

II MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

1 THE PROPOSAL

ETC and its consortium members, namely ILEIA Foundation, Heifer Nederland, Louis Bolk Institute, RUAF Foundation, and Edukans, hereby present a proposal to support civil society partners in selected countries in their development efforts, and strategically link these to a global civil society movement. In view of the urgency of problems globally around food production and food security, energy access and employment generation through vocational training the consortium has made these topics central to the present proposal.

2 MAIN APPLICANT: ETC FOUNDATION

ETC has a specific vision of development cooperation, that strategically links support to initiatives of civil society organisations (CSOs) in order to catalyse societal change through capacity building and influence on global policy. It works principally through self-governed thematic networks which help to create south-north and south-south partnerships on the basis of equality, and leads to strong levels of ownership of development activities by southern partners. ETC's role in such networks increasingly includes work on related issues in the Netherlands itself.

Since its founding in 1978, ETC has promoted people-led, gender-sensitive, sustainable development with keen attention on environmental issues. It places poverty alleviation in the context of global issues of energy, food, education and health, while being aware of the impacts on these of climate change. Realising that there are no one-size-fits-all blueprints for development in its fields of work, ETC applies strategies that are sufficiently flexible and responsive to face complexities and evolving environments on the ground.

ETC's work hinges on effective civil-society building and policy influencing. In the framework of MFS I (2007-2010), ETC participated as a 'large MFS-organisation' with two successful programs: "Energy Access" and "Community-Led Natural Resource Management".

ETC meets all the organisational criteria of the subsidy framework. It has a strong track record in management of complex, multi-party development projects. The financial and administrative procedures, accountability, planning and control are not only professional but can accommodate large and complex programs. The organisational quality is best illustrated by the ISO9001:2000 certification of ETC's Quality Management System, which guarantees continuous improvements on effectiveness, efficiency and relevance. ETC adheres to the 'Code Wijffels'.

Following its participatory approach, the ETC partner policy is well-developed, and based on joint ownership and reciprocity. The track records of two major (MFS I) civil society programs: "Energy Access" and "Community-Led Natural Resource Management" are solid, as confirmed by several external evaluations. Country context analyses, with strong roles of local partners, are part and parcel of ETC's approach leading to very country-specific combinations of intervention strategies and activities. Finally, monitoring & evaluation systems are in place at all levels (ETC, program, country/partner) creating accountability as well as spaces for learning within the networks and within ETC.

3 THE CONSORTIUM

ETC has brought together, through this consortium, key organisations working in relevant fields – building on strong existing patterns of collaboration. They are like-minded but bring along very specific and complementary sets of expertise, approaches and networks:

- On energy access, ETC has partnered with Hivos. The program will be proposed, however, through separate applications by Hivos and ETC.
- On sustainable agriculture and regional food systems, the Sustainable Agriculture Alliance (SAA) has been initiated. ILEIA Foundation, Heifer Nederland, Louis Bolk Institute, RUAF Foundation and ETC

have partnered in this proposal, with the ambition of building a broader-based SA alliance within the Netherlands in the future.

- On technical and vocational education and training, ETC has partnered with Edukans to build upon the joint TVET-program that was piloted under a 'Schokland'-contract.

Almost all partners build upon their experience under TMF/MFS I funding. The Louis Bolk Institute, however, is new to MFS after its recent merger with AgroEco.

The consortium will cooperate with key other organisations in the Netherlands working in the relevant fields, including research and knowledge institutes and private sector parties. "Letters of Interest" have been signed to confirm commitment to such collaboration and included as Appendixes to this proposal.

The combination of expertise within the consortium in the fields of energy, agriculture and technical and vocational training allows work on important cross-cutting themes – including biofuels, adaptation to climate change, energy use in agriculture, up-scaling/formalising learning processes, and gender – all very relevant in the current global policy context.

ETC has provided for a systematic assessment of the capacity of all member organisations in the consortium by an external consultant. This assessment found their capacity adequate at all levels. The feasibility analysis of the consortium brought no major risks to light, though a number of issues needing some attention during pre-implementation in 2011 were identified.

4 THE PROGRAMS

The proposal has three main programs:

4.1 Energy access for the poor

This program creates access for the poor and marginalised communities to sustainable modern energy services in order to improve their livelihoods. Sustainable business models will be developed and promoted among public and private sector energy actors. Civil society organisations will play an increasingly important role as a countervailing power that will influence national energy access programs to work with pro-poor and gender-sensitive business models. International partner networks will support the required CSO capacity building, and bring local experiences to the global level, not only for advantageous exchange, but also for advocacy in relevant energy and climate change policies.

4.2 Sustainable agriculture and regional food systems

This program works through realizing the potential of small-scale, rural and urban, farmers' contribution to food production. Applying fundamentally participatory approaches, the program will empower these men and women to sustainably produce sufficient food at affordable prices primarily for local and regional food markets. The program will further strengthen CSOs to interact with other key stakeholders, public and private, to effectively support small-scale farmers through developing food chains. A major focus is on efforts to create a supportive policy and institutional environment for this approach in the program countries, through awareness creation, policy dialogue and advocacy. These activities are strategically linked to important information and policy advocacy work at the international level through existing international CSO-led networks. The program will ultimately contribute to food security, poverty alleviation, local economic development, and responsible natural resource management – including climate change adaptation.

4.3 Technical and vocational education and training

This program will improve the quality and relevance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in developing countries as a critical contribution to their labour markets and economies. More community-based, non-formal skills training will be introduced in order to match education with work.

Vocational education and training institutes will be strengthened through curriculum development and teacher training, including gender sensitive competence-based training. CSOs will lobby at (sub-) national level for access to competence building amongst poor women and men, and incorporation of the new approaches into officially recognised curricula and TVET policies. The program will create strong links between southern and northern TVET-providers for learning and mutual support.

5 THE COUNTRIES

Through a careful consultation process, the organisations working together in this proposal have streamlined their countries of operation:

- a. “Energy access for the poor” will work in eight countries: Bolivia, Ghana, Mali, Nepal, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Vietnam.
- b. “Sustainable agriculture and regional food systems” will work in fourteen countries: Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Nepal, Niger, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.
- c. “Technical and vocational education and training” will work in four countries: Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and Zambia.

6 THE BUDGET

The proposal consolidates current activities of the consortium partners that have proved the most successful under MFS I. Only a modest growth of partner activities is envisaged in order to allow for innovation and/or addressing specific urgent new priorities.

A budget total of € 57,410,000 is proposed for the period 2011 – 2015 with an allocation per program as follows:

<i>Program</i>	<i>Budget 2011-2015</i>
Energy access for the poor	€ 10,145,000
Sustainable agriculture and regional food systems	€ 38,290,000
Technical and vocational education and training	€ 7,725,000
Consortium coordination	€ 1,250,000
Total	€ 57,410,000

The consortium coordination budget includes all auditing and external evaluation activities. This follows the decision by consortium members to coordinate their evaluation activities, and to work towards common approaches and quality standards.