

4 IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Financing Agreement

In order to implement this action, it is envisaged to conclude a financing agreement with the partner country.

4.2 Indicative Implementation Period

The indicative operational implementation period of this action, during which the activities described in section 3 will be carried out and the corresponding contracts and agreements implemented, is 60 months from the date of entry into force of the financing agreement.

Extensions of the implementation period may be agreed by the Commission's responsible authorising officer by amending this Financing Decision and the relevant contracts and agreements.

4.3 Implementation of the Budget Support Component - NA

4.4 Implementation Modalities

The Commission will ensure that the EU appropriate rules and procedures for providing financing to third parties are respected, including review procedures, where appropriate, and compliance of the action with EU restrictive measures.

4.4.1 Indirect Management with an entrusted entity

This action may be implemented in indirect management with an entity, which will be selected by the Commission's services using the following criteria:

- Specific expertise in the areas of development of private sector, including institutional and operational support for reform processes to improve the business environment for MSMEs with a gender and human rights-based approach, the development of entrepreneurship and inclusive access to credit;
- Specific expertise in the structuring and development of food value chains, notably on agriculture and fisheries;
- Ability to set up multidisciplinary teams with the possible participation of expertise from the European administration;
- Specific experience in the sub-region and/or in Portuguese speaking countries.

The implementation by this entity entails the contribution to the three specific objectives of the action¹¹ as well as to all the related outputs mentioned in section 3.

4.4.2 EFSD+ operations covered by budgetary guarantees

A part of this action may be implemented through budgetary guarantees under indirect management. The budgetary guarantees would fall within the priority area 2 of the MIP 2021-2027, 'Green and Inclusive Economy', notably to support private sector investments in Guinea-Bissau through the development of microfinance tools or long-term financing mechanisms.

This section 4.4.2 is included for information purposes only. A comprehensive action plan covering all EFSD+ budgetary guarantees and the financing decision for the entire annual commitment under the EFSD+ budget line are adopted separately.

¹¹ 1) Improve an enabling environment for the development of sustainable food value chains, 2) Strengthen the selected value chains of agriculture and fisheries, namely cashew nuts, fisheries, rice and a choice of tropical fruits and plants, 3) Develop entrepreneurship in the selected value chains of agriculture and fisheries.