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<b>Program</b>	Promoting Local Organic Fertilizer Production and Use in East and West Africa
<b>Implementation Period</b>	May 1 to October 13, 2023
<b>Overview</b>	<p>Insufficient or difficulty in accessing fertilizer in 2022 has led to at least a 20% reduction in local food production. African countries are dependent on fertilizer imports and the rising fertilizer costs are already having severe implications on food availability and prices. Countries of particular concern are Kenya and Uganda, importing 15 and 16 percent of the total value of fertilizers from Russia and Ukraine. Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal import 27%, 27%, 30%, and 39% of their fertilizer from Russia respectively, while Ghana and Senegal import a further 3% and 11% respectively from Ukraine.</p> <p>Organic fertilizer offers an alternative to imported, synthetic fertilizers. It is typically produced locally from plant or animal residues, creating income opportunities for farmers and producers. Because of the organic matter present in organic fertilizer, soil structure is improved and as a result the soil's ability to hold onto water and nutrients increases. With fertilizer prices soaring, local, organic alternatives represent both a solution and an opportunity for transforming and greening the agricultural sector in East and West Africa. Consequently, the German Government has reserved funds to support enhanced local fertilizer production and use in the target countries.</p> <p>The Water and Energy for Food (WE4F) programme is funded by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU) and is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH in two regional hubs in East and West Africa. It forms the German and European contribution to the international initiative Water and Energy for Food that is jointly implemented by the Netherlands Ministry of foreign Affairs, the Swedish International</p>

	<p>Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), who fund further regional hubs in Southern Africa and the MENA region.</p> <p>AlphaMundi Foundation (AMF) is the implementing partner of this GIZ WE4F funded Program. AMF is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides structured blended finance products to small and medium enterprises in Africa and Latin America. It promotes gender lens investing for climate to catalyze an inclusive and a green future that creates prosperity for all. AMF’s mission is to strengthen the long-term commercial viability of SMEs in Africa and Latin America to drive economic transformation. This leads to more jobs and income generation benefiting more people and in turn, increased purchasing power and improved qualities of life.</p>
<p><b>Funding Available</b></p>	<p>1. <b>Results-Based financing (up to USD 50,000):</b> Funding will go directly to the SME for an in-house project with cash disbursement tied to the accomplishment of tailored social impact or key performance results based on the company business model or product and/or service offering determined by agreed upon criteria.</p> <p>2. <b>TA Advisory Support (up to USD 50,000):</b> Funding will be disbursed to a vetted third-party vendor to provide technical assistance to the selected SMEs. AMF will collaborate closely with SMEs and third-party.</p>
<p><b>Eligible Countries</b></p>	<p>East Africa: Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania          West Africa: Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, and Ghana</p>
<p><b>Eligibility Criteria</b></p>	<p>Proposals are requested from Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) dutifully registered and domiciled in the eligible countries that manufacture, use, and/or promote organic fertilizers and regenerative farming practices for smallholder farmers, while building the capacity of smallholder farmers to be more productive and profitable, thus improving the fertility and sustainability of their soil.</p> <p>Local companies that are developing solutions to this global problem, and that have the potential to scale local organic fertilizer production will be considered favorably.</p>

	<p>AMF will award Results-Based Financing and Technical Assistance Grants to up to 8 eligible SMEs that meet the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Woman-owned or gender diverse leadership teams (with at least 30% female representation).</li> <li>● SMEs that confirm willingness to increase female representation in their leadership teams and across their workforce.</li> <li>● SMEs that are duly registered in their respective domicile and have been operating for at least three (3) years.</li> <li>● SMEs that manufacture organic fertilizer locally and that have an established or growing customer base.</li> <li>● SMEs that partner with farmer groups and/or Farmer Field Schools to offer:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Training on fertilizer use, agronomic practices (e.g. soil management, intercropping) and agribusiness management for farmers</li> <li>● Demonstration measures on the use and impact of organic fertilizer</li> <li>● Impact studies of use and/or performance of organic fertilizer</li> <li>● Measures to increase local production of fertilizer</li> <li>● Relevant support services, such as soil testing</li> </ul> </li> <li>● SMEs that have access to a large network of smallholder farmers who could benefit from this program funding.</li> <li>● SMEs that can credibly implement the program within the specified timeframe and provide robust Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) data.</li> <li>● SMEs that are willing to commit cash or in-kind contributions towards the successful implementation of their Results-Based Financing Technical Assistance Project.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Application Process</b></p>	<p><b>Step 1:</b> Submit <u>one single PDF</u> comprising the following and not longer than 10 pages (excluding the cover page). Applications exceeding 10 pages will not be reviewed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Company Profile</li> <li>● Management Team and Track Record</li> <li>● Summary of Company Financials</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Proposal to implement a supporting local organic fertilizer production and/or sensitization and training to smallholder farmers (at least 500 trained during the short implementation period).</li><li>● Description of the proposed use of funds and cash and/or In-kind contribution from the Company.</li><li>● Detailed budget, proposed milestones and deliverables tied to cash disbursements of the RBF or TA Grant.</li><li>● Detailed implementation plan, expected impact outputs, and long-term outcomes, as well as Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) Plan.</li><li>● Describe Company’s willingness to complete a gender diagnostic assessment and confirm commitment to promoting gender equity as a core business principle.</li></ul> <p><b>Application deadline:</b> 5:00 p.m. (East African Time) on Friday, May 19, 2022</p> <p><b>Step 2:</b> Shortlisted SMEs will be contacted by AMF on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to provide additional information and for due diligence.</p> <p><b>Step 3:</b> AMF will notify the selected SMEs of their grant approval by May 29<sup>th</sup> and beneficiaries will be required to sign the Grant Contract by June 2, 2023, and submit a final implementation plan by June 9<sup>th</sup>.</p>
<p><b>SMEs that do not follow the process prescribed above will be disqualified. Applications that do not meet the eligibility criteria, or that do not provide the requested information will not be reviewed.</b></p>	