



# *Republic of Seychelles*

## **Ministry of Natural Resources and Industry**

*The Minister*

16 November 2012

Grant Help  
Vaclavske Namesti 23  
Praha 1 11000  
Czech Republic  
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**RE: REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE SET UP AND TRAINING OF A PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING UNIT (PIMU)**

Having been introduced to Grant Help whilst in Prague and its activities, I would first through you like to extend my profound appreciation for the work that you and your team is accomplishing. Having developed the skills and abilities not only to master the whole project cycle in various sectors but complement this with ability to mobilize grant funding to kick-start many projects is overwhelming.

As you are aware, Seychelles is an archipelago of 115 islands and islets spread an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 1.3million kilometres square of some of the cleanest ocean on the planet.

My Ministry, has as its portfolio responsibility the two most significant food producing sectors namely Agriculture and Fisheries. The latter is the second economic pillar of the economy after tourism whilst agriculture has faced severe decline to contribute only 2 percent to the GDP.

This decline in the Agricultural Sector to the GDP of the economy has many facets. The opening of the International Airport and later the construction of deep and functional ports has significantly altered the economic and social landscape of the Republic of Seychelles. Once upon a time agriculture was the number one economic contributor to the earnings of the country. This declined with the advent of tourism and recently with the further and abrupt liberalization of the economy imports competed many local produce out of the market. Such is currently the case particularly for the livestock sub-sector including poultry.

Today, Brazilian chickens are landing in Port Victoria and are selling retail cheaper than locally produced chickens. A number of poultry farmers have closed shops. Natural manure has become a rare and increasingly expensive commodity to the point that some farmers currently importing fertilizer.

The marketing, presentation and branding of the local fresh products saw no investment and thus could not reach some customers such as the 5 star hotels as fresh products that do warrant a premium in price.

It is to addressing this decline and failures of the past cooperative (the Seychelles Farmers' Marketing Cooperative – SFMC) that my Ministry has requested assistance from the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD) and the African Development Bank (ADB). Both institutions have responded favourably (please find attached Aide Memoires from both IFAD and ADB).

The interventions in the sector that we have discussed and agreed include the following:

- (i) A revival of the declining sector with assistance to farmers and some fishers to enhance productivity.
- (ii) To rehabilitate and where necessary introduce new appropriate infrastructure to facilitate and enhance productivity, infrastructure would include; district markets outlets, fish landing sites, feeder roads, drainage improvement, water barrages or collection centres and distribution for irrigation, fences and other on farms infrastructure, that the abattoir, the feed meal and hatchery are all working and affordable.
- (iii) To modernize the sectors with improved, appropriate and climate smart technologies for sustainability in enhancing production.
- (iv) To provide resources for training and capacity building of the human resources for the Ministry, the Seychelles educational institutions that churn out future 'food producing entrepreneurs' and some practitioners.
- (v) Create the necessary conditions and incentives for a value-chain network that is effective and efficient to ensure that the Seychelles product are marketed and sold.
- (vi) Promote and support value-addition of the natural resources, on land or in the sea found in the archipelago in a sustainable way.
- (vii) Promote home edible gardens and community projects, by providing the necessary elements through the creation of a sizeable nursery and related gardening tools and apparels.
- (viii) Develop the science, Research and Development aspects of agriculture. This will be achieved by projects directed at the Agriculture Research Centre and construction and quipping of the new Plant Diagnostic and Analysis Laboratory.
- (ix) To ensure inputs in the Requisite Stores, that are managed properly and where stocks of inputs for farmers are available all year round.
- (x) To rehabilitate the Victoria Market as the Central and most important vegetable fish and meat market in the centre of town.
- (xi) To develop and introduce an Agro-Tourism Policy with a view to continue to protect the much declined agricultural land.

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- (xii) To develop agriculture and fisheries on the outer islands in partnership with the Islands Development Company (IDC).
- (xiii) To encourage more value-addition especially in fish processing but also identify comparative advantages in agriculture for possible export especially to the Middle East where flights are available on a daily basis.

It is with above in mind that I approach Grant Help for assistance with the Ministry's ambition to create an in-house Project Implementation and Monitoring Unit (PIMU). The experts at Grant Help would be ideal to be attached to the PIMU that we have yet to formulate. I would be happy to have the experts' input as early as possible once we come to a satisfactory arrangement.

My best regard



P Sinon  
**MINISTER**