



**REPUBLIC OF GHANA**  
**MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**  
**WEST AFRICA FOOD SYSTEM RESILIENCE PROJECT (FSRP2) - GHANA**  
**Project No.: P178132**

**CALL FOR PROPOSAL**  
**YOUTH AND WOMEN INCUBATION PROGRAMME**

**Country:** Ghana

**Name of Project:** West Africa Food System Resilience Program (FSRP2)

**Implementing Ministry:** Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)

**Contract Title:** INCUBATION PROGRAMME – 1<sup>st</sup> Call

**Loan No./Credit No./ Grant No.:** IDA-71950

**A. BACKGROUND**

1. The West Africa Food System Resilience Project (FSRP) is a project of the Government of Ghana being funded by the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank credit of **US\$150million**. The project is being implemented by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) through a Project Implementation Unit (PIU). The FSRP became effective on June 2, 2023, and is expected to be implemented over a five (5) year period, i.e., from June 2023 to September 2028.
2. The Project Development Objective is to ***increase preparedness against food insecurity and improve the resilience of food systems in Ghana***. The key indicators include 300,000 direct beneficiaries; 20% reduction in food insecure people; 240,000 beneficiaries adopting Climate Smart Agricultural (CSA) technologies, among others.
3. The FSRP is organized along five (5) main components which are summarized as follows: (a) Component 1- promotion of the use of digital advisory services for agriculture and food crisis prevention/ management; (b) Component 2 - promotion of sustainable production/ productivity by increasing stakeholders' access to CSA & nutrition sensitive technologies; (c) Component 3 - improving intra-regional trade in agricultural products/ inputs and develop priority value chains; (d) Component 4 - Contingent Emergency Response Component (CERC); and (e) Component 5 - Project Management and Coordination.
4. The project coverage under Components 1 & 3 covers the entire country, while coverage under Component 2, will focus on three (3) target areas or intervention zones, covering ten (10) regions and at least fifty (50) districts. The 3 target areas are:
  - Lower Volta Basin - Greater Accra, Eastern, Volta & Central Regions
  - Northern Belt (Red/ White Volta Basin) - Upper East, Northern, North-East Regions
  - Middle Belt - Ashanti, Bono East, Bono Regions

5. The priority value chains of the project are maize, rice, soyabean, tomato and poultry **(with emphasis on broiler production)**.

## **B. THE FSRP INCUBATION PROGRAMME**

6. The agriculture sector plays a crucial role in ensuring food security and poverty alleviation, however, youth and women often face barriers to entry due to limited access to resources, knowledge, and support. The FSRP Incubation Programme seeks to bridge this gap by providing tailored support and resources to empower youth and women entrepreneurs in agriculture.

As part of FSRP component 3 activities of developing its priority value chains of rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broiler), the Project seeks to promote value addition of these priority commodities. The FSRP Incubation Programme aims to support youth and women entrepreneurs involved in value addition activities. Specifically, the incubation programme would support capacity building activities in value addition for priority value chains for selected youth and women, as well as support agricultural innovative start-ups and agritech innovators, on competitive bases to develop inspirational agricultural technologies aimed at addressing key challenges in the food systems. The programme would also address the critical challenges faced by these demographic groups in accessing resources and support for entrepreneurial ventures in the agriculture sector.

### **Objective**

7. The main objective of the implementation of the incubation programme is to support the development of the Project's priority value chains of rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry(broiler), through value addition, by providing direct support through capacity building and provision of equipment for promising youth and women start-ups and viable existing agribusinesses.

Specifically, the incubation programme seeks to achieve the following specific objectives;

- Provide support for youth and women entrepreneurs in including promising start-ups, viable existing agribusinesses and agri-tech companies operating in the rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broiler) value chains.
  - Foster innovation and entrepreneurship among youth and women through training, mentorship, and equipment support.
  - Improve food security and resilience by promoting and supporting sustainable agribusinesses led by youth and women.
  - Create a network of empowered youth and women agripreneurs and agri-techs who can serve as role models and mentors.
  - Enhance gender and youth mainstreaming in agriculture and agribusiness.
8. Under this Incubation Programme, value addition means adding value to a raw product by taking it to at least the next stage of production, such as processing, preserving, and packaging levels including baked products, savory snacks, health foods, infant foods, and various traditional foods. It could also mean adding value to a

waste product of the commodity value chain such as rice husks, maize cobs, dried stalks, etc.

### **Target Beneficiaries**

9. The beneficiaries of the Incubation Programme are youth and women start-ups and existing agribusiness SMEs, particularly those lacking support in capacity building (in value addition, packaging and labelling of processed foods; marketing and branding of food products; financial management for SMEs; record keeping and business development and establishment of processing facilities/ small cottage industries. Beneficiaries would include graduates from the SHS and tertiary institutions. Young professionals such as teachers, nurses, farmers and employees in the formal sector, who are also engaged in value addition of rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry would also be targeted.
10. An estimated 5,060 youth and women are expected to benefit from the FSRP Incubation Programme by the end of FSRP in 2028. At least 40% of targeted beneficiaries are expected to be women.
11. Under this first Call for Proposals, a total of 530 youth and women have been targeted to benefit from the programme in 2025.

### **Implementation arrangements**

12. The FSRP Incubation Programme would be implemented on a demand-driven and competitive basis, where Expressions of Interest (EOIs) would be advertised to invite applicants to participate in the incubation programme.
13. The programme would be implemented in two (2) modules outlined below;

#### **MODULE 1 - Capacity building in value addition technologies for rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broiler)**

14. This module involves capacity building in value addition technologies for rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broiler) value chain actors.

Under this module, selection of beneficiaries would be done after advertising for Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested and qualified applicants (i.e. youth and women entrepreneurs).

15. FSRP has identified some key implementing partners for implementation of this module. These are the Women in Agriculture Directorate (WIAD) of MoFA, Animal Production Directorate (APD) of MoFA, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) - Food Research Institute (FRI), and the Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute (BNARI) of the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission. Other partners include Ghana Standards Authority (GSA), Food and Drugs Authority (FDA), Regional Agriculture Departments (RADs) and District Agriculture Departments (DADs). This follows their extensive capacity and experience in developing agricultural innovative technologies in the food sector and successful roll out of similar incubation programmes, as well as monitoring of similar activities over the past years.

16. Module 1 would be implemented as follows;

- a) Beneficiaries would be drawn from the whole country but with emphasis on FSRP target districts
- b) Capacity building would be organized at 3 zonal levels – Northern, Middle and Southern zones. The duration of the capacity building programme would last not more than 5 days, and participants would be accommodated in facilities in and around the designated training centers and transported each day to the centers.
- c) In addition to specific commodity training modules, participants would also receive training in food safety practices, handling, packaging and labelling of processed foods; marketing and branding of food products; financial management for SMEs; and business development and establishment of processing facilities. There would also be handholding support for product registration, standardization and certification in collaboration with GSA and FDA.
- d) Highly promising participants would receive additional support such as management support, equipment support and/or operational support to start-up or expand on existing agribusinesses.

**MODULE 2 - Incubation programme for promising I.T. start-ups, viable agribusinesses, agri-techs in value addition in rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broiler)**

17. Module 2 comprises an incubation programme to support qualified applicants who have developed business proposals for promising start-ups or existing businesses in any innovative value addition technology for rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broilers).

18. Similarly, under this Module, selection of beneficiaries would be done through a competitive process after advertising for Expression of Interest (EOI) from interested and qualified applicants (i.e. youth and women entrepreneurs), with business proposals for promising start-ups or expansion of existing businesses in any innovative value addition technology for rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broilers).

19. Beneficiaries would include young IT start-ups and agri-tech innovators who have developed or are developing inspirational agricultural technologies aimed at addressing key challenges in the food system. Proposals supported under this module must promote technologies which are climate smart, nutrition-sensitive and gender-sensitive.

20. Module 2 would be rolled out as follows;

- a) Beneficiaries would be drawn from the whole country but with emphasis on FSRP target districts
- b) Module 2 would be rolled out at 3 zonal levels – Northern, Middle and Southern zones. This module would be rolled out twice in 2 cohorts (i.e. 2024

cohort and 2026 cohort) The duration of the entire incubation programme for this module would be a maximum of 3 months.

- c) An evaluation committee consisting of relevant public and private sector experts would be set up by FSRP to evaluate proposals, shortlist and recommend five best proposals for FSRP support. The public sector evaluators would be selected from MoFA (WIAD, PPMED) and FSRP. The composition of the evaluation committee experts from the private sector would include – Agribusiness/Value Chain expert, Business & Finance expert, Entrepreneur/Business Development expert and an IT Expert.
- d) Thirty (30) successful applicants would be selected per cohort to participate in the incubation programme (i.e. 10 proposals selected from each zone).
- e) During the incubation programme, each cohort would receive guidance through trainings, workshops and business coaching to help shape their business ideas and proposals. Participants would be required to make pitches about their business proposals during the programme.
- f) Training sessions would be both physical and virtual but mostly virtual.
- g) Training sessions would be facilitated by subject matter experts and practitioners, lecturers from selected Academic Institutions and other relevant resource persons in the agri-tech and agribusiness industry.
- h) The best 3 business proposals/pitches for each cohort per zone would be awarded financial support up to **USD30,000** for implementation of approved proposals in the areas of management support, equipment support and/or operational support to start-up or expand.
- i) As part of the training sessions, trainees would be linked to recognized financial institutions and investors in the agribusiness industry including the Venture Capital Trust Fund, etc. Trainees would also be supported to conduct pitches to financial institutions and investors, to serve as an opportunity to access additional funds for their business proposals.

### **C. OBJECTIVE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSAL**

21. The objective of this Expression of Interest (EOI) is to;

- a. Invite eligible youth and women already engaged in value addition of rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry(broiler) but require capacity building to start-up or expand their existing businesses to apply under **Module 1**
- b. Invite eligible youth and women (especially young IT start-ups and agri-tech innovators) with business proposals for a promising start-up or existing businesses in any innovative value addition technology for rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broilers) to apply under **Module 2**.

## D. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### Module 1

Coverage	Beneficiaries would be drawn from the whole country but with emphasis on FSRP target districts Applicants must apply online and would be shortlisted through an online selection process
Target	Eligible youth and women interested in or already engaged in value addition of rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry but require capacity building to start-up or expand their existing businesses.
Applicant Requirements	<p>Eligibility criteria include, <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <p><u>General Eligibility</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Must be a Ghanaian with valid national identification (preferably Ghana Card)</li> <li>2. Must be a youth (18 – 35 years). For women, age must not be more than 45 years</li> <li>3. Must have a minimum of GCE O’Level, SSCE or WASSCE</li> </ol> <p><u>Specific Eligibility</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Must be already operating or involved in a small-scale agribusiness involved in value addition of rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broiler). Promising start-ups could however be considered. – <i>100 marks</i></li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> The selection process could include both in-person and virtual interviews including telephone, etc. Successful applicants would be housed at designated facilities to facilitate training, where applicable.</p> <p>Must be willing to learn and undergo practical training in value addition products for either rice, maize, soya, tomato or poultry (broiler) for at least 5 days</p> <p>Must agree to collaborate with MoFA-FSRP and its implementing partners with regards to post-training monitoring and evaluation arrangements such as success stories throughout the life of the Project (i.e. till 2028)</p>
Eligible interventions	<p>Capacity building activities under this module could include but not limited to:</p> <p><u>Rice – proposed training courses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parboiling of Rice</li> <li>2. Production of rice flour and its application in bakery and confectionery products</li> <li>3. Cereal mix processing</li> </ol>

	<p>Rice-based snacks</p> <p><u>Maize – proposed training courses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utilization of maize in bakery, confectionery and snacks</li> <li>2. Fermented maize meal processing</li> </ol> <p>Cereal mix processing</p> <p><u>Soya – proposed training courses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Soymilk production</li> <li>2. Processing of Soymilk-based products (ice cream, yoghurt, etc.)</li> <li>3. Processing of Tofu and Soy khebab</li> <li>4. Soy flour production and utilization in food processing</li> </ol> <p>Cereal mix processing</p> <p><u>Tomato– proposed training courses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Solar drying of tomato and tomato powder production</li> <li>2. Processing of tomato into puree, tomato paste, tomato sauce and ketchup</li> <li>3. Jollof Mix</li> </ol> <p><u>Poultry (broiler) – proposed training courses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Processing Techniques - slaughtering &amp; dressing, cutting and deboning, special cuts, grilled, seasoned/marinated/smoked products, mincemeat, sausage, chicken nuggets and boneless products, etc.</li> <li>2. Processing of waste from chicken into pig feed, organic manure, etc.</li> </ol> <p><u>Business, Marketing &amp; Distribution – proposed training courses</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Financial Management for SME</li> <li>2. Packaging and Labelling of Processed Foods</li> <li>3. Marketing and Branding of Food Products</li> <li>4. Business registration, certification and standardization support</li> </ol>
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## **Module 2**

Coverage	<p>Beneficiaries would be drawn from the whole country but with emphasis on FSRP target districts.</p> <p>Applicants must apply online and would be selected through a competitive evaluation process.</p>
Target	<p>Eligible youth and women (especially young IT start-ups and agritech innovators) with business proposals for promising start-ups or existing businesses on any innovative value addition technology in rice, maize, soya, tomato and poultry (broilers).</p>
Applicant Requirements	<p>Eligibility criteria include, <i>inter alia</i>:</p>

	<p><u>General Eligibility</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be a Ghanaian with valid national identification (preferably Ghana Card).</li> <li>2. For individuals with existing businesses, must be a Ghanaian owned registered enterprise, company or firm.</li> <li>5. Must be between the ages of 18 – 35 years. For women, age must not be more than 45 years</li> <li>3. Must have a minimum of tertiary level qualification from any recognized institution.</li> </ol> <p><u>Specific Eligibility</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Must submit a business proposal of an idea/concept as follows; - <i>100 marks</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Proposal must be based on an innovative technology for value addition for rice, maize, soya, tomato or poultry (broilers)</li> <li>b. Proposal must be implementable in Ghana and lead to a promising start-up or expansion of an existing business, with a high job creation potential among the youth.</li> <li>c. It must be financially viable with high potential to generate significant revenue and profits</li> <li>d. It must be climate-smart, nutrition sensitive and/or gender sensitive.</li> <li>e. Proposal must include at least a half page on sustainability plan</li> <li>f. Proposal must be clear and concise.</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><b>Note:</b> Successful applicants must not be engaged in any similar programme for the duration of the incubation programme.</p> <p>Must be available for the duration of the programme (i.e. at least 3 months)</p> <p>Must agree to collaborate with MoFA-FSRP and its implementing partners with regards to post-training monitoring and evaluation arrangements such as success stories throughout the life of the Project (i.e. till 2028).</p>
Eligible interventions	<p>Activities that could be supported under this module could include, <i>inter alia</i>;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Business registration, standardization and certification</li> <li>2. Management support</li> <li>3. Equipment support</li> <li>4. Business Development Services including product development, financial management, business promotion and marketing services, etc.</li> </ol>
Funding & Ceilings Arrangements	<p>The three (3) best proposals for each zone (i.e. Northern, Middle and Southern zones) would be selected after a rigorous evaluation and selection process.</p> <p>The maximum award will be USD30,000 per successful proposal. The first runner-up will receive USD20,000; the second runner-up will receive</p>



| USD10,000.

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture through FSRP now invites applicants to indicate their interest in participating in the FSRP Incubation Programme. Interested applicants should provide information demonstrating their eligibility and qualification through the following websites; [www.fsrp.org.gh](http://www.fsrp.org.gh) or [www.mofa.gov.gh](http://www.mofa.gov.gh)

## **SUBMISSION**

**Submission of applications would be online only.** All interested applicants should apply through the MoFA website; [www.mofa.gov.gh](http://www.mofa.gov.gh) and FSRP website; [www.fsrp.org.gh](http://www.fsrp.org.gh). Alternatively, applicants may use the link below for submission of applications: <https://ee.kobotoolbox.org/x/ySodiRLq>

The deadline for submission is 6th June 2025 by 10:00 hours GMT. Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during working hours *i.e. 0900 to 1600 hours* GMT on weekdays.

### **For Information:**

Food System Resilience Project (FSRP)

Ministry of Food and Agriculture,

(FSRP office located at the premises of the Government Secretarial School, Cantonments,

P. O. Box M.37, Accra, Ghana

Email: [info@fsrp.org.gh](mailto:info@fsrp.org.gh) or [procure@fsrp.org.gh](mailto:procure@fsrp.org.gh)

Tel No: +233 0501341709/ 0270095626

Digital Address: [GL-044-6277](tel:044-6277)