## THE CIVIL SOCIETY FUND

**SUPPORT FOR APPLICATION PROCESS**

1. **Briefly about the main donor to be applied to. The focus should be on why this donor supports civil society interventions and on assessing how likely your particular application is to be approved for support.**

We are applying Holkegårdfonden, a Danish based private fund founded in 1986. The aim of Holkegårdfonden is to provide financial support to:

1. Descendants of the founder Dorte Mette Jensen, her family and persons of close relations.
2. Research and projects which by using natural renewable resources seek to solve energy and purification needs, including research and projects within the field of preservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources.
3. Research and projects in organic farming, especially the transition from traditional agriculture to organic farming.

Holkegårdfonden encourages and supports small and innovative pilot projects that may subsequently obtain support from larger donors. The fund is overseen by a management board with Dorte Mette Jensen as chairman.

Holkegårdfonden is a small fund, which have decided not to formalize any official fund guidelines nor provide access to a website with further information. The fund accepts and assess applications on an ongoing basis. All incoming applications are assessed accordingly to the three support aims, as also described in the cvr register. See link below for information on Holkegårdfonden:

[https://datacvr.virk.dk/data/visenhed?enhedstype=virksomhed&id=12064896&soeg=holkegårdfonden&type=undefined&language=da](https://datacvr.virk.dk/data/visenhed?enhedstype=virksomhed&id=12064896&soeg=holkeg%C3%A5rdfonden&type=undefined&language=da)

The fund has previously supported sustainable food and agriculture initiatives, the fund has for example supported “Madens hus”, “Kornets hus” (with 1 million DKK), Fairstart Foundation and Nordic Field Trial System etc.

Holkegårdfonden has expressed interest in supporting rural development in developing countries as it relates to the fund’s aim 2 and 3. Based on good communication and the expressed interest from the fund to support ADDA and it’s partners in implementing a pilot project for local organic development in Myanmar (duration 24 months), we estimate a very high chance of success.

1. **How the combined application falls within the overall purpose, principles and framework of the Civil Society Fund, including:**
	* **Objective of the planned intervention.**
	* **How the intervention will strengthen civil society.**

The overall objective of the pilot project is to improve the livelihoods of small-scale farmers in Southern Shan state, Myanmar, through sustainable agriculture and in particular organic farming; a system of farming using locally available materials to improve the soil, yield and farmers standards of living.

The strategic plan is to empower small-scale farmers in the Pa-O Self Administered zone with knowledge to harness their potential in order to raise their living standards and to make them healthy and environmentally conscious.

In order to achieve the overall objective, the focus will be on:

1. Participatory and site-specific agricultural training to interested farmer groups on organic farming techniques and practices in order to achieve sustainability in food production.
2. Awareness creation regarding the health and environmental impacts of conventional farming based on synthetic external inputs.
3. Exchange visits among farmer groups, which are intended to benefit all participants through an open exchange of ideas, knowledge and practices.
4. Sharing and networking events such as Farmer-Field-Day / Open farm day, which are intended as an advocacy/dissemination tool to other stakeholders.
5. Monitor and follow up visits with trained farmers to ensure compliance with the learnt organic farming techniques and practices.
6. Market empowerment of the farmers through digitally mapping their fields and thereby prepare them for certification as organic farmers.

The project will strengthen civil society through two areas; 1) capacity building of small-scale farmers and civil society organisations and 2) advocacy to encourage organic farming and to share messages about the positive environmental and health attributes of organic products with consumers, other farmers and policymakers.

The target group is 150 small-scale farmers of the Pa-O ethnic minority with specific focus on women. They will receive training in organic good agricultural practices (organic GAP) through Farmer Field Schools (FFS). Provided training will be in line with IFOAM standards. Other ethnic groups reside in the Pa-O area and the project will also consider these groups to participate. The total number of direct beneficiaries is estimated at 1.000 to 1.200 people.

Secondly, the project will also address PDN as a civil society organisation by strengthening their capacity to conduct poverty reduction activities and sustainable development strategy programs. Furthermore, PDN will also be supported on how to get involved in advocacy and policy dialogue with authorities. PDN will be assisted to develop a number of local resource persons (local facilitators/community professionals), who will be expected to remain in their communities as key resources for the further development of the areas after the project has finished.

Importantly, other value chain actors could benefit from the activities, even though they do not directly participate in training, by replicating improved agricultural practices and having access to information and knowledge sharing.

This project falls within the overall purpose and framework of the Civil Society Fund through its focus on poverty reduction, livelihood improvement and capacity building of rural poor small-scale farmers. The specific support to the civil society is through the collaboration with the local partner Parami Development Network (PDN) and assistance from the facilitating partner Myanmar Institute for integrated Development (MIID).

1. **How the partners concerned and other actors will be involved in the application process.**

The contact between the partners; PDN and ADDA has been established through the facilitation of MIID. The relation between ADDA and MIID dates back more than 10 years.

The application will be developed in collaboration between all three partners; PDN, ADDA and MIID. PDN and MIID will in the application process be responsible of direct contact to the target group for surveys (focus group discussions and interviews). The application process will involve Skype meetings and email correspondence and the formulation of the application will take point of departure in previous concept notes formulated between the partners.

1. **How the support will be spent on strengthening the application process, including the planned course of action until submission of the final application to the main donor.**

The application process will build on ADDAs many years of experience with organic agriculture development projects in Vietnam.

ADDA is requesting support from CISU with the aim of strengthening the project application process. The support to the application process will boost and ensure continuity of the proposal writing, project design phase and quality by allowing partners to dedicate staff resources to this purpose. Furthermore, enabling partners to conduct stakeholder consultations and preparatory studies that will strengthen the final project proposal.

Time frame for project application

* **September/October 2019**

2nd phase concept discussion period

* **November 2019**

Stakeholder consultations, proposal writing and budgeting

* **December 2019**

Holkegårdfonden has ongoing deadline for submission of applications. The partners expect to submit an application ultimo December

The full budget and notes to budget lines is included as an individual attachment. In brief, ADDA and partners, are asking CISU to provide the sum of DKK 49.958. This would cover the following:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Stakeholder consultation and dialogue with the target group | DKK 5.000 |
| Staff resources  | DKK 41.958 |

ADDA is mainly responsible for coordination, compilation etc. and submission of the final proposal. Contribution from the Civil Society Fund at DKK 41.958 will cover 4 man-weeks divided among the ADDA team. Additionally ADDA supports the project proposal process with an in-kind contribution, in the form of voluntary expertise/hours corresponding to approximately 2 man-weeks - DKK 24.000.