

6-11 February 2020

The Farmers' Forum

In conjunction with the forty-third session
of IFAD's Governing Council



ABC fund: an innovative financing tool

Side Event jointly organized by Bamboo Capital Partners, Agriterra and IFAD

Tuesday 10 February 2020, from 11.00 to 12.30
IFAD HQ, room: Oval room - B

Introduction

The ABC Fund is an independent **impact investment fund**, financing **rural SMEs and producers' organizations like cooperatives**, with a focus on rural youth and women agri-entrepreneurs.

The ABC Fund aims to catalyze financing for the rural agribusiness “missing middle”. The missing middle refers to the gap that agri-entrepreneurs face when their financing needs are too small for commercial financing but too large for microfinancing.

The ABC Fund has a blended finance approach aiming at de-risking investments to make them attractive to private investors through a first-loss equity structure, targeted technical assistance and strong pipeline development

The following institutions have made commitments of approximately EUR 50 million to the ABC Fund – the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (EU/ACP), the government of Luxembourg and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). In addition, IFAD provided grant financing of US\$3.5 million, together with the EU/ACP, for a technical assistance facility (TAF). This technical assistance is managed by Agriterra.

The ABC Fund is already operational. To date, over 15 investment proposals were reviewed by the ABC Fund investment committee for projects in Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Uganda and Mali, Ghana. The first investment was disbursed in December 2019, supporting a cocoa cooperative in Côte d'Ivoire to help up to 2,700 small-scale producers secure better access to markets.

Focus of the Side event

The Side event will be a very practical and interactive session around the ABC Fund, briefly presenting its structure, its first investments initial lessons learnt, investment criteria and the process to seek financial support from the ABC Fund and the TA facility. The presentation will also provide an overview of the various partners' role in this initiative.

Agenda

- 11.00 Introduction on ABC and the role of IFAD
- 11:05 ABC Fund presentation, achievements and prospects
- 11:20 Presentation of the Investment Criteria
- 11:25 The Technical Assistance Facility (TAF)
- 11:30 Questions and Answers
- 12:15 Concluding remarks from key shareholders / discussants

Speakers - Facilitator

Facilitator

Mr Frank Rubio , Senior Technical Advisor for ABC Fund, IFAD

Speakers

Mr. Emanuele Santi, Fund Manager ABC Fund, Bamboo Capital Partners

Mr Jerry Parkes, Managing Partner, Injaro (via VC)

Ms. Agnes Janszen, Manager TA Facility of ABC Fund, Agriterra

Discussants

Mr. Matthew Brooke, Policy Officer, European Commission

Ms. Yvonne Semba Chileshe, Expert - Commodities and value chain development

Contacts

Mr Frank Rubio

+390654590352

f.rubio@ifad.org