.

2.1.2 Appraisal

No.	Criteria 2.1 Policy relevance	Indicators (score 0, 1, 2)	Score	EXPLANATION/ REFERENCES
2.1.1	The proposed intervention ties in with the operational objectives in the Explanatory Memorandum and the related policy memorandum (policy theory and intervention)	 The proposed intervention ties in with both the main objective and the secondary objectives .		This activity has a well-articulated theory of change for achieving the intended results that also links directly with the theory of change of the MACS which in turn links clearly to the BHOS policy objective on food and nutrition

	logic).			security.
2.1.2	The proposed intervention ties in with the ODA priorities	<input type="checkbox"/> The proposed intervention ties in with more than one of the result areas of the BH&OS priorities.	2	This activity contributes directly to BHOS Policy on combating hunger and malnutrition and improving agricultural productivity through climate smart agriculture.
2.1.3	The proposed intervention ties in with the annual plan and the result chain of the MIB/MASP	<input type="checkbox"/> The intervention is specifically mentioned in the result chain of the MIB/MASP.	2	The intervention directly operationalizes the objectives of the Dutch MACS for South Sudan for the period 2019-2022. It was specifically mentioned in the MACS and highlighted in the Annual Plan 2020.
2.1.4	The relevance of the proposed intervention to the crosscutting themes of women's rights and gender equality / climate / PSD / coherence and strengthening of civil society organisations	<input type="checkbox"/> The proposed intervention is relevant to more than one of the crosscutting themes.	2	The intervention is crucial in addressing cross cutting themes as it targets mainly women and youth as beneficiaries with a set of skills resulting in increased productivity and climate smart agricultural production techniques using a private sector led approach.
Total score (maximum 8 out of 8 points)			8	

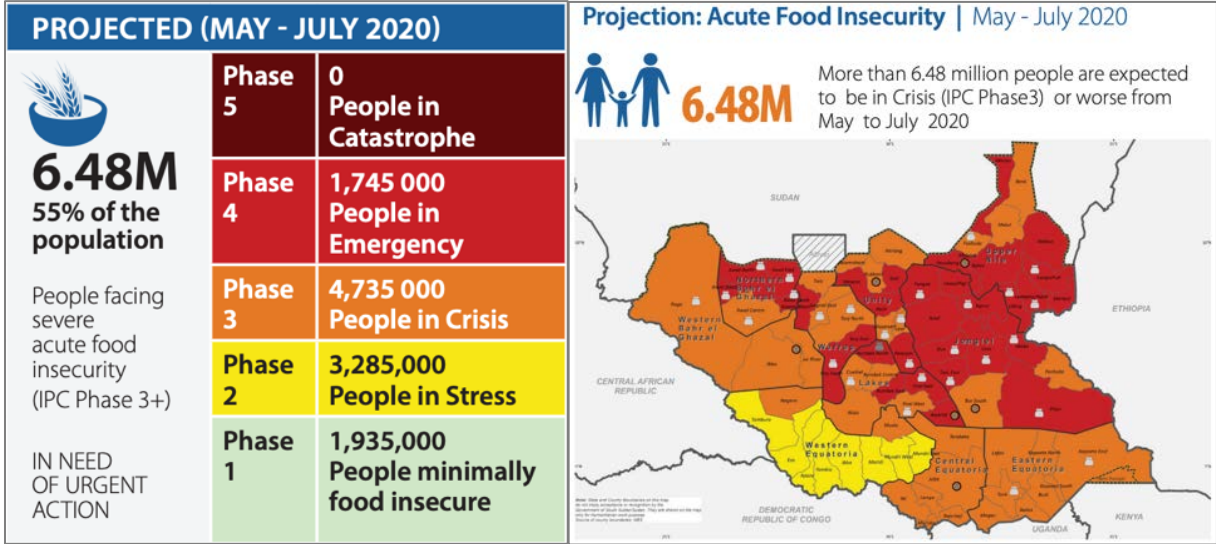
2.2 Problem analysis and lessons learned

2.2.1 Description

South Sudan offers immense opportunities for improved food security through agricultural development. The country has an abundance of potential arable land and seasonal rainfall, which supports two rain-fed cropping seasons in areas with bi-modal rainfall such as the equatorial "green-belt" while abundant water sources would allow for irrigated farming outside the single rainy season in highlands or floodplains. An estimated 70% of its land is suitable for agricultural production and more than 80% of South Sudan's population are engaged in agricultural livelihoods and employment, with the vast majority of the rural population (approximately 85%) dependent on agricultural livelihoods.

Despite the above agricultural potential however, currently less than 4% (2.7 million hectares [ha]) of arable land is cultivated and an estimated 55% (6.48 million people) of the South Sudanese population face severe food insecurity that threatens lives, livelihoods, or both in 2020. This is due

to a combination factors such as political instability, effects of climate change, limited access to agricultural inputs such as seeds as well as low levels of skills amongst farmers that practice low-input, low-output farming. Since 2013, South Sudanese have been putting up with these challenges that have significantly curtailed their potential to feed themselves. The civil conflict that started in December 2013 and reignited in 2016 killed over 400,000 people and displaced a total of 2.1 million people; 1.2 million people as refugees and 1.9 million as internally displaced persons (IDPs). These populations are dependent on humanitarian aid for their survival. In addition, climate induced floods and droughts have been devastating many parts of the country over the last few years affecting lives of millions of people hence forcing them to depend on humanitarian support.



Since September 2019, warring factions in the South Sudan civil conflict have reached a Revitalized Agreement Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCISS). And despite the challenges faced in the implementation of this agreement, it has nevertheless ushered in relative calm across the country and many people in parts of the country are looking forward to securing their own livelihoods as opposed to depending on humanitarian aid. For the first time in six years, communities are having optimism for peace with some of them leaving Protection of Civilian (PoC) or IDP sites and returning home to regain their livelihoods. These populations are however faced with the fact that they cannot afford to buy seeds or even when they have purchasing capacity, these farming populations cannot find high quality seeds at affordable prices in the local markets. Partners like FAO have been active in supporting the most vulnerable of these populations with free seeds and tools help them build resilience through the emergency livelihoods and resilience programme (ELRP). The ELRP phases out in 2020 and the general focus shifts to building sustainable seed market driven seed systems.

Seed is a central input for agricultural production and building a system for its production, distribution and marketing are often crucial to ensuring sustainable supply of this important input to the local farmers. In the case of South Sudan, seed production and distribution has been persistently affected by challenges relating to the production of parent materials, multiplication of these materials as well as distribution of the produced seeds materials to last mile farmers with active participation of the private sector. This would constitute a functioning seed sector. But due to the constraint in developing a functioning private sector led seed system for South Sudan, there has been persistent tendency to import seeds from the neighboring countries such as Uganda and Kenya. Yet these imported seeds are largely poor quality and are also not always available to last mile farmers and or not often adaptable to local conditions. Specifically, the germinability of these imported seeds is very low hence affecting agricultural production and perpetuating food insecurity in South Sudan. The challenge is to build a dynamic seed sector, in which relief seed distribution is mini-

mized, and informal seed exchange is complemented by a functioning commercial seed market in which smallholder farmers regularly buy high quality seeds produced by commercial seed companies within the country.

Over the past decade, various seed production, distribution and regulation projects have been initiated, including Dutch funded project Seed Sector Development for South Sudan (SSD4SS), implemented by the Alliance for a Green Africa (AGRA). And despite their achievements, these projects have all proven to be too short on horizon to significantly address the challenges of the seed sector in South Sudan. The SSD4SS in particular was significantly impeded by the effects of the civil war that started in 2013 and as such could not fully attain its objectives and realize its full potential. The final evaluation of this project provided the following recommendations that formed a basis for the A3-SEED activity:

- Strengthen the capacity of government at the local level
- Work with national authorities to decentralize national seed quality assurance mechanisms
- Consider supporting value addition to selected value chains being promoted
- Strengthen South Sudan Seed Trade Association (STASS) and its umbrella role in the procurement process with UN agencies and international NGOs and other aspects of the seed sector
- Support the University of Juba to train seed company staff, out-growers and MSc students
- Expand training of out-growers to include aspects of prevention and treatment of common crop diseases and insects (e.g., fall army worm), soil fertility management, assessment of climate information, etc.
- Strengthen collaboration between the seed sector, multilateral organizations such as FAO, WFP, and international NGOs, and donors, and promote local sourcing and purchase of seed from South Sudanese registered seed companies (i.e., not hand-bag companies)

2.2.2 Appraisal

No.	Criteria 2.2 Contextual analysis	Indicators (score 0,1,2)	Score	EXPLANATION/ REFERENCES
2.2.1	The proposal is based on a careful and thorough contextual analysis, from which a logical problem definition and objective are generated.	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>The proposal is based on a careful and thorough analysis and results in a logical problem definition and objective.</p>	2	This activity is based thorough context based problem analysis and consultation with actors in the seed sector that led to logical theory of change and results definition.
2.2.2	Based on the problem formulated, the proposal explains in a logical manner why the intervention is aimed at the specified geographical location.	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>The proposal gives a realistic explanation of why the intervention is aimed at the specified geographical location and substantiates this with examples.</p>	2	The projects will be implemented in the Dutch intervention areas – that are specifically selected locations for concentrating Dutch interventions to achieve better synergy. The areas are much more

				suitable for developing a private sector led seed sector because of high production potential as well as existence of private seed sector actors.
2.2.3	The proposal justifies the choice of target group .	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>The proposal clearly justifies the choice of target group.</p>	2	In the proposal, women and youth have been superficially identified as target groups due to their exceptional role in agricultural sector in South Sudan. The youth and women have also been identified in the MACS as one of the key target groups for Dutch Development interventions in the Republic of South Sudan.
2.2.4	The proposal sets out which relevant actors were involved in formulating the proposal and what influence they had on the content of the proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>The proposal sets out the involvement of actors, both in formulating the proposal and in the proposed intervention (including its management).</p>	2	According to IFDC, during proposal development stage, consultations were held with key stakeholders such as the Seed Trade Association of South Sudan (STASS), South Sudan Ministry of Agriculture, active partners implementing projects in the country such as FAO, etc. IFDC proposed to conduct further consultations with farmers and private sector actors during the inception period.
2.2.5	A stakeholder analysis (incl. women and youth) has been carried out and the results incorporated in the proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>The proposal sets out who has a stake in the programme/project but their relative interests are not set out in detail.</p>	1	IFDC highlighted key stakeholders analysis in this project that culminated in the selection of the key partners for this project such as STASS, women, youth, the government and

				other partners active in the seeds sector as well as in the agricultural sector of South Sudan.
2.2.6	The proposal describes how the results of evaluations and/or studies feed into formulation of the proposal.	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>The proposal clearly sets out how results from evaluations and/or studies contributed to formulation of the proposal.</p>	2	IFDC clearly indicated that it developed this proposal based on the evaluation results of the Dutch funded predecessor seed sector development project (implemented by AGRA). The proposal has also utilized the detailed assessments and knowledge base of the current Dutch funded FNS-REPRO activity.
Total score (maximum ¹² out of 12 points)			11	

2.3 Objectives (outcomes), results (outputs), activities and resources, based on the SMART principle

2.3.1 Description

i) Theory of change

The Accelerating Agriculture and Agribusiness in South Sudan for Enhanced Economic Development (A3-SEED) activity is designed to provide market-oriented interventions to move from humanitarian support (“handouts”) to a commercial, sustainable, and adaptive agricultural sector in the Republic of South Sudan. The project will follow the following theory of change:

Theory of Change Overview



Sphere of Interest: IMPACT

- Improved Livelihoods and Community Resilience in South Sudan
- Improved food and nutrition security in intervention areas
- Increased income by smallholder producers

Sphere of Influence: OUTCOMES				
B. Relief, economic development and seed sector policies conducive to private seed sector development	C. Increased use of quality seed and good agricultural practices by smallholder producers	D. Increased surplus production of marketable food crops by smallholder farmers	E. Effective last-mile distribution of seed and inputs through private entrepreneurship	F. Improved smallholder organization for access to seeds, inputs and output markets
Sphere of Control: OUTPUTS				
RA 1: Commercial Quality Seed Production Sustainable Early Generation Seed (EGS) supply Strengthen private seed companies Develop local commercial seed production Strengthen the Seed Trade Association Decentralize seed quality assurance Promote domestic seed procurement by relief and development efforts		RA 2: Quality Seed Use and Good Agricultural Practices Scaling quality seed use and good agricultural practices through private sector led extension ICT4Ag solutions to support private sector led extension Develop evidence-based soil fertility management recommendations Develop evidence-based crop protection recommendations		RA 3: Quality Seed, Input and Output Marketing and Distribution Facilitate last-mile distribution through private seed & input dealer network Establish local agribusiness clusters of smallholders, seed producers, input dealers and food crops traders Promote women and youth entrepreneurship in seeds, inputs and food crop aggregation and marketing Access to input support mechanisms
RA 4: Learning and Capacity Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity building of local professional cadres Share with and learn from existing seed experiences in South Sudan and Sub-Sahara Africa Targeted action research on Seed Sector Development 				
Enabling Environment / Pre-Conditions				
Conducive business environment for local seed and input businesses Effective support for female and young entrepreneurs Effective collaboration with other development projects			Effective collaboration with humanitarian agencies Workable levels of peace and stability Limited number/impact of extreme shocks (weather, locusts, COVID-19, etc.)	

ii) Project results

This project is primarily focused on ensuring that improved seed of high quality is available, accessible and affordable to the last-mile farmers in the Republic of South Sudan through agri-entrepreneurship as well as through supporting existing private sector seed companies to improve seed and input marketing, distribution and production practices. Building on the legacy of AGRA's SS4DSS project, A3-SEED will support the emergence of individual commercial seed producers, who produce for the local market, as out growers for a seed companies, or both. Through its intervention, A3-SEED aims to reach more than 100,000 farmers that will result into doubling of income from marketable surpluses of targeted commodities hence improving people's livelihoods. Out of the targeted beneficiaries, 50,000 trained farmers will directly realize increase in yield by 50% while another 50,000 will indirectly realize increase in yield by 20%. In the process, 42,000 hectares of farmland will be developed under agro-ecological production with improved farming practices that's more resilient to shocks. In addition, the project will also facilitate the development of 100 agro-dealers, 200 new businesses owned or managed by women and another 200 businesses owned or managed by youth.

Above results will be measured using the indicators in the results matrix below:

Outcomes (= NL reasonable share in SDG-2 targets 2030)		
32 million people lifted out of undernourishment	8 million small scale food producers doubled productivity and income	8 million hectares of farmland converted to sustainable use
Outcome Indicators (cumulative, proxies for contribution to target)		
<p>A.1. Number of people with a more diverse adequate diet: <i>MAD, MDD-W, other</i></p> <p>A.2. Number of people whose nutritional situation became more resilient to shocks: <i>HFIAS, MHAFP, FIES, other</i></p> <p>20,000 direct</p>	<p>B.1.a. Number of small scale food producers that progressively realize a living income.⁹</p> <p>20,000</p> <p>B.1.b. Number of small scale producers that progressively decrease the yield gap</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>B.1.c. Number of female small scale food producers that progressively empower: <i>WEAI</i></p> <p>10,000</p> <p>B.2. Number of small scale food producers whose livelihood became more resilient to shocks: <i>PPI, RHoMIS, CRA, other (see overview by ODI)</i></p> <p>25,000</p>	<p>C.1. Number of hectares of farmland under >2 conservation practices: <i>CRA, other</i></p> <p>21,000</p> <p>C.2. Number of hectares of farmland that agro-ecologically became more resilient to shocks: <i>Soil and Biodiversity indicators</i></p> <p>21,000</p>
Intermediate outcome indicators (MvT BHOS indicators, non-cumulative)		
<p>A.x.1. Number of people with improved food intake</p> <p>20,000 direct</p>	<p>B.x.1. Number of small scale food producers with increased productivity/income</p> <p>100,000</p>	<p>C.x.1. Number of hectares of farmland used more eco-friendly</p> <p>21,000</p>
Outputs		
Undernourished people benefitting from activities to improve nutrition	Small scale food producers benefitting from activities to improve performance	Farmland benefitting from activities to strengthen ecological sustainability
Output Indicators (non-cumulative)		
<p>A.x.1.1 Number of people directly reached</p> <p>20,000</p> <p>A.x.1.2. Number of people indirectly reached</p> <p>200,000</p> <p>A.x.1.3 Number of people for whom adequately fortified food became available</p>	<p>B.x.1.1 Number of small scale food producers directly reached</p> <p>50,000</p> <p>B.x.1.2. Number of small scale food producers indirectly reached</p> <p>50,000</p>	<p>C.x.1.1. Number of hectares of farmland directly reached</p> <p>42,000 ha</p> <p>C.x.1.2. Number of hectares of farmland indirectly reached</p> <p>42,000 ha</p>
Enablers		

1. Knowledge & Innovation Systems	2. Private Sector Development	3. Land Rights	4. Regulatory Framework
Marker (per activity)			
# principal # significant	# principal # significant	# principal # significant	# principal # significant
outcome indicators (cumulative, no target)			
1.1 Number of farmers that adopted new knowledge and/or technologies 100,000 (min 50% youth, 50% women) 1.2 Number of FNS-relevant knowledge institutions that perform better	2.1 Number of companies engaged in inclusive agribusiness. 8 seed companies 80 commercial seed producers 100 agro-input suppliers (min 50% youth, 50% women) 400 self-employed agripreneurs (min 50% youth, 50% women)	3.1. Number of people that enjoyed (more) secure tenure rights to land 3.2 Number of (inter)national institutions that contributed to improved (sub)national land governance aspects	4.1 Number of reforms / improvements in major (inter)national FNS policies / laws / regulations Institutional seed procurement policy Local seed quality assurance regulation

iii) **Project Sustainability**

Project sustainability and exit is foundational to the design of project interventions. In the context of A3-SEED, the definition of sustainability incorporates ecological, organizational, financial and social elements. A3-SEED will work with and through the private sector as the engine of growth and transformation of the rural economy, whether it is seed companies and their out growers, smallholder farming families and communities, local young women and young men as service providers, or local traders and aggregators. Engagement with the public sector is designed to shape the appropriate enabling environment for regulatory oversight and to support the private sector with “public goods,” such as seed policies and quality control mechanisms.

A3-SEED will act as a facilitator in bringing about structural changes within seed systems and local agricultural markets by engaging in partnerships that are transformative in their respective domains. Local partnerships for community engagement and other institutional stakeholder linkages will ensure that critical support functions within seed and agriculture production systems continue to increase demand for agronomic support services. In turn, the increased availability of these services will increase the accessibility of new and improved seed technologies and inputs, as well as information on climate-adapted GAPs beyond the life of the project. A3-SEED will ensure the development of marketable skills and capacity building support are scaled-up through A3-SEED interventions that support these new behaviors and relationships.

The alignment of incentives around opportunities for shared-value and increased income generation by participants, businesses, and other key stakeholders will ensure that the changes in capacity and behavior facilitated by the project remain after the project funding ends. Even prior to this, partners will have graduated from project support and then will be responsible for their own future growth development. This means that they will have the required capacities and agribusiness linkages for accessing inputs, seed markets, output markets, support services, and information for

transforming the ways in which they farm, produce, transact, and connect with other actors in the system.

A3-SEED project sustainability will be delineated in an **exit strategy and sustainability plan** developed during the inception phase for each Result Area and corresponding logical frameworks for selected value chains. At the start of project implementation, sustainability plans will have been incorporated within work plans as a guide for project interventions. Exit strategy and sustainability plans will also form a critical basis for establishing external partnership agreements as an essential documentation component of the Co-Investment & Partnership Fund grant management and oversight.

2.3.2 Appraisal

No.	Criteria 2.3 Outcomes, outputs, activities and resources based on the SMART principle	Explanation of score (1 point per indicator)	Score	
2.3.1	The objectives at outcome level are clearly formulated, fall within the proposal's span of influence and are realistic. The outcomes follow logically from the problem formulated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The outcomes are specifically formulated. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The objectives follow logically from the problem formulated. The objectives fall within the <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> proposal's span of influence and are realistic (taking account of its duration and local circumstances). The objectives are <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> acceptable to the target group and other stakeholders. The objectives formulated are realistic bearing in <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> mind the scope of the activities and the capacity of the (local) organisation(s).	5	
EXPLANATION/ REFERENCES The objectives of the project are derived directly and logically from the food security challenges in South Sudan that informed the objectives and outcomes of the project. This logical derivation of objectives from the problems is best illustrated by the theory of change illustrated under section 2.3.1. (i) above. In the theory of change, the sphere of influence and sphere of control of the project were clearly highlighted. The proposal also explicitly mentions that the project will target youth and women as the main beneficiaries.				
2.3.2	Progress in achieving the outcomes can be determined objectively on the basis of measurable performance indicators.	Relevant performance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> indicators have been formulated for each outcome.	3	

		<p>A baseline measurement and a measurable target (quantitative and/or qualitative) have been formulated for each performance indicator.</p> <p>The verification method (the means by which data is collected and the sources of that data) is realistic and feasible.</p>		
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**EXPLANATION/
REFERENCES**

Additional appreciation
gender indicator 1:

For each outcome are relevant, gender specific performance indicators formulated. Please explain.

The project proposal clearly has a set of clearly defined indicators (with assumptions) that will be used to measure progress of the projects. These indicators are directly linked to the results Framework of IGG food security. Baseline data will be collected during the first 6 months of the project life to aid monitoring and evaluation of the project's achievements.

2.3.3	<p>The outputs formulated are concrete and fall within the proposal's span of control. The outputs follow logically from the outcomes formulated.</p>	<p>The project proposal is divided into clear phases, each having concretely formulated outputs.</p> <p>The outputs are specific.</p> <p>There is a clear link between the outputs and the out-comes, i.e. the outputs can be expected to contribute to achievement of the outcomes.</p> <p>The outputs are acceptable to the target group and other</p> <p>The outputs formulated are realistic bearing in mind the scope of the activities and the capacity of the (local) organisation(s) .</p>	5	
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**EXPLANATION/
REFERENCES**

Outputs are clearly mentioned in the proposal and all of them fall within the sphere of control of the

project.			
2.3.4	Progress in achieving the outputs can be determined objectively on the basis of measurable performance indicators.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant performance indicators have been formulated for each output. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A baseline and a measurable target (quantitative and/or qualitative) have been formulated for each performance indicator. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The verification method (the means by which data is collected and the sources of that data) is realistic and feasible.	3
EXPLANATION/ REFERENCES Clear set of performance indicators linked to the IGG results framework have been defined to objectively measure progress of the project. These indicators are expected to make results reporting to the Hague very easy.			
2.3.5	There is a logical link between the proposed activities and the outputs formulated.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal sets out the nature of the activities and explains how the activities formulated will contribute to achieving the outputs.	1
EXPLANATION/ REFERENCES All activities of the project follow logically from the output formulated.			
2.3.6	There is a logical link between the activities and the project budget (efficiency).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The budget is supported by figures on price and quantity (p x q). <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The budget is broken down by output and/or outcome.	2
EXPLANATION/ REFERENCES			
2.3.7	When the activity ends, its envisaged outputs will have a lasting effect for the ultimate target group.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal contains a clear vision (with objectives) as to how the activities will be continued when the intervention comes to an end.	4

		<p>To achieve these objectives, specific measures will be taken during implementation of the activities to ensure that the target group will help continue the activities.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal contains suitable criteria against which progress in continuing the activities can be</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal includes a transition plan or exit strategy, identifying the various actors.</p>		
<p>EXPLANATION/ REFERENCES</p> <p>The proposal has a clear sustainability component that is anchored on private sector development and local community and institutional capacity building that are the core ingredients for sustainability.</p>				
2.3.8	At the end of the activity, the envisaged outputs will have a lasting effect on the local partners.	<p>The proposal contains a clear vision (with objectives) as to how the quality of the activities and/or financial independence of the local partner will be</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> To achieve these objectives, specific measures will be taken during implementation of the activity.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal devotes attention to the capacity of the local partner to generate income from various sources.</p>		4

		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The proposal sets out suitable criteria against which progress in regard to institutional sustainability can be measured.			
EXPLANATION/ REFERENCES					
Total score (maximum score 27 points)				2	

2.4 Cooperation, harmonisation and added value

A3-SEED is a crucial activity of the Dutch MACS for South Sudan for the period 2019-2022 that envisioned the development of an integrated approach in the field of food security, water, climate and employment in the four selected partnership areas (Yambio, Torit, Rumbek and Bor). Availability of quality seed is central to achieving food security, securing related livelihoods and increasing incomes of farmers. Due to this significance and inter-relatedness, A3-SEED finds itself synergistically complementary to almost all the Dutch funded food and nutrition security activities in the Republic of South Sudan. These include the Food and Nutrition Security Resilience Program (FNS REPRO), Food Security through agribusiness in South Sudan (FSABSS), Feeder Road Improvement and Maintenance Project (FRIMP) and Emergency Livelihoods and Resilience Program (ELRP).

A3-SEED and FNS REPRO are both seed sector development activities with FNS REPRO focusing strongly on the national level institutional capacity building, knowledge generation and sharing best practices for improved seed sector performance in South Sudan. On the other hand, A3-SEED is purely focused on developing capacities of private sector actors to ensure that high quality seed is available and affordable to the last mile small holder farmers in South Sudan. This will be achieved through improved, climate smart agro-ecological practices, improved storage, packaging and marketing capacities. These clear areas of concentration have been reached through close consultation between implementers of FNS REPRO led FAO on the one hand and the potential consortium implementers of A3-SEED led by IFDC on the other. Right at the proposal development stage of the A3-SEED project, a meeting was held involving the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Juba, the IGG unit of the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, FAO, KIT, WCDI and IFDC to discuss potential areas of overlap that was already foreseen between the two activities. This meeting concluded that indeed there was great opportunity in pursuing the two activities only if they can achieve a strong level of synergy. Following this meeting, IFDC and FAO engaged in further dialogue and came up with clear areas of complementarity and synergetic overlaps and further proposed clear measures to achieve these results. These measures included the need to set up an advisory committee headed by the Embassy with representation of IGG, IFDC, FAO, KIT and WCDI to oversee the two projects. In addition, IFDC and FAO agreed on joint work planning, coordination, selection of value chains, etc. to avoid duplication. This will start during the inception period of the A3-SEED activity and will be carried on throughout the project life.

In addition, the A3-SEED activity is also highly complementary to both the WFP implemented Feeder Road Improvement and Maintenance Project (FRIMP) implemented by WFP. A3-SEED will complement the FRIMP activity through ensuring availability of seeds for 10,000 farmers (FRIMP bene-

ficiaries) in its targeted area that would boost agricultural productivity and increase their incomes – which is the principle aim of the FRIMP activity. Together with FNS REPRO, STASS and other local actors in South Sudan, A3-SEED will campaign and dialogue with humanitarian organizations such as FAO and WFP to purchase certain seeds locally for their responses. To this end, A3-SEED set an ambitious target of ensuring that 50% of humanitarian seeds are purchased locally by the end of the project.

The A3-SEED also further builds a strong synergy and complementarity with the FSABSS implemented by a consortium led by CORDAID through ensuring that, FSABSS's private seed sector development led approach, the agribusiness enterprises and individual farmers supported by FSABSS will have access to the high quality locally produced seeds. In turn, beneficiary private sector actors under the A3-SEED activity intends to benefit from access to finance facilities set up by the FSABSS activity.

2.5 Channel and aid modality (including alignment)

The choice of other aid (grant decision) is based on thorough considerations of the available options as well as due to the fact that this activity is an initiative of IFDC. Having thoroughly explored the Dutch development interest in the Republic of South Sudan as mentioned in the MACS 2019-2022, IFDC identified that it could contribute to achievements of the food security ambitions of the MACS through ensuring availability of high quality locally produced seeds in the Republic of South Sudan. After assessing the proposal, the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Juba indeed confirmed that strengthening the seed sector in South Sudan was an important aspect for improving the food security situation in the country. The Embassy then followed its agreement with the proposal of IFDC with a thorough risk analysis and this exercise revealed that indeed the choice of a grant decision was justified.

V. IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Budget

5.1.1 Breakdown of costs

A3-SEED is aligned operationally and financially with the “Coordinated Management Relationship” Agreement signed between DGIS and IFDC in December 2019. The A3-SEED budget is estimated at EUR 9.35 million for a five-year period (January 2021 to December 2025), comprised of EUR 8.5 million from EKN South Sudan and an additional 10% in cost-share from public and private sector partners (in cash and in-kind) as a result of co-investments from project partners of the Co-Investment & Partnership Fund. Following the mid-term review of the project, a top-up may be discussed with EKN dependent on progress made by the project and financial position of the Embassy at that time. The top-up would allow for a geographic expansion to additional Hub(s) of Stability and for the deepening and scaling of successful activities.

5.1.1 Breakdown of costs

Table 10. A3-SEED Activity-based Budget

EKN SOUTH SUDAN - A3-SEED SOUTH SUDAN							
ACTIVITY PER YEAR							
ESTIMATED BUDGET (EURO €)							
CATEGORY	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	EURO TOTAL	%
I Inception phase	187,500	0	0	0	0	187,500	2.21%
II Commercial Quality Seed Production	499,058	768,645	691,139	652,964	362,340	2,974,145	34.99%
III Quality Seed Use and Good Agricultural Practices	238,629	371,023	331,601	311,824	169,232	1,422,309	16.73%
IV Quality Seed, Input-Output Marketing & Distributio	292,204	428,883	391,197	358,208	232,458	1,702,950	20.03%
V Learning and Capacity Development	278,204	379,535	340,743	355,108	223,574	1,577,165	18.55%
VI Monitoring & Evaluation	182,725	80,135	107,939	83,216	181,914	635,931	7.48%
VI TOTAL ACTIVITY	1,678,320	2,028,220	1,862,620	1,761,320	1,169,519	8,500,000	
VII COST SHARE	0	127,500	255,000	340,000	127,500	850,000	
VIII TOTAL PROGRAM	1,678,320	2,155,720	2,117,620	2,101,320	1,297,020	9,350,000	

Table 11. A3-SEED Cost-category Based Budget

EKN SOUTH SUDAN - A3-SEED SOUTH SUDAN							
COST CATEGORIES PER YEAR							
ESTIMATED BUDGET (EURO €)							
CATEGORY	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	EURO TOTAL	%
I Staff Costs	469,200	623,600	642,400	661,600	419,100	2,815,900	33.1%
- National Staff	255,200	403,100	415,400	427,800	199,700	1,701,200	20.0%
- Expat Staff	178,900	184,300	189,800	195,500	201,400	949,900	11.2%
- Technical Backstopping, Consultants, Associate Advisors	35,100	36,200	37,200	38,300	18,000	164,800	1.9%
Activity Costs	766,620	1,017,620	850,920	743,420	505,420	3,884,000	45.7%
- In-Country Program Development Activities	269,900	204,500	204,500	189,500	45,800	914,200	10.8%
- Monitoring and Evaluation	82,800	30,000	56,300	30,000	69,400	268,500	3.2%
II - Co-Investment and Partnership Fund	0	500,000	300,000	200,000	0	1,000,000	11.8%
- Communication	52,720	22,720	22,720	22,720	32,720	153,600	1.8%
- Activity Related Travel Costs	78,100	45,400	46,400	40,500	57,500	267,900	3.2%
- Subcontract KIT	283,100	215,000	221,000	260,700	300,000	1,279,800	15.1%
III Other Direct Costs	265,800	157,400	161,400	166,300	134,900	885,800	10.4%
- Other Program Related Costs	265,800	157,400	161,400	166,300	134,900	885,800	10.4%
A: SUBTOTAL Direct Costs	1,501,620	1,798,620	1,654,720	1,571,320	1,059,420	7,585,700	
IV Indirect Costs	176,700	229,600	207,900	190,000	110,100	914,300	10.8%
Indirect Costs	176,700	229,600	207,900	190,000	110,100	914,300	10.8%
B: SUBTOTAL Indirect costs	176,700	229,600	207,900	190,000	110,100	914,300	
C: TOTAL EKN CONTRIBUTION	1,678,320	2,028,220	1,862,620	1,761,320	1,169,520	8,500,000	
D: COST SHARE	0	127,500	255,000	340,000	127,500	850,000	
E: TOTAL PROGRAM	1,678,320	2,155,720	2,117,620	2,101,320	1,297,020	9,350,000	

5.3 Monitoring

Monitoring of the activities of A3-SEED will be multi layered. First line of monitoring will be conducted through provision of annual progress reports, inclusive narrative and financial reports, submitted by the implementer to the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Juba drawn up in English language. The annual progress report will describe both the progress of activities implemented under the programme using a reporting template (for both narrative and financial reports) agreeable to the Embassy. Detailed report schedule are available in table 5.3.5.

Secondly, IFDC and KIT have already proposed an approach for closer monitoring and collaboration to ensure stronger complementarity with other Dutch funded activities - especially the FNS REPRO activity. This approach include the institution of a project advisory committee that will oversee the required level of complementarity between FNS REPRO and A3-SEED as well as with other Dutch funded activities. The Embassy will chair this advisory committee and it will be carried out regularly (at an internal to be agreed by main stakeholders).

Thirdly, the project will also be monitored at the field level by the project's monitoring team who will ensure that activities are on track and these activities are achieved in manner planned by the project. The Embassy will also conduct regular visits to the project site to validate the progress as indicated in progress reports.

5.3.1 Narrative and financial reports

Based on the decision tree and associated risks as well as available mitigation measures, the organisation will submit an audit opinion, report of findings, final evaluation of efficiency and effectiveness, and annual progress report inclusive narrative and financial reports.

5.3.2 Audit opinion

The audit certificate tree annexed to this document determines that a audit opinion on the beneficiary's annual accounts in which the activity is identifiably included is required for this activity.

5.3.3 IATI - International Aid transparency Initiative

The organisation will report on results in accordance with the IATI standard, as set out in the BZ publication guidelines. Agreed indicators will be reported in the IATI report. Documents relating to the project, including project proposal, theory of change, reports to EKN, pictures, project updates etc. will be included in the IATI publication.

The MELS system within IFDC has already adopted both DGIS guidelines and IATI standards toward publishing their results of the donor-funded activities through IATI's d-portal and is also linked to METIS,¹ thus providing the utmost transparency and accountability of the results achieved for the funds provided. For this project, IFDC will be responsible for publishing project data according to the IATI standard. IFDC's institutional MELS data monitoring portal DevResults includes generating results as per IATI standard and has direct publishing capabilities. A3-SEED data will also be entered into a project specific page on DevResults. IFDC is already registered at the d-portal.org of the IATI publishing registry and has been submitting data on its projects regularly for publication.

5.3.4 Annual plans and other reports

Apart from the above stated audit, narrative, financial, and IATI reports, the managing organisation will also present annual plans and a mid-term and final evaluation (see paragraph 5.3.6).

5.3.5 Monitoring calendar

Report type	Any specific re-requirements*	Period	Submission by
Annual plan	Annual plan	01-12-2020 – 31-12-2021	No need for Annual plan. It will be implemented based on the proposal.
	Annual plan	01-01 – 31-12-2022	30-09-2021
	Annual plan	01-01 – 31-12-2023	30-09-2022

¹ <https://public.tableau.com/views/METIS2/Activityselection?amp%3B%3AshowVizHome=no&%3Aembed=y&%3Atabs=yes&%3Arender=false>

Report type	Any specific re-requirements*	Period	Submission by
	Annual plan	01-01 – 31-12-2024	30-09-2023
	Annual plan	01-01 – 31-12-2025	30-09-2024
Narrative and Financial*	Annual Report (Narrative and Financial)	01-12-2020 – 31-12-2021	28-02-2022
	Annual Report (Narrative and Financial)	01-01 – 31-12-2022	28-02-2023
	Annual Report (Narrative and Financial)	01-01 – 31-12-2023	28-02-2024
	Annual Report (Narrative and Financial)	01-01 – 31-12-2024	28-02-2025
	Annual Report (Narrative and Financial)	01-01– 31-12-2025	28-02-2026
Narrative IATI *	Progress Report (data and short narrative)		As specified in the IATI instructions of the Ministry
Final Report (narrative and Financial)	Final Report (narrative and Financial)	01-12-2020 – 31-12-2025	31-03-2026
Audit	Annual Audit Report	01-12-2020 – 31-12-2021	31-03-2022
	Annual Audit Report	01-01 – 31-12-2022	31-03-2023
	Annual Audit Report	01-01 – 31-12-2023	31-03-2024
	Annual Audit Report	01-01 – 31-12-2024	31-03-2025
	Annual Audit Report	01-01 – 31-12-2025	31-03-2026
Evaluation	Mid-term Evaluation	01-12-2020 – 31-12-2022	31-07-2023
	Final Evaluation	01-12-2020 – 31-12-2025	30-04-2026

5.3.6 Evaluations

Two evaluations will be carried out on the A3-SEED project namely a midterm evaluation and end of project evaluation. The project implementers intend to utilize the M&E expertise within KIT to conduct internal evaluations preceding the mid and end of project evaluation. To lay the foundation for such rigorous sets of evaluations, the project will set a strong monitoring system with clear monitoring matrix and an early establishment of a baseline data. Final terms of reference (ToR) and report of the mid-term and end of project evaluations will be approved by the Embassy with consent of IOB.

Note: The above evaluation are supported by the decision tree evaluation.