

# PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION: SMALL GRANTS PROJECTS THROUGH DIRECT ACCESS MODALITY

#### REQUEST FOR PROJECT FUNDING FROM THE ADAPTATION FUND

The annexed form should be completed and transmitted to the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat by email or fax.

Please type in the responses using the template provided. The instructions attached to the form provide guidance to filling out the template.

Please note that a project must be fully prepared when the request is submitted.

Complete documentation should be sent to:

The Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat 1818 H Street NW MSN P4-400 Washington, D.C., 20433 U.S.A

Fax: +1 (202) 522-3240/5

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#### PROGRAMME ON INNOVATION: SMALL GRANT PROJECT PROPOSAL

#### **PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION**

Country: Republic Armenia

Title of Project: AgriElevate: Uplifting Farming Through

Innovation

National Implementing Entity: "Environmental Project Implementation Unit"

State Agency

**Executing Entity:** "Environmental Project Implementation Unit"

State Agency

**Amount of Financing Requested:** 220,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

#### **Project Background and Context**

#### **Economic Context**

The agricultural sector has long been a cornerstone of Armenia's economy and remains important despite the growth of other sectors. As of 2019 data from the World Bank, the sector contributed around 13% to the country's GDP. It also employs a significant portion of the workforce, particularly in rural areas, accounting for about 35% of total employment. Despite its importance, the sector is beleaguered by systemic economic challenges that act as barriers to growth and efficiency. Primary among these are the financial difficulties encountered by farmers and small agriculturists. The prohibitive costs associated with acquiring modern, efficient farming equipment result in lower productivity, increased labor costs, and diminished economic viability for the farmers. This economic vulnerability cascades into poverty, food insecurity, and decreased competitiveness in local and global markets.

#### **Social Context**

Agricultural communities often grapple with social barriers that prevent them from reaching their full potential. These include geographic isolation from urban centers and a lack of access to information and technology, contributing to the vicious cycle of poverty and low productivity. This isolation prevents knowledge sharing and collaboration, factors that are essential for the improvement of agricultural practices and product quality. The absence of a cooperative ecosystem leads to a lack of standardization, inhibiting the sector's ability to compete effectively on a larger scale.

#### **Development Context**

In Armenia, agriculture plays a significant role in driving regional socio-economic development. Nevertheless, the sector is marked by inequitable access to modern technology, restricting growth and productivity. Small-scale farms dominate the landscape, lacking the capacity to leverage economies of scale, thereby stifling the potential for development. The result is a sector that contributes less than it could to overall economic growth, perpetuating poverty and underdevelopment.

#### **Environmental Context**

Agriculture is a double-edged sword when it comes to environmental sustainability. On one hand, it is dependent on a stable environment for production; on the other, it often contributes to environmental degradation through resource-intensive practices. Climate change, soil depletion, and water scarcity are challenges that further complicate the sustainability of agricultural practices. The inability of farmers to adopt modern, environmentally efficient approaches exacerbates these problems, making it difficult to align agricultural activities with the principles of environmental sustainability.

The proposed platform aims to break down these interrelated challenges by providing affordable access to essential farming equipment and serving as a conduit for collaboration and knowledge sharing among farmers. By addressing these economic, social, developmental, and environmental challenges concurrently, the platform seeks to elevate the agricultural sector to a level that increases productivity, improves living conditions in rural areas, and is more aligned with environmental sustainability. It envisions a revitalized agricultural landscape that is not only economically viable but also socially inclusive and environmentally responsible.

#### **Project Objectives**

The **overall objective** of the Project is to elevate the agricultural sector in Armenia by fostering economic viability, social inclusivity, and environmental sustainability through a multifaceted ordering platform. The Project aspires to create an integrated solution that tackles the problems faced by farmers and agriculturists on multiple fronts: economic, social, developmental, and environmental. By facilitating affordable access to essential farming machinery and fostering a collaborative ecosystem, the Project aims to boost agricultural productivity, enhance livelihoods, and contribute to environmental sustainability.

By achieving the following **specific objectives**, the Project aims to fulfill its overall objective, thereby contributing to a revitalized and sustainable agricultural sector in Armenia:

- ➤ To improve economic viability of farms through making modern and efficient farming equipment accessible and affordable for farmers, thereby increasing productivity and reducing labor costs;
  - By offering a rental or lease-to-own service for modern machinery, the Project seeks to remove the upfront financial burden that prohibits many farmers from adopting improved farming methods.
- ➤ To promote knowledge sharing and collaboration through establishing a digital platform for farmers to exchange best practices, skills, and technologies, improving the overall quality and competitiveness of agricultural products;
  - Through the creation of a digital forum or a community-led information center, the project aims to break the cycle of information poverty and isolation that many farmers face, particularly those in remote regions.
- ➤ To enhance sustainable agricultural practices promoting resource-efficient farming techniques that will conserve water, improve soil health, and reduce environmental impact;
  - By providing educational resources and training on sustainable farming practices, the project aspires to make farmers more aware of their environmental footprint and equip them with the tools to minimize it.
- ➤ To strengthen market access and competitiveness via facilitating better market linkages for farmers, enabling them to sell their products at fair prices and compete in both local and global markets.
  - By forming partnerships with distribution networks, co-operatives, and local businesses, the project aims to create avenues for farmers to market their goods more effectively, ensuring that they get a fair return on their labor.

#### **Project Components and Financing:**

Project Components	Expected Concrete Outputs	Expected Outcomes	Amount (US\$)
1. Stakeholder mapping and needs assessment  Activity 1.1. Stakeholder analysis This involves conducting mapping, surveys, interviews or focus group discussions to gather insights into stakeholder behaviour, preferences, and	Output 1.1. Stakeholder mapping and needs assessment report  Output 1.2. Market research report  Output 1.3.	Successfully formulated and articulated a detailed project plan that meticulously outlines the platform's functionalities and features, aimed at addressing specific climate resilience challenges within the	21,200

requirements when it comes to the requirements for ordering agricultural machinery.  Activity 1.2. Definition of requirements Through the stakeholder engagement process, the Project aims to determine the specific requirements for the platform. The study will help to establish comprehensive baseline of the stakeholder landscape	and requirements of	agricultural sector.	
and inform the subsequent development of the platform.			
Activity 1.3. Establishing scope of works This involves determining the functionalities and other specifications necessary to meet the identified stakeholder requirements effectively.			
2. Projection and design  Activity 2.1. Development of technical specifications  Detailed technical documentations will be developed to capture the specifications, functionalities, and technical requirements of the platform. This includes documenting the system architecture, data bases, APIs, integration points, and delivery process.	Output 2.1. Detailed TORs with technical requirements;  Output 2.2. UI/UX design mockups for the platform;	Successfully delineated technical requirements and developed an intuitive, user-friendly UI/UX design that incorporates specific adaptation considerations relevant to climate resilience in agriculture.	53,650
Activity 2.2. UI/UX Design			
This involves the design of the platform's user interface (UI) and user experience (UX), including creating			

visually appealing and intuitive interfaces that are easy to navigate and use. The UI/UX design process considers factors such as information architecture, interaction design, visual design, and usability testing to ensure an optimal user experience. It focuses on designing interfaces that are accessible, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of diverse stakeholders.			
3. Development, integrations, testing, deployment	Output 3.1. System architecture diagram	Successfully developed, tested, and deployed the platform	92,050
Activity 3.1. System architecture design Here, the project team designs the system architecture of the platform, taking into account the specific adaptation needs and requirements identified during stakeholder research. This includes determining the infrastructure, database design, security measures, and scalability considerations.  Activity 3.2. Development and integration  Development of the platform based on the technical requirements and designs established during previous activities. This involves coding, programming, and integrating various functionalities and modules.  Activity 3.3. Testing and quality assurance	Output 3.2. Integrated APIs,  Output 3.3. Full-featured platform, deployed to the production server  Output 3.4. Platform using documentation.	to end-users, accompanied by easy-to-learn guidelines tailored for effective platform utilization.	

To ensure the functionality and reliability of the platform, rigorous testing and quality assurance activities are conducted. This includes various types of testing, such as functional testing, performance testing, user acceptance testing, and etc.			
Activity 3.4. Deployment and launch			
Once the platform has undergone thorough testing and quality assurance, it is deployed and launched for stakeholders to access and use. This involves setting up the necessary infrastructure, configuring servers, and deploying the platform in a secure and accessible manner.			
4. Content population  Activity 4.1. Stakeholder consultations  The project team will collaborate with stakeholders, including agricultural machinery suppliers, manufacturers, and experts, to gather accurate and up-to-date content for the platform. This involves conducting consultations and interviews. The project team ensures that the content collected aligns with the adaptation goals of the platform and supports climate resilience in agriculture.  Activity 4.2. Content	1	Successfully curated and made available well-presented, informative content that empowers users to engage effectively with the platform upon its launch.	11,800

#### collection and curation

The project team will collect various types of content, product such as descriptions, specifications, images, and other relevant information related agricultural machinery. This content is curated organized in a structured manner to facilitate easy access and navigation for platform users. The project team should ensure that the content is accurate. comprehensive, and aligned climate-resilient practices and technologies.

## Activity 4.3. Verification and validation

The content collected from stakeholders undergoes a verification and validation process to ensure its quality and authenticity. The project team verifies the information provided, conducts checking, and ensures that the content meets the required standards. This process helps to maintain the credibility and reliability of the platform's content, supporting informed decision-making by stakeholders.

#### Activity 4.4. Content input

In addition to gathering content from stakeholders, the project team inputs the content to ensure the stakeholders' access to the reliable, up-to-date and accurate content that

highlight climate-smart choices, sustainable farming techniques, and innovative adaptation strategies.			
Activity 5.1. Workshop design and planning  The project team designs workshops that are tailored to the needs and preferences of the target audience. This includes identifying key topics, structuring the agenda, and selecting appropriate methodologies and interactive activities. The workshops are designed to showcase the platform's features, benefits, and instructions for using it effectively in the context of climate resilience.	Output 5.1. Workshop materials, presentations, and documentation  Output 5.2. Workshop summary reports that include feedback from participants	Successfully heightened awareness and understanding of the platform, leading to measurable increases in potential user engagement and adoption rates.	21,700
Activity 5.2. Stakeholder engagement  Engagement with relevant stakeholders, including agricultural machinery suppliers, farmers' organizations, and industry associations, to ensure their participation and representation in the workshops. The team establishes partnerships and collaborates with these stakeholders to maximize the reach and impact of the workshops. The involvement of stakeholders ensures that their specific needs, concerns, and perspectives are considered during the workshop sessions.			

6. Project Execution cost		3,000
Subtotal for 5 components		200,400
agriculture.		
climate resilience in		
effectiveness in supporting		
enhancing the platform's		
recommendations for		
insights, and		
provide suggestions,		
audience. The project team encourages participants to		
specific needs of the target		
the platform meets the		
refinement, ensuring that		
areas for improvement and		
feedback helps identify		
and its usability. This		
experience with the platform		
participants regarding their		
Collecting feedback from		
collection and analysis		
Activity 5.3. Feedback		
benefits.		
understanding of the platform's features and		
comprehensive		
participants gain a		
training to ensure that		
guidance, support, and		
The project team provides		
the platform's functionalities.		
familiarize themselves with		
participants to explore and		
on activities that allow		
demonstrations, and hands-		
involve interactive sessions,		
audience. The workshops		
the Platform to the target		
virtual platforms, to present		
either offline or through		
Conducting the workshops,		
<del></del>		
delivery		
Activity 5.3. Workshops		

7. Total Project Cost	203,400
8. Project Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)	17,300
Amount of Financing Requested	220,700

### **Projected Calendar:**

Milestones	Expected Dates
Start of Project Implementation	10 January 2024
Project Closing	10 September 2024
Terminal Evaluation	10 December 2024

#### PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

**A.** Describe the project components, particularly focusing on the concrete adaptation activities of the project, and how these activities contribute to climate resilience.

#### <u>Component 1.</u> – Stakeholder mapping and needs assessment

Component 1 is engineered to build a strong foundation for climate adaptation and resilience in the agricultural sector by deeply understanding stakeholder behavior, particularly in the process of ordering agricultural machinery.

#### Activity 1.1: Stakeholder analysis

The stakeholder mapping and needs assessment, which includes surveys, interviews, and focus groups, aims not only to identify machinery needs but also to comprehend climate adaptation necessities within the agricultural community. Questions in these assessments will delve into how climate variables like changing weather patterns or water availability have impacted stakeholders. The project thus aspires to tailor its functionalities to meet the climate resilience challenges identified, enabling stakeholders to make climate-smart choices when ordering machinery.

#### Activity 1.2: Definition of requirements

Post stakeholder analysis, defining the platform's requirements will explicitly consider climate resilience. This will involve incorporating adaptation solutions into the platform that cater to specific stakeholder needs and vulnerabilities. For instance, features that provide real-time climate data, or guidelines on drought-resistant crops, will be considered essential. This targeted approach ensures the alignment of the platform with climate resilience needs, thereby encouraging stakeholders to adopt machinery that promotes resource efficiency, reduced emissions, and compatibility with climate-friendly farming techniques.

#### Activity 1.3: Establishing scope of works

While delineating the scope of works, functionalities will be designed to not only be user-friendly but also adaptation focused. For example, GIS capabilities could be integrated for land vulnerability assessments, and decision-support systems might offer actionable insights for climate-adaptive practices. Importantly, the platform will enhance stakeholders' decision-making by integrating climate resilience considerations, allowing them to select machinery that aligns with their specific environmental conditions.

In addition, the stakeholder research component has been designed to be inclusive, particularly of vulnerable communities like small-scale farmers. By understanding their

unique challenges and needs, the platform will be developed to be accessible, user-friendly, and culturally appropriate. This ensures that these communities are empowered to access climate-resilient machinery options and adopt adaptive practices, thus enhancing their resilience to climate change impacts.

In summary, Component 1 aims to offer a robust basis for an adaptation-centered platform through a meticulous stakeholder engagement process. The intent is to create a tool that meets the immediate machinery needs of the agricultural community while significantly contributing to its long-term climate resilience through targeted features and functionalities.

#### Component 2. - Projection and design

Component 2 is a cornerstone of the project, crucially involving the development of comprehensive technical specifications and an intuitive UI/UX design tailored for climate resilience and adaptation.

#### Activity 2.1: Development of technical specifications

Developing technical documentation encapsulates not just the system architecture, databases, and APIs but also focuses on integrating adaptation considerations into the platform's features and functionalities. The specifications may feature climate-related information systems, data visualization tools, and decision-support systems tailored to help stakeholders make climate-resilient decisions. For example, it might offer recommendations on sustainable farming practices, energy-efficient machinery, and resource conservation, directly enabling stakeholders to make sustainable decisions in the machinery ordering process.

#### Activity 2.2: UI/UX Design

The UI/UX design goes beyond merely offering an optimal user experience; it's an engine for promoting climate resilience. The design process prioritizes making climate-adaptive features easily accessible to stakeholders, including vulnerable communities. It involves intuitive workflows, visual cues, and clear instructions on how to use climate-resilient machinery and adopt sustainable practices. The platform aims to present stakeholders with accurate, actionable climate data, forecasts, and information on climate change impacts, thereby facilitating the adoption of climate-resilient practices and effective management of climate risks in agriculture.

Furthermore, the UI/UX design is engineered to actively engage stakeholders. Interactive and engaging interfaces encourage users to explore climate-adaptive features, learn about sustainable farming practices, and access valuable resources for building resilience. The user-friendly design thus empowers stakeholders to not just navigate but effectively implement climate resilience measures.

And finally, Component 2 transforms the stakeholder insights from Component 1 into a tangible, user-friendly platform with an underlying architecture built for climate resilience. By thoughtfully incorporating adaptation considerations into both technical

documentation and UI/UX design, the platform becomes an empowering tool that equips stakeholders to make informed, climate-smart decisions, thereby significantly contributing to climate resilience and sustainable agriculture.

#### <u>Component 3.</u> – Development, integration, testing and deployment

Component 3 is the critical phase of the project, overseeing the actual development, integration, testing, and deployment of the platform. Each activity within this component is meticulously designed to advance the platform's role in fostering climate resilience.

#### Activity 3.1: System architecture design

The system architecture is engineered not just for scalability and security but also for incorporating climate-resilient tools. These tools might include climate data analysis features that help farmers make better decisions about their agricultural practices, thereby enhancing the system's overall climate resilience.

#### Activity 3.2: Development and integration

Development and integration are undertaken with a focus on improving stakeholder decision-making. The platform will offer insights, recommendations, or visualizations based on climate data. These enable stakeholders to choose machinery and practices that are climate-resilient, enhancing adaptive strategies and the resilience of agricultural systems to climate impacts.

#### Activity 3.3: Testing and quality assurance

Quality assurance goes beyond functionality to assess how well the platform meets its climate resilience objectives. User acceptance tests will include scenarios that evaluate the effectiveness of climate-resilient tools and functionalities. This ensures that the platform not only works but works in a way that advances climate adaptation.

#### Activity 3.4: Deployment and launch

Deployment is about making the platform accessible to all stakeholders, including those most vulnerable to climate impacts. However, it goes a step further by facilitating knowledge transfer and capacity building. The platform will offer educational materials, tutorials, and other features that improve understanding of climate resilience and provide the skills needed for implementing adaptive practices.

In addition to these activities, the platform includes features that support the monitoring and evaluation of climate resilience efforts. This enables stakeholders to track the impacts of their adaptation measures, fostering evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement.

To conclude, Component 3 integrates the creation of climate-resilient tools, improved decision-making capabilities, knowledge transfer, and monitoring features. These elements contribute to a holistic approach to building climate resilience, from individual choices in machinery and practices to broader community adaptation strategies.

#### **Component 4.** – Content population

Component 4 is integral to the Joint Ordering Platform for Agricultural Machinery. It's geared toward providing quality, climate-resilient content, derived through close collaboration with stakeholders like machinery suppliers, manufacturers, and experts in agriculture.

#### Activity 4.1: Stakeholder consultations

Engaging with stakeholders ensures that the platform's content aligns with both user needs and climate resilience objectives. Through this consultative process, the platform gains access to climate-resilient information and machinery models designed for climate adaptation, thereby equipping stakeholders with the knowledge they need for climate-smart decisions.

#### Activity 4.2: Content collection and curation

The content, such as product descriptions, specifications, and images, is curated in an organized manner for easy user navigation. This content not only supports climate-smart decision-making but also promotes machinery options that are energy-efficient, conserve water, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. By showcasing these solutions, the platform encourages stakeholders to adopt climate-resilient technologies and practices that enhance agricultural sustainability.

#### Activity 4.3: Verification and validation

The platform employs a rigorous verification and validation process to maintain high standards of credibility and reliability. This ensures that all the information provided is authentic and supports informed, climate-resilient decision-making by stakeholders. The verification process also fosters knowledge exchange among stakeholders, providing a conduit for sharing effective climate resilience strategies and allowing for the scaling up and replication of successful practices.

#### Activity 4.4: Content input

The project team takes charge of populating the platform with this verified content. This guarantees that stakeholders, including vulnerable communities, have access to reliable and up-to-date information that highlights climate-smart choices, energy-efficient technologies, and sustainable farming techniques. By including diverse perspectives and local knowledge in the content, the platform ensures inclusivity and addresses the specific adaptation needs of vulnerable groups, empowering them to make informed decisions, adapt their farming practices, and build resilience to climate change impacts.

Through these activities and their underpinning principles, Component 4 significantly bolsters the platform's role in enhancing climate resilience across the agricultural sector.

#### Component 5. – Awareness raising

The fifth and final component centers on planning and conducting workshops aimed at introducing the platform's climate-resilient features to a diverse target audience. These audiences include farmers, agricultural machinery stakeholders, and relevant industry professionals.

#### Activity 5.1: Workshop design and planning

To ensure climate resilience, workshops are meticulously designed to focus on the climate-resilient features and functionalities of the platform. The project team structures the agenda to showcase innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies, meeting the specific needs and preferences of the targeted stakeholders. These workshops serve as a cornerstone for awareness and capacity building, equipping participants with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions and implement climate-resilient strategies.

#### Activity 5.2: Stakeholder engagement

Engagement with stakeholders is intensified to ensure that a wide range of perspectives on climate resilience in agriculture are considered. Stakeholder collaboration and networking are facilitated, as the project team establishes partnerships with agricultural machinery suppliers, farmers' organizations, and industry associations to broaden the reach and impact of these events. These interactions also promote collective action and partnerships for scaling up climate-resilient practices.

#### Activity 5.3: Workshop delivery

Workshops are conducted either in-person or virtually and feature hands-on activities, interactive sessions, and live demonstrations of the platform. Through these sessions, participants not only learn how to use the platform but also gain exposure to climate-smart technologies and practices. This encourages the adoption of resource-efficient, sustainable farming and climate adaptation measures, enhancing stakeholders' resilience to climate change impacts.

#### Activity 5.4: Feedback collection and analysis

Feedback is actively gathered from workshop participants to inform ongoing platform improvements. This includes usability assessments and evaluations of the platform's effectiveness in supporting climate resilience. The iterative process enabled by this feedback ensures that the platform continuously adapts to the needs of its diverse user base.

Through this final component, the project accomplishes its mission of empowering stakeholders with the tools, information, and collaborative networks they need for

climate resilience. By combining educational elements with practical demonstrations, the workshops not only raise awareness but also foster active engagement. This equips stakeholders to make informed decisions, adopt climate-smart technologies, and implement sustainable practices, thereby fostering resilience in the face of climate change impacts.

**B.** Describe how the project provides economic, social and environmental benefits, with particular reference to the most vulnerable communities, and vulnerable groups within communities, including gender considerations. Describe how the project will avoid or mitigate negative impacts, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

The Project is designed to offer holistic benefits, spanning economic, social, and environmental dimensions, with an intentional focus on the most vulnerable communities and within-community groups, including women and marginalized sectors. This approach is in strict alignment with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

#### **Economic benefits**

- ➤ Enhanced productivity and economic gains: The platform simplifies the ordering and acquisition process of agricultural machinery, fostering efficiency and productivity for stakeholders, especially farmers. Improved productivity is expected to lead to increased income and economic sustainability.
- ➤ Market access and economic resilience: The platform serves as a conduit for creating market linkages and expanding trade opportunities for local farmers, thus stimulating rural economies and reinforcing economic resilience within vulnerable communities.

#### Social benefits

- ➤ Knowledge sharing and capacity building: Through workshops and stakeholder engagement, the project empowers community members, industry experts, and machinery stakeholders with the information and tools they need for adopting climate-smart technologies and resilient agricultural practices.
- ➤ Inclusive social empowerment: Special care is taken to include women and marginalized groups in all project phases, from planning to implementation. This inclusive approach is aimed at reducing social inequities and ensuring that benefits accrue equitably across the community.

#### **Environmental benefits**

**Promotion of climate-resilient practices**: The platform highlights climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies, encouraging sustainable land management, resource efficiency, and overall environmental resilience.

**Resource conservation**: By focusing on climate-resilient technologies, the project not only conserves vital natural resources like water and soil but also helps mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to long-term ecological balance and community well-being.

#### Avoidance and mitigation of negative impacts

- Alignment with environmental and social safeguards: The project strictly adheres to the guidelines and criteria set by the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund. This includes comprehensive risk assessments and the deployment of measures aimed at mitigating any negative impacts on both the environment and social structures.
- ➤ Stakeholder engagement for impact mitigation: Local communities, farmers, and other stakeholders are continually engaged through consultations and workshops to ensure their perspectives and concerns are integrated into the project. This stakeholder-centric approach fosters transparency and accountability, aiding in the early identification and mitigation of any adverse impacts.
- ➤ Ongoing monitoring and evaluation: Robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are integrated into the project lifecycle. These mechanisms not only ensure the project's alignment with social and environmental standards but also offer avenues for continuous improvement and adaptation.

By strategically intertwining these facets, the project aims to maximize positive impacts while minimizing negative ones, thus driving sustainable, resilient, and inclusive development.

**C.** Describe how the project encourages or accelerates development of innovative adaptation practices, tools or technologies and/or describe how the project helps generate evidence base of effective, efficient adaptation practices, products or technologies, as a basis for potential scaling up.

The project is strategically designed to act as a catalyst for the development and dissemination of innovative adaptation practices, tools, and technologies, while also serving as a platform for generating an evidence base that could facilitate the scaling up of effective and efficient adaptation solutions.

#### **Encouragement of innovative adaptation practices**

➤ Content-rich platform: The Joint Ordering Platform for Agricultural Machinery is more than just a transactional interface; it's an evolving repository of climate-resilient information. By continually updating the platform with data on emerging technologies and best practices in sustainable agriculture, the project creates an ever-expanding knowledge base that can inspire innovation.

- ➤ Collaborative content creation: Working closely with stakeholders allows the platform to feature not just commercially available solutions but also experimental or less conventional technologies and practices that have shown promise in localized tests or academic research.
- Workshops and capacity building: These events often feature presentations on innovative climate-resilient technologies or practices, potentially sparking interest among stakeholders in adapting or further innovating these solutions for their local contexts.

#### Generation of evidence base for scaling up

- Feedback loops: The project places a significant emphasis on gathering user feedback, both through platform interactions and workshop discussions. This feedback is analyzed to measure the effectiveness and efficiency of featured practices and technologies, creating an evidence base for their broader applicability.
- ➤ Monitoring and evaluation: Robust monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are integrated into the project to continually assess its impact. This data not only feeds into project refinement but also serves as empirical evidence for the effectiveness of showcased adaptation practices and technologies.
- ➤ Case studies and success stories: The project aims to document real-world applications of showcased practices and technologies, converting them into case studies and success stories that can be disseminated to a wider audience, thereby creating a compelling argument for their scaling up.
- ➤ Stakeholder collaboration and networking: By fostering an environment of shared learning and collective problem-solving, the project provides a platform for stakeholders to collaborate on scaling up effective practices. Networking opportunities at workshops and other events can lead to partnerships aimed at wider dissemination or further refinement of promising practices and technologies.

By combining these elements, the project aims to not only feature but also validate innovative, climate-resilient technologies and practices. In doing so, it contributes to building a stronger, more extensive evidence base that can serve as a robust foundation for the future scaling up of these solutions, driving broader, more impactful climate resilience.

**D.** Please confirm whether the project meets relevant national technical standards, where applicable, such as standards for environmental assessment, building codes, etc., and is in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

The Project is committed to aligning its activities with all relevant national technical standards and is designed to be fully compliant with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund. Here are some of the ways in which the project meets these requirements:

#### National technical standards

- ➤ Environmental assessment: Project is categorized as having zero impact on the environment (category C) so no environmental assessment is needed;
- ➤ **Building codes**: Project does not involve the construction of any physical infrastructure, such as workshops or distribution centers, so there is no issue of compliance with national building codes to ensure structural integrity and resilience, especially with respect to climate-related factors.
- Agricultural machinery standards: The machinery featured on the Joint Ordering Platform will meet or exceed relevant national technical standards, ensuring that they are safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible.
- ➤ Data security and privacy: The online platform will adhere to national laws and standards related to data protection and cybersecurity, ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of user data.

#### Aligning with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund

- ➤ Social and environmental safeguards: The project's design includes mechanisms for environmental and social risk assessments, following the guidelines laid out by the Adaptation Fund. This involves identifying potential negative impacts and developing plans to mitigate or avoid them.
- ➤ Inclusivity and gender sensitivity: Aligned with the Adaptation Fund's focus on vulnerable communities, the project incorporates inclusivity and gender considerations into its operations. It strives to include marginalized groups and ensures equitable access to project benefits.
- > Stakeholder engagement: Consistent with the Adaptation Fund's policy, the project engages in transparent and meaningful consultation with stakeholders, including local communities, to incorporate their views and concerns into project design and implementation.
- Monitoring and reporting: The project is committed to ongoing monitoring and evaluation to ensure adherence to both national standards and the Adaptation Fund's policy. This will include regular reporting to document compliance and adapt activities as needed.
- ➤ Transparency and accountability: The project will make all findings, from environmental assessments to monitoring and evaluation reports, publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability.

By proactively aligning its activities with national standards and the policies of the Adaptation Fund, the project ensures it operates within a framework of sustainability, accountability, and inclusive development.

**E.** If applicable, describe the learning and knowledge management component to capture and disseminate lessons learned.

The project recognizes the importance of capturing and disseminating lessons learned for both internal improvement and broader sectoral impact. To this end, a robust Learning and Knowledge Management Component is integrated into the project's overall framework. Here's how it will function:

#### Data collection and analysis

- ➤ **Activity logs:** All activities, whether they are stakeholder engagements, content additions to the platform, or workshops, will be meticulously logged. These logs will include challenges encountered, solutions implemented, and outcomes.
- Feedback mechanisms: Various methods for collecting feedback will be utilized, such as surveys, focus group discussions, and stakeholder interviews, to continuously assess the project's effectiveness.
- ➤ Impact assessments: Quantitative and qualitative data will be collected to evaluate the project's impact on promoting climate resilience, especially within vulnerable communities.

#### Internal reviews and adaptation

- **Periodic reviews:** On a quarterly basis, the project team will review all collected data and feedback to identify key lessons and areas for improvement.
- Adaptive management: Insights gathered from the reviews will be used to adapt and refine the project strategies, ensuring they remain aligned with the project's objectives and stakeholder needs.

#### **Knowledge sharing platforms**

- ➤ Online resource center: An online repository will be created on the Joint Ordering Platform where stakeholders can access key findings, best practices, case studies, and other educational materials.
- > Stakeholder webinars: Periodic webinars will be organized to disseminate key findings and encourage interactive discussions among stakeholders.

#### **External Dissemination**

- ➤ Workshops and conferences: Key lessons will be presented at relevant workshops, conferences, and other public forums to reach a broader audience, including policymakers, academics, and other interested parties.
- ➤ **Publications:** Research papers, policy briefs, and case studies will be published in recognized journals and platforms to contribute to the global knowledge base.

➤ **Media outreach:** Key milestones and lessons will be shared with the public through various media channels, including social media, newsletters, and press releases.

#### Feedback Loop

> Stakeholder input: Throughout this process, input will be actively sought from stakeholders to continually refine the knowledge management strategy itself, ensuring it remains effective and relevant.

By implementing this comprehensive Learning and Knowledge Management Component, the project aims to not only improve its own interventions but also to contribute to the wider understanding and adoption of climate-resilient practices and technologies.

**F.** Provide an overview of the environmental and social impacts and risks identified as being relevant to the project. Describe how the project will engage, empower and/or benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups, including gender considerations, in line with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund.

The Joint Ordering Platform for Agricultural Machinery Project has identified several environmental and social impacts and risks that are relevant to its activities.

- ➤ Environmental impacts: The project recognizes the potential environmental impacts associated with its interventions, such as changes in land use, resource consumption, and waste generation. It takes into account the need to minimize these impacts and promote sustainable environmental practices throughout the project's implementation.
- ➤ Climate change resilience: The project focuses on building climate resilience in vulnerable communities. It acknowledges that climate change disproportionately affects the most vulnerable populations and seeks to address their specific adaptation needs. By implementing climate-resilient practices and technologies, the project aims to enhance the resilience of these communities to climate-related risks and improve their livelihoods.
- ➤ **Social impacts:** The project acknowledges the social impacts of its activities, such as potential changes in employment patterns, community dynamics, and access to resources. It seeks to ensure that these impacts are positive and inclusive, contributing to the social well-being of the communities involved.

The key approaches to engage, empower, and benefit the most vulnerable communities and social groups include:

> Stakeholder engagement: The project actively engages with stakeholders, including vulnerable communities, social groups, and women, throughout all stages of the project. Their inputs and concerns are incorporated into decision-making

processes, ensuring their meaningful participation and empowerment.

- Capacity building: The project focuses on building the capacity of vulnerable communities and social groups to actively participate in and benefit from adaptation initiatives. It provides training, knowledge-sharing, and skill development programs to enhance their understanding of climate change, adaptation practices, and sustainable livelihood options.
- Inclusive decision-making: The project promotes inclusive and participatory decision-making processes that consider the perspectives and priorities of vulnerable communities and social groups. It creates platforms for dialogue, consultation, and collaborative decision-making, enabling their voices to be heard and considered.
- Benefits for vulnerable communities: The project aims to deliver tangible benefits to vulnerable communities and social groups. This includes improving their access to climate-resilient infrastructure, services, and resources, enhancing their livelihood opportunities, and increasing their adaptive capacities.
- **G.** Provide justification for funding requested, focusing on the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

The Joint Ordering Platform for Agricultural Machinery Project aims to holistically address the intricate challenges of climate change adaptation in the agricultural sector. It employs a multi-dimensional approach that encompasses research, system architecture, content creation, capacity building, monitoring, and evaluation. Given this scope and complexity, the financial resources requested are both justified and essential for the project's success, especially when considered through the lens of the full cost of adaptation reasoning.

The project serves vulnerable communities particularly susceptible to climate change impacts, who often lack the necessary resources for effective adaptation. These communities require immediate, sustainable interventions to enhance resilience and safeguard livelihoods. The platform's development itself calls for significant investment in technological infrastructure, such as system architecture, software development, and API integration, to offer a robust, user-friendly interface rich in climate-resilient agricultural resources.

Moreover, the project places a strong emphasis on capacity building. It includes an array of workshops, training programs, and knowledge-sharing initiatives tailored to equip stakeholders with the skills and understanding needed to implement effective adaptation measures. Adequate funding is crucial for the design, delivery, and impact assessment of these capacity-building activities, as well as for the robust monitoring and evaluation processes planned.

Additionally, the project aims to generate an evidence base for effective, scalable adaptation practices and technologies. Such a repository will not only validate the project's immediate impacts but also offer a foundation for future scaling-up initiatives, thereby ensuring that investments in adaptation yield sustainable, long-term benefits. To summarize, the funding requested is integral to the project's multifaceted design, from its technology-heavy platform development to its community-centric capacity-building initiatives, all aimed at long-term resilience and sustainable impact. The full cost of adaptation reasoning underlines not just the immediate implementation needs but also the broader, long-term benefits, which include both human and environmental resilience to the changing climate.

#### PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

**A.** Describe the arrangements for project / programme implementation.

The implementing entity (IE) for the Project will be "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" State Agency, as the National Implementing Entity for the Adaptation Fund. Replicating the longstanding work and experience of EPIU in working directly with national stakeholders (public and private organizations, academy, NGO's), and considering past success of EPIU implementing Programmes at national and international level, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has explicitly endorsed this AF project to be executed by EPIU. EPIU role in the framework of the project is fully in line with its leading institutional role in the implementation of environmental sector projects.

The Project Management Board (PMB) will be responsible for making management decisions for the AF project. In addition, the board will: i) undertake project assurance (monitoring and evaluation); ii) ensure performance improvement; and iii) ensure accountability and learning; iv) approve and closely monitor work plan to ensure its fulfillment and that it contributes to achieving project objectives; and (vi) approve the interim and final reports.

The PMB will comprise of designated representatives from relevant ministries, EPIU staff and relevant civil society organizations. The Project Management Board will choose a member from its composition to serve as secretary to the PMB. The PMB will approve work plan and procurement plan, and review project narrative reports as well as any deviations from the approved plans.

The overall management of the AF project will be executed by EPIU staff as NIE.

The following implementation services will be provided by EPIU for the AF project:

- > overall coordination and management of EPIU's NIE functions and responsibilities, and the facilitation of interactions with the AFB and related stakeholders:
- oversight of portfolio implementation and reporting on budget performance;
- > quality assurance and accountability for outputs and deliverables at the project development phase, during implementation and on completion;
- receipt, management and disbursement of AF funds in accordance with the financial standards of the AF;
- information and communication management to track and monitor progress (financial and substantive) of project implementation;

- versight and quality assurance of evaluation processes for project performance and ensuring that lessons learned/best practice are incorporated to improve future projects;
- monitoring project activities, including financial matters, and preparing monthly and quarterly progress reports, and organizing monthly and quarterly progress reviews;
- > supporting the PMB in organizing PMB meetings;
- managing relationships with project stakeholders including donors, NGOs, government agencies, and others as required.
- **B.** Describe the monitoring and evaluation arrangements and provide a budgeted M&E plan.

The project will be monitored through a set of M&E activities, the budget of which is provided below. The monitoring will be carried out by the dedicated M&E expert and will be based on targets and indicators set in Projects Results Framework.

Following reports and evaluations will be developed throughout the project:

**Monitoring Plan** (MP) - should be approved by the NIE before commencing of the project activities and it will detail all activities to be executed, all milestones and goals which will be reached and dates for each indicator to be executed.

**Quarterly Status Reports** (QSR) - project management unit should submit QSRs to the NIE at the end of each operating quarter. QSRs will present how the indicators identified in project results framework are executed, what challenges PMU faces during the execution process and identify any constraints. Quarterly Status Reports will present monitoring process on executed activities.

**Final Report** (FR) - Final report will be presented one month prior to the end of the project. The main focus will be placed at assessing project results framework. Also, the final report will address the impact of the Project and its sustainability issues.

**External Audit Report** (EAR) - with the periodic financial statements, external audit report will be prepared in accordance with Financial Regulations set by the Government.

Deliverable	Responsible	Cost
Monitoring plan, quarterly status reports, final report	M&E expert	3.000 USD
External audit report	Audit company to be subcontracted	2.000 USD

**C.** Include a simple results framework for the project proposal, including milestones, targets and indicators.

Component	Activity	Milestone	Target	Indicator
Component 1. Stakeholder mapping and needs assessment	Activity 1.1. Stakeholder analysis	Completion of stakeholder analysis	Stakeholder analysis report	Clear understanding of stakeholders' preferences and requirements
	Activity 1.2.  Definition of requirements	Completion of research on requirements	TORs; Market research report	Identification of key requirements; Market landscape framework
	Activity 1.3. Establishing scope of works	Completion of scope of work definition	SOW document	Clearly defined project scope and specifications
Component 2: Projection and design	Activity 2.1.  Development of technical specifications	Development of technical documentation	Technical requirements specification document	Clearly defined technical requirements and specifications
	Activity 2.2. UI/UX design	Completion of UI/UX design	UI/UX design mockups for the platform	User-friendly and visually appealing interface design
Component 3: Development, integrations, testing,	Activity 3.1. System architecture design	Finalization of system architecture	System architecture diagram	Well-designed and scalable system architecture
deployment	Activity 3.2.  Development and integration	Development and integration	Ready platform and integrated APIs	Functional and integrated platform components
	Activity 3.3.	Testing and	Full-featured	Rigorously

	Testing and quality assurance	quality assurance	platform	tested and reliable platform
	Activity 3.4. Deployment and launch	Deployment and launch	Deployed and launched platform, user documentation	Successfully deployed and accessible platform
Component 4: Content population	Activity 4.1. Stakeholder consultations	Completion of stakeholder engagement	Arrangements with different stakeholders	Arrangements with the stakeholders for collecting the content.
	Activity 4.2. Content collection and curation	Collection and curation of content	100 units of collected content	Curated and organized content aligned with climate-resilient practices
	Activity 4.3. Verification and validation	Verification and validation of content	Valid content	Verified and authentic content that meets required standards
	Activity 4.4. Content input	Completion of content input	Populated content within the platform	Informative and climate- smart content available on the platform
Component 5: Awareness raising	Activity 5.1. Workshop design and planning	Design and planning of workshops	Workshop materials, presentations, and documentation	Well- structured workshops tailored to the target audience
	Activity 5.2. Stakeholder engagement	Stakeholder engagement	Well- conducted workshop for stakeholders	Active participation and representation of stakeholders in workshops

Activity 5.3. Workshop delivery	Workshop delivery	Delivered workshop	Increased awareness and understanding of the platform
Activity 5.4. Feedback collection and analysis	Feedback collection	Feedback collected from participants	Valuable insights and suggestions for platform improvement

## **D.** Demonstrate how the project / programme aligns with the Results Framework of the Adaptation Fund

Project Objective(s)	Project Objective Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
To elevate the agricultural sector in Armenia by fostering economic viability, social inclusivity, and environmental sustainability through a multifaceted ordering platform.	Share of the output produced by beneficiaries in the total agricultural output of Armenia	Outcome 8: Support the development and diffusion of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies	8.1. No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated	-
Project Outcome(s)	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1. Successfully formulated and articulated a detailed project plan that meticulously outlines the	<ol> <li>Functionalities and features alignment score;</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement and approval Rate;</li> <li>Quality and standards adherence index:</li> </ol>	Output 8: Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or	8.1. No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up	21,200

platform's functionalities and features, aimed at addressing specific climate resilience challenges within the agricultural sector.		accelerated.	and/or replicated	
Outcome 2. Successfully delineated technical requirements and developed an intuitive, user-friendly UI/UX design that incorporates specific adaptation considerations relevant to climate resilience in agriculture.	1. Technical requirements fulfillment score; 2. UI/UX adaptation relevance index; 3. User satisfaction and usability rate;	Output 8: Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	8.1. No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated	53,605
Outcome 3. Successfully developed, tested, and deployed the platform to end-users, accompanied by easy-to-learn guidelines tailored for effective platform utilization.	Platform deployment completion rate;     User onboarding success rate;     User engagement and retention index;	Output 8: Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	8.1. No. of innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated	92,050
Outcome 4.	1. Platform functionality	Output 8:	8.1. No. of	11,800

Successfully curated and made available well-presented, informative content that empowers users to engage effectively with the platform upon its launch.	success rate;  2. User onboarding efficiency;  3. User satisfaction and usability score;	Viable innovations are rolled out, scaled up, encouraged and/or accelerated.	innovative adaptation practices, tools and technologies accelerated, scaled-up and/or replicated	
Outcome 5. Successfully heightened awareness and understanding of the platform, leading to measurable increases in potential user engagement and adoption rates.	<ol> <li>Awareness reach metric;</li> <li>Engagement-to-user conversion rate;</li> <li>User retention rate</li> </ol>	Output 3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and subnational stakeholders and entities to capture and disseminate knowledge and learning	3.2.2 No. of tools and guidelines developed (thematic, sectoral, institutional) and shared with relevant stakeholde	21,700

**E.** Include a budget, including a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use, and an explanation and a breakdown of the execution costs.

Output	Item	Budget Notes
Component 1: Stakeholder mappir	ng and needs assessment	
Output 1.1 Stakeholder mapping and needs assessment report	Consulting Company N 1	Implementation of the comprehensive st mapping and needs assessment in the b regions
Output 1.2 Market research report	Consulting Company N 1	Implementation of the market rese understand the demand
Output 1.3Detailedworkplanandrequirements of the Project	Consulting Company N 1	Determining the functionalities and specifications necessary to meet the stakeholder requirements effectively.
Component 2: Projection and desi	gn	
Output 2.1  Detailed TORs with technical requirements	ICT Developer Company N 1	Development of the detailed documentation
Output 2.2 UI/UX design mock-ups for the platform	ICT Developer Company N 1	Design of the platform's user interface (UI) experience (UX), including creating appealing and intuitive interfaces that are navigate and use
Component 3: Development, integ	rations, testing, deployment	
Output 3.1 System architecture diagram	ICT Developer Company N 1	Designs of the system architecture of the taking into account the specific adaptati and requirements identified during st research.
Output 3.2 Integrated APIs	ICT Developer Company N 1	Development of the platform based on the requirements and designs established previous activities.
Output 3.3 Full-featured platform, deployed to the production server	ICT Developer Company N 1	Various types of testing, such as function performance testing, user acceptance testing.
Output 3.4 Platform using documentation	ICT Developer Company N 1	Setting up the necessary infrastructure, c servers, and deploying the platform in a seaccessible manner.
Component 4: Content population		
Output 4.1  100 units of high-quality and accurate content populated within the platform	ICT Developer Company N 1	Collaboration with stakeholders, agricultural machinery suppliers, manufact experts, to gather accurate and up-to-dat for the platform.
Output 4.2 Platform using content,	ICT Developer Company N 1	Collect various types of content, such a descriptions, specifications, images, a

populated within the platform		relevant information related to agricultural rand populating the platform	
<b>Component 5:</b> Awareness raising			
Output 5.1 Workshop materials, presentations, and documentation	Consulting Company N 1	Identifying key topics to be discussed of workshop, structuring the agenda, and appropriate methodologies and interactive a	
Output 5.2 Workshop summary reports that include feedback from participants	Consulting Company N 1	Conducting the workshop to present the P the target audience	
TOTAL for Project's 5 Components			
Project Execution costs (EPIU)1.5% of total budget)			
TOTAL Project Costs			
IE Fee / Oversight Costs (*max 8.5% of total budget)			
GRAND TOTAL			

#### IE Fee / Oversight Costs (\*max 8.5% of total budget)

Item	Responsible	Budget
I. Project Management		
Project Coordinator	EPIU PMU	8,000 \$
Social and Gender risk assessment specialist	EPIU PMU	4,300 \$
Subtotal for Project Management		12,300 \$
Quarterly and Final Report	EPIU PMU	3,000 \$
External Audit	National audit company	2,000 \$
Subtotal for Monitoring & Evaluation	5,000 \$	
TOTAL		

### Project Execution costs (EPIU)1.5% of total budget

Item	Budget
Administrative Support	2,000\$
Field trips	1,000\$
TOTAL:	3,000\$

**F.** Include a disbursement schedule with time-bound milestones.

**80%** - upon signature of grant agreement

20% upon approval of the final financial and narrative reports

## PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENT AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government<sup>1</sup> Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement. If this is a regional project/programme, list the endorsing officials all the participating countries. The endorsement letter(s) should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal. Please attach the endorsement letter(s) with this template; add as many participating governments if a regional project/programme:

Hakob Simidyan	Date: September 29, 2023
Minister of Environment	2

**B.** Implementing Entity certification Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address

I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.

U. Jungyang

Armen Yesoyan
Acting Director of "EPIU" SA
Implementing Entity Coordinator

Date: September 29, 2023

Tel. and email: info@cep.am

+37410 651 631

Project Contact Person: Armen Yesoyan, Acting Director of "EPIU" SA Mary Martirosyan, Acting Leading Specialist of Project Implementation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Each Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.



#### ՀԱՅԱՍՏԱՆԻ ՀԱՆՐԱՊԵՏՈՒԹՅԱՆ ՇՐՋԱԿԱ ՄԻՋԱՎԱՅՐԻ ՆԱԽԱՐԱՐ

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT
РЕСПУБЛИКА АРМЕНИЯ
МИНИСТР ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЫ

Nº 1/27.1/12620 «29»« 09 »2023

To:

The Adaptation Fund Board

c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

Email: afbsec@adaptation-fund.org

Fax: 202 522 3240/5

<u>Subject: Endorsement for Innovation Small Grant Project "AgriElevate: Uplifting Farming Through Innovation"</u>

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Armenia, I confirm that the above national project proposal is in accordance with the government's national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in the Republic of Armenia.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above project proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" State Agency of the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Armenia and executed by the same State Agency.

Sincerely,

Hakob Simidyan

"Environmental Project Implementation Unit" State Agency Armen Yesoyan, +37410 651 631





