



Investing in rural people

## Expression of Interest

### Grant funding support to “Melanesia Rural Market & Innovation Development Driven Programme (MERMAID)”

Ref. APR2019/2000002833/MERMAID

Primary target countries: Solomon Islands and Vanuatu

Countries targeted for evidence generation and knowledge sharing: Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Tonga

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is an international financial institution and a specialized agency of the United Nations. IFAD is dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries by providing low-interest loans and grants to finance innovative agricultural and rural development programmes and projects. For more information on IFAD, please visit: <http://www.ifad.org/index.htm>.

IFAD has identified “production for food security, nutrition and income generation” as the priority area for grant support. The grant will place particular emphasis on rural women and youth.

The goal of Melanesia Rural Market & Innovation Development Driven Programme (MERMAID) concept note is to establish scalable pathways for increased consumption of local and nutritious foods, and improved rural incomes. The grant’s objective is to demonstrate innovative methods for increasing local food production and incomes of rural women and youth.

The grant has a two pronged targeting approach. At the institutional level, it targets (i) Government policy makers and (ii) service delivery providers (including civil society organisations).

At the grassroots and household levels, its primary target is rural women and youth. The main strategy for women and youth empowerment, capacity building and targeting is through IFAD’s household methodologies approach and the Family Team approach developed by ACIAR in PNG.

MERMAID has three components namely Component 1. Demonstrating responsive service delivery for rural communities; Component 2. Innovations for investing in women and youth; and Component 3. Knowledge sharing and policy advocacy.

These components will:

1. Test/adapt scalable models for integrating agricultural productivity activities into one package of support with community empowerment and targeted support;
2. Establish efficacy of targeted support to rural women and youth;
3. Capture knowledge and implement learning partnerships in Melanesia.

Interested public and private firms, institutions, not-for-profit, government and non-government organizations **from IFAD member states**<sup>1</sup> must submit a written expression of interest and provide the following documents through electronic submission, in pdf format to **[aprgrantpics@ifad.org](mailto:aprgrantpics@ifad.org)**:

1. Company profile including proof of legal registration, organigram and staff profile (permanent and temporary staff);
2. Currently ongoing programmes, partners, and funding sources;
3. Description of relevant experience in managing similar projects/programmes as described in the concept note<sup>2</sup>; and
4. Copy of audited financial statements for the last two years.

Written **expression of interest** along with the documentation required must be **submitted** electronically to **[aprgrantpics@ifad.org](mailto:aprgrantpics@ifad.org)** no later than **28 May 2019 at 17.00 hours** Central European Summer Time (CEST) Rome, Italy.

Documents submitted after the deadline will not be considered. Requests for **clarifications** related to the expression of interest can be sent to **[aprgrantpics@ifad.org](mailto:aprgrantpics@ifad.org)** by **23 May 2019 at 17.00 hours** Central European Summer Time (CEST) Rome, Italy. IFAD will not address requests for clarifications received after this deadline. Submission must be in English language. Only shortlisted applicants would be invited to submit detailed grant proposals.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ifad.org/en/member-states>. Entities from non-member states are not eligible to receive grants financing from IFAD.

<sup>2</sup> Available upon request at [aprgrantpics@ifad.org](mailto:aprgrantpics@ifad.org)