

Activities relating to Output 1.3: **Enterprise acceleration**, targeting MSMEs across three value chains, by-products and for value chain services, with a focus on women and youth.

A.1.3.1 Mapping of private sector investments, entrepreneurs and FBOs within selected value chains, around a “hub” approach for geographical identification of areas suitable for selected investments; as well as identification of gaps in value chain services.

A.1.3.2 Identification of viable business models within the circular economy approach: e.g. cassava starch for briquettes, fishponds; cassava peels for piggery or poultry feeds and for bioenergy; palm kernel shells for briquettes; palm oil cholesterol for soap making or candles. This will include developing commercial farm models and viable business models.

A.1.3.3 Provision of enterprise acceleration/incubation services to selected entrepreneur within four targeted areas: processing (crude palm oil, palm kernel oil and cassava); circular economy enterprises; transport (especially specialized, safe and crop-preserving ones), aggregation and other value chain services; and infant food processing. Creating linkages with TVET institutions (including GTIs) to take on required skills training and/or identify candidates for incubation³⁹.

A.1.3.4 Investment into equipment for selected enterprises based on performance under the acceleration activities; and who can provide co-financing, potentially through partnerships with financial institutions or projects.⁴⁰

A.1.3.5 Development of uniform, national definition of SMEs and draft harmonized SME policy and regulation as well as centralized registration; Develop draft agricultural export policy and legislative framework including for import of required machinery and other materials needed for production (e.g. packaging), for potential uptake by Government

A.1.3.6 Strengthen existing commodity platforms, including professionalizing their management and operations, enhancing the participation of PO representatives in the multi stakeholder platforms

A.1.3.7 Development of draft regulatory frameworks for harmonization of food safety standards across relevant entities for the selected value chain, in collaboration with the AAP 2023 BEC4S, which also provides strategic support to Sierra Leone Standards Bureau, which needs to set specific standards in relation to processing of ingredients into bio-fortification and other components of complementary foods, and to carry out more and more frequent inspection visits.

Activities relating to Output 1.4: **Strengthening producer networks**, targeting both small and medium enterprises and medium and large companies with technical assistance.

A.1.4.1 **Small producers** (cassava, oil palm (mainly kernel)) are supported in the set up and registration process of FBOs and linked to aggregators and/or off-takers

A.1.4.2 Selected **small/medium processors** are facilitated to act as nucleus and to transition from basic to advanced levels of processing (e.g. cassava to gari, palm kernel oil), with a gradually growing supplier network and/or sourcing scheme.

A.1.4.3 Existing medium/large-sized companies within crude oil processing or refining, cassava, gari, infant food or similar supported to increase their product volume with access to a structured network of producers

A.1.4.4 Development of a legal and regulatory framework for out grower scheme responsible agricultural investment, for example related to establishment of transparent pricing formulas, mechanisms for ensuring equal relations amongst parties and the voice of farmers, as well as a draft contract farming framework.

Activities relating to Output 1.5: **Communications campaign for infant feeding**

A.1.5.1 Support the comprehensive review of national complementary food booklet/manual

³⁹ Incubation is the process of an enterprise establishment, based on a business proposal or call for proposals.

⁴⁰ The project will explore avenues to link targeted rights-holders (beneficiaries to finance, such that they are able to pay a share of any investment supported by the project. This will include under the EU-financed UNCDF Project, which provides blended concessional finance; linkages with the Apex Bank, alongside rural finance associations / institutions and other lines of credit.