

(including connection to reference laboratories) in accordance with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation.

4.4.1.2 Africa Rice Centre (WARDA)

Grants (direct management)

(a) Purpose of the grant(s)

Strengthen seed production and certification systems for enhanced value chain performance of food value chains (Outputs 1.2 ‘seed regulatory framework fit for establishing a viable seed industry’ and 2.1 ‘enhanced producers’ access to quality seeds/cuttings, related inputs & services for food value chains (staple & cash crops, fish) – in line with ‘Output – Seed systems strengthened’ (in the indicative budget/Section 4.6).

(b) Justification of a direct grant

Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the grant may be awarded without a call for proposals to Africa Rice Centre (WARDA), member of CGIAR.

- Under the responsibility of the Commission’s authorising officer responsible, the recourse to an award of a grant without a call for proposals is justified because of the very specific and technical nature of the activities to be implemented. The implementing partner(s) has to be adapted to the specific challenges of Liberia’s operational and governance context (weak private sector and enabling environment). Both criteria call for a specific type of beneficiary on account of its technical competence, its high degree of specialisation (incl. access to network of banks with propagation material) in accordance with Article 195 (f) of the Financial Regulation.

4.4.2 Direct Management (Procurement)

Procurement of services (direct management):

Technical assistance to ensure effective nutrition-sensitive as well as climate- and ecosystem-smart food systems governance – to Government of Liberia institutions with food systems mandates (such as MoA, NaFAA, LACRA, CARI) – in line with ‘Objective – Effective food systems governance’ (in the indicative budget/Section 4.6).

4.4.3 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

A part of this Action may be implemented in indirect management with UNIDO. This implementation entails establishing/strengthening quality infrastructure services and standards for selected food value chains (Output 1.3/Section 3.1) and enhancing food safety and quality across food value chains (staple & cash crops, fish) (Output 2.2 /Section 3.1) – in line with ‘Output – Food safety strengthened’ (in the indicative budget/Section 4.6).

The envisaged entity has been selected using the following criteria:

- strong track record in food safety, particularly in working on quality infrastructure with government institutions
- experience on food safety in working with private sector (MSMEs)
- experience on food safety in the West Africa sub-region, experience in Liberia an asset.

In case the envisaged entity would need to be replaced, the Commission’s services may select a replacement entity using the same criteria. If the entity is replaced, the decision to replace it needs to be justified³⁸.

4.4.4 Changes from indirect to direct management mode (and vice versa) due to exceptional circumstances (one alternative second option)

Section 4.4.1.1

Indirect management with an entrusted entity

³⁸ It is reminded that, during the implementation of the action, in case it is decided to select another entity, the same criteria may be used for justifying such selection, without going through a substantial modification of the Financing Decision. Consequently, beyond the justifications provided for selecting a given entity, it is important to define clear selection criteria.