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Smallholder Safety Net
Upscaling Programme

STRENGTHENING A COOPERATIVE TO ACCESS FUNDING AND IMPROVE OUTREACH IN THE IVORY COAST



Africa



Latin America



Asia



Financial services



Non-financial services



Market building



Internal management

CONTEXT

Cooperatives play a key role in agricultural value chains in many African countries as they provide market access and livelihoods to smallholder farmers. In most cases, they represent an alternative for smallholder farmers to local traders, who offer less attractive conditions. Cooperatives usually offer better pricing, additional services and support to smallholder farmers. However, many cooperatives lack the financing needed to grow their activity and increase their profitability. The barriers they face in accessing commercial finance include a perception of high risk related to their activities, geographies, lack of track record, etc. Impact investors who can finance riskier businesses could constitute an interesting opportunity for these “missing middle” cooperatives, but, in many cases, their lack of experience in applying for international finance prevents them from accessing such funds.

CURRENT STATUS OF THE INVESTEE

Established in 2014, SCOOPS 3B du Vivrier (SCOOPS) is a cooperative based in Bongouanou, Ivory Coast. The cooperative currently has 175 members (98% women) and is involved in the production and marketing of food products from its members. The main crops produced are tomatoes, onions, fresh chili peppers, and cabbage.

Ivory Coast relies heavily on imported staple food, which creates a high demand for commodities produced by SCOOPS. However, the cooperative is currently facing production losses estimated at 40% of the total annual production due to poor post-harvest handling practices and equipment, and poor quality of vegetable production. With improved handling of products, the turnover of the organisation would improve, which would have a direct impact on the income of the smallholder farmers who are members of the cooperative. To improve its operations and take advantage of the strong local demand, the cooperative wants to apply for funding from investment funds but is not yet at a stage where all the steps necessary to apply for investor's funding have been met.

OBJECTIVE OF THE PROJECT

The project aims to assist the cooperative to become “investment ready” for investors. The key outcome is the strengthening of the organisation's business plan, financial management and fundraising capacities, enabling SCOOPS to access funding from investment funds.

IMPACT INVESTOR



**BAMBOO
CAPITAL PARTNERS**

AGGREGATOR / INVESTEE

SCOOPS 3B du Vivrier (cooperative) – Ivory Coast, serving a total of 175 members

AGRICULTURAL VALUE CHAIN

Horticultural commodities (onions, tomatoes, okra, eggplants, cabbages).

STARTING DATE

March 2023

DURATION

4 months

TOTAL TA BUDGET

€ 15,800
Including € 14,300 (90%)
contribution from SSNUP



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