

**HPK**

Horticultural Promotion in Kosovo
Project Financed by Swiss and Danish governments

Competitive Fund for Horticulture (CFH) Grants 2012

In 2012, Horticulture Promotion in Kosovo, implemented by Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, will again be offering CFH grants for projects that provide benefits to the horticulture and agriculture sectors of Kosovo. Projects must contribute to increased employment and income for the sectors.

General Qualification Criteria:

- Projects should be commercially viable and demonstrate the potential for increasing income and employment in the agribusiness sector
- Projects shall be private sector run (individual entrepreneurs, companies or associations) and address a clear market opportunity
- The CFH is a competitive fund, and projects will be awarded grants based on meeting HPK's criteria for increased income and employment
- Projects in the horticulture sectors supported by HPK activities are preferred, but projects for post-harvest activities or innovation in other agriculture sub-sectors will be considered
- Projects shall not solely focus on investment into equipment, but can also be awarded for investments into improving overall management of businesses and business services
- All grants will be for new investments. Any existing equipment or investments by grantees prior to signing of contracts will be excluded from co-financing
- Applicants must be able to complete projects by the end of May 2012.

Categories for Proposals:

There will be 3 categories for proposals, and the application must explain clearly which category it will be under:

1. Production:

Projects in the fruit and vegetable sector that increase commercial scale production for existing farmers will be considered. This is limited to the following:

- Greenhouses using modern technology with an area of greater than 20 ares (2,000 square metres)
 - Orchard infrastructure improvements, such as hail netting, for existing orchards that are already in production, using modern technologies and are greater than 1 hectare.
 - Grants will not be provided for the direct costs of production, such as trees, seedlings or operating inputs (fertiliser, pesticides etc).
 - Projects shall not be supported by other current grant schemes (e.g. MAFRD greenhouse and orchard support)
2. Post harvest investments such as calibration, processing, storage and marketing activities in the agribusiness sector.
 3. Innovative ideas for improving the competitiveness of the horticulture sector from existing businesses.

Investment into infrastructure improvements relevant for local communities can be supported if they are private sector managed and operated.

Funds:

- CFH budget is available for one single round of grants in 2012
- Maximum co-investment by HPK is 50% of the eligible project budget. HPK may reduce this amount further for advanced businesses or where co-funding is taken with other donors. In these cases, the minimum contribution from the grantee must still be 50% of the project costs.
- All grants will be a minimum of €10,000 (equivalent to a €20,000 minimum project budget if co-financed 50%).
- Businesses requesting grants of more than €50,000 will be subject to a review by an independent expert, to be appointed by HPK.
- Women and minorities are encouraged to apply for CFH grants. In exceptional cases, for these applicants it is possible that the grant contribution from HPK can be greater than 50% but not more than 70%.
- Grants are provided as a reimbursement against expenditure, once projects are fully implemented and all payments have been made by the grantee.

Eligible Applicants:

- Applicants shall propose projects that will increase their business and enhance their competitiveness
- They shall be running their business not less than 2 years – no start ups or isolated projects
- They must provide all correct documentation for business registration and give information on past performance as well as their linkages (buying, selling) to other actors in the sector
- Applicants from earlier rounds, or who have received previous funding from other donors, can apply as long as the previous project has been completed successfully and is commercially operating

Procedures & Timing:

- Concept notes in Albanian, Serbian or English to be submitted in the format available from the HPK website by Friday 27th January, 2012
- First screening (shortlist) by CFH Technical Committee completed and applicants advised by 3rd February, 2012 of the decisions
- Shortlist candidates provide full application in English by 17th February, 2012
- Screening rounds (including site visits) and CFH Board approval of projects by March 2nd, 2012
- Contracts signed with successful applicants by March 9th, 2012.

Contact Information:

- Applications may be submitted by email or delivered to the Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Office.
- All enquiries should be directed to the CFH Project Officer by Email cfh.rks@helvetas.org or kosovo.info@helvetas.org and through telephone 038 517 715 ext. 110 or 044 880 842 every working days from 14.30 to 16.30

Email: cfh.rks@helvetas.org; kosovo.info@helvetas.org

Address: Nazim Gafurri Street Nr. 33, (3rd Floor);Pristina, Kosova

Website: <http://helvetas-ks.org/HPK/en/cfh.html>