

AFB/B.43-44/15 24 March 2025

Adaptation Fund Board

REQUEST FOR REVISION OF THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE, INCLUDING A REVISED INCEPTION DATE: IFAD (CÔTE D'IVOIRE)

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during its intersessional period between the thirtyseventh and thirty-eighth meeting, approved a four-year project titled "Increasing Rural Communities' Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Bandama Basin in Côte d'Ivoire" in Côte d'Ivoire, submitted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) for a requested amount of US\$6,000,000 (Decision B.37-38/9).

2. The objective of the project is to address key climate vulnerabilities in the agriculture and water resources management systems with a focus on rice, cassava and cocoa value chains in Bandama Basin. This region has been identified as a top priority region in the NAPA, agricultural sector plan. The resilience of the cassava, rice and cocoa production can only be achieved by accelerating the transition towards a set of appropriate agricultural practices coupled with an income diversification strategy. To achieve this, integrated farming systems designed to increase yields for cash crops (cocoa), staple crops (cassava and rice), and minimize environmental degradation are required. Such approaches will be coupled with effective water management and maintenance of the ecological functions and surrounding the smallholder production systems in Côte d'Ivoire.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and IFAD on 16 May 2022, and the project inception was estimated to take place on 7 January 2023.

4. On 30 May 2023, IFAD submitted a first notification of delay of project inception date from 7 January 2023 to 7 August 2023. This request for a postponement of project inception date was cleared by the secretariat, in line with Decision B.34/45 and with provisions set forth in the Policy for Project Delays.

5. On 18 March 2025, IFAD submitted a second request of delay of project inception, postponed to 30 May 2025 with an estimated project completion date on 30 May 2029. As per Board Decision B.36/35, an implementing entity whose project or programme experiences, due to exceptional circumstances, a significant delay in inception (exceeding 12 months from the standard inception target of six months from the first cash transfer) is requested to submit to the Board, through the Adaptation Fund Board secretariat, a "Request for revision of the project implementation schedule, including a revised inception date" for intersessional consideration.

6. The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by IFAD, are due to: (i) The budget table developed during the project design phase was not aligned with IFAD's preferred format, which categorizes costs by type rather than by activity. This misalignment caused delays in preparing the financing agreement between IFAD and Côte d'Ivoire, (ii) Significant delays in signing the financing agreement between IFAD and the government, and (iii) Delays in recruiting the Project Management Unit (PMU) by the Ministry.

7. IFAD has implemented the following approaches and mitigation measures to ensure the start of project implementation: The Country Director and team acted swiftly to address the delay by recruiting an expert software consultant to reconstruct the project's cost tables, ensuring proper categorization of expenses. Simultaneously, the country team translated the project design document into French to facilitate the process.

8. Following the translation, negotiations with the Government were successfully conducted in January 2024. However, due to scheduling misalignments, the Financing Agreement was only signed in June 2024 by both the Government and IFAD. After the agreement was signed, the country team held a series of meetings and working sessions with the Government to facilitate the recruitment of the PMU, with key project positions advertised in September 2024.

9. Key staff recruitment is expected to be completed by 31 March 2025, with the official project launch and inception workshop planned for completion by 30 May 2025 under the PMU's leadership.

Secretariat's review of the request

10. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the multiple reasons provided by IFAD for this accumulated project inception delay, the secretariat is of the view that the request for a postponement of project inception is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by IFAD (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time for the project to finalize the necessary steps to start project implementation.

11. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this delay in project/programme delay request has been agreed with the Executing Entities, and the Designated Authority was notified, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

12. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for revision of the project implementation schedule, including a postponement of project inception date from 7 August 2023 to 30 May 2025, for the project "Increasing Rural Communities' Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Bandama Basin in Côte d'Ivoire" in Côte d'Ivoire, as requested by IFAD.

Annex 1: Request for revision of the project implementation schedule, including a revised inception date sent by IFAD

ANNEX D: NOTIFICATION OF DELAY OF PROJECT OR PROGRAMME INCEPTION

Implementing Entity Name: IFAD

AF Project/Programme ID: N/A

Project/Programme Title: Increasing Rural Communities' Adaptive Capacity and Resilience to Climate Change in Bandama Basin in Cote d'Ivoire

Country(ies): Cote d'Ivoire Republic

Project/Programme Approval Date: 23/02/2022

Expected Project/Programme Start (date): 30/04/2025

Proposed Revised Completion (date): N/A

1. Reasons/ justification for delay in the project's/programme's inception and the number of

months of delay from the project approval date.

The delay is mainly due to the fact that: (i) The cost table developed at the time of the project design was not adapted to that of IFAD, which favours the distribution of costs by categories and not by the activities. This delayed the preparation of the financing agreement between IFAD (implementing entity) and the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, in particular Annex 2 of the financing agreement relating to the table of allocation of funds; (ii) The absence of a French version of the project design report which, according to the Government, would be a limitation to a proper negotiation of the financing agreement and implementation of the project. (iii) challenges in synchronising agenda between IFAD representatives and the recipient's representatives which delayed the signing of the financing agreement ; (iv) a delay in recruitment of the project management unit by the Lead Ministry The project start date is expected to be no longer that 04th November 2024. This translates into a delay of 16 months as compared to the initial program start date of 01st July 2023.

2. Approaches/ mitigation measures to ensure the start of implementation

The Country Director and team worked quickly to mitigate this delay by recruiting an expert Costab software consultant to reconstruct the project's cost tables, ensuring a breakdown by categories of expenses. In parallel, the country team translated the project design document into French. Following the translation the country team successfully held the negotiations with the Government in January 2024 and due to schedule misalignment between both parties, the Financing Agreement could only be signed in June 2024 by both the Government and IFAD. Following the signature of the Financing Agreement, the country team held series of meetings and working sessions with the Government to prepare the recruitment of the Project Management Unit. The recruitment was delayed due to Government officials' leave in August 2024 but right after, key positions for the project were advertised in September. Key staff recruitment is expected to be completed by 30th March 2025 and the project official launch will be completed on 21st April 2025. Immediately after the project launch, the project inception workshop will be promptly completed by the Project Management Unit On 30th April 2025.

3. Challenges (in addition to those mentioned in section 1) that may extend the project/programme completion date)

Once the project starts, no further challenges are expected apart from the risks already identified in the project document.

Implementing Entity certification

This notification for delay on project/programme inception has been prepared in accordance with AF policies and procedures, and the delay in project/programme start has been agreed by participating executing entities and has been notified to the designated authority(ies) (DA).

Hermann Fumilayo Messan Country Director

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Project milestones in the next three months

Activities	Due Date	Comment (Current status)
Administrative and Financial Manager Recruitment (CV Evaluation and Interview)	31 st March 2025	CV analysis is complete; interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, 18th, 2025
Signing of the decree creating the Project	31 st March 2025	Currently being revised to align with salary scale
Opening a BCEAO account (Account with Central Bank)	31 st March 2025	The operating account is opened, and the designated account is being opened
Validation of the Procedure Manual	31 st March 2025	The first version of the manual is available and is undergoing internal validation at the supervisory ministry.
Validation of the PTBA	31 st March 2025	Under development
Signing of Project Team Contracts	31 st March 2025	The letter of commencement of service will also be sent to the recruited UCP members.
Request for withdrawal of funds	31 st March 2025	Transmission of the first DRF to IFAD
Receipt of funds in the project account	30 th April 2025	A period of up to 1 month is required for analysis of the request and transfer of funds by IFAD
Preparation of the start-up workshop	18 th May 2025	Invitation + Logistics organization
Start-up Workshop	30 th May 2025	

Updated Project implementation schedule

TITLE OF F	ROJECT: INCREASING RURAL COMMUNITIES' ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN BANDAMA BASIN IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE		202	25			20	26			20)27			20	28		202	!9
Outputs	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	Inception workshop		May																
	Inception Report		June																
Componen	t 1: : Climate Information and early Warning Systems (CIEWS) for adaptive capacity building, programming and planning in cocoa, rice and cassava value chains																		
Output 1.	1: Expanding and upgrading existing early warning systems and hydro met observation networks to enhance data collection, interpretation and understanding for adaptation in agriculture																		
	1.1.1 Acquiring 18 automatic weather stations and 150 rain gauges		R	с	с	Т	ı.	Т	Т	Т									
	1.1.2Upgrading and rehabilitation of existing 10 hydrological stations (automatic stage recorders) and its specialized hydrological equipment (acoustic doppler current pofiler, bathymetric instruments) Bandama Rivers and small flood-prone watersheds.		R	с	с	I	I	I	I	I									
ACTIVITIES	1.1.3Visiting and identification of areas installation of weather stations and rain gauges		Т	Т	Т														
	1.1.4. installation of 18 automatic weather stations and 150 rain gauges by SODEXAM								Т	Т	Т	Т							
	1.1.5 Systematically collecting data and undertaking risk assessments Improvement on crop modelling and assessment of climate vulnerability and Production of Weather reports for producers		с	с	I	Т	Т	I	I	I	I	I	I	I.	Т	1	1	1	I.
	1.1.6. Identification of local radios for the dissemination of local climate information		I	Т	Т														
	1.1.7 Dissemination of local climate information to local cocoa, cassava, rice producers specifically for droughts, floods and humidity.		с	с	с	I	Т	I	I	I	T	I	I	Т	Т	I	T	1	I
	1.1.8. Develop hazard monitoring and early warning services including weather and hydrological monitoring equipment, improving forecast capabilities and the use of the CIEWS within agricultural advisories, drought and flood risks monitoring		R	с	С	I	I	I	I										
	1.1.9. Development of digital platforms for dissemination of local climate information		R	с	с	Т													
	1.1.10 Facilitate the collaboration between SODEXAM and Telecom companies to disseminate weather climate information through digital platforms and sms to cooperatives and extension services for cropping calendar and planning				I	I	I	I											
Output 1	2. Capacity of rural communities, cooperatives, Farmers organizations extension agents, decision makers is strengthened to understand climate risks to better manage climate shocks.																		

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Outputs	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	1.2.1 Training of some local radios for the dissemination of local climate information		R	с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	1
	1.2.2.Training of 10,000 smallholder farmers on the timely dissemination of early warning products (including agro-climatic information)		R	с	с	Т	Т	I	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	T	Т
	1.2.3 Raising awareness among 15,600 smallholder farmers on the best climate adaptation/mitigation practices/technologies in agriculture		R	с	с	Т	Т	ı	Т	I	Т	I	I	I	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т
ACTIVITIES	1.2.4 Training of 150 extension agents on climate resilient agriculture		С	с	I	Т					с	I	I	Т					
	1.2.5 Development of a capacity-building program for government authorities		C	с	I	Т													
	1.2.6 Capacity-building programs for government authorities to support decision making and local contingency planning, regulatory bodies				R	С	с	Т	I	Т	Т	I	I	Т					
	1.2.7 Build national and rural communities response capabilities to effectively when warnings are received		R	с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т
Compon	ent 2: Climate-proofed agricultural production and post-harvest combined with livelihood diversification																		
Output 2	1. Best available technologies and integrated resilient rice, cassava and cocoa varieties are implemented to foster the resilience of cocoa, cassava and rice production and post-harvest practices																		
	2.1.1 Establishment of demo plots to demonstrate best reforestation and agro forestry techniques		Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т								
	2.1.2 Development of cocoa farms, which include resilient practices such as vulnerability informed land use, tree shading and agroforestry.		Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т				
	2.1.3 Uprooting and rehabilitation/reconversion of about 6000 ha of overaged or affected by disease plantations, with full compensation paid to producers		I	Т	I	Т	I	Т	I	Т	Т	I	I	Т	I				
	2.1.4 Dissemination of local climate information to local cocoa producers specifically for droughts, floods and humidity. The project will strengthen the network of agrometeorological stations with the installation of 18 automatic weather stations and 10 hydrological stations. The project will also leverage climate information for cropping calendars.				I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	1	1
ACTIVITIES	2.1.5 Improvement on crop modelling and assessment of climate vulnerability		R	с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	1
	2.1.6 Use of modern technologies with a particular focus on solar based pumping systems, solar based post- harvest processing equipment to attract more youth in agriculture		R	с	с	Т	Т	I	Т	Т	ı	ı	ı	Т	Т				
	2.1.7 Facilitating farmers' access to improved climate friendly cocoa and rice production technologies and farming systems				I	Т	I.	I	I	Т	I	I	I	Т	Т	I	I	I	I.
	2.1.8 Improving cocoa and rice research system through partnership with the cocoa board the international cocoa organization, relevant international centers and the private sector		с	с	I	Т	Т	T	Т	Т	ı	I	I	Т	T	I	I	Т	Т
	2.1.9 Strengthening the overall production performance of rice and cocoa through sustainable monitoring and evaluation systems, including a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) to monitor development and compliance with environmental and social safeguards		С	с	T	I	I	I	I	T	I	I	I	Т	I	T	I	1	T

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Outputs	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	2.1.10 Development of credible certification programs and promotion of cocoa and rice production for niche markets through the development of specific geographically-based production		С	с	I	I	I	I	Т	I									
	2.1.11 Establishment of cocoa and rice dedicated logistics platforms in the selected intervention areas		R	с	с	I													
	2.1.12 Training programs to develop the technical and managerial skills necessary to support the promotion of competitive processing by small and medium-scale entrepreneurs (including cooperatives).		R	с	с	I													
	2.1.13 Review of the traceability of cocoa production and marketing, from plantations to export points		R	с	с	Т	Т	Т	ı.	Т									
	2.1.14 Strengthen of cocoa and rice cooperatives and support to establishing Cocoa Inter-profession, with a genuine public-private partnership that will ensure producers, private sector and civil society participation in the management of the sector		R	с	с	I	I	ı	I	I	I	I	Т	I	I	I	T	T	Т
	2.1.15 Selection of pest resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management, and weeding)		R	с	с	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	T	I.
	2.1.16 Expanding the System of Rice Intensification (SRI)		R	с	с	Т	I	Т	I.	Т	ı.	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	I	Т	1
	2.1.17 Support to MOA to run Farmer Field Schools and provide other technical support.		с	с	I	I	Т	Т	ı	Т	T	Т	I	Т	Т	Т	I	I	T
	2.1.18 Capacity building in modern composting techniques to reduce/prevent movement of farms to fallow land in secondary cropping years		С	с	I	I	I	I	ı	T	I	Т	I	I					
	2.1.19 Boreholes irrigation schemes, to cope with the consequences of drought and heat extreme events, boreholes will be rehabilitated and irrigation schemes will be deployed.		R	с	с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	I.
	2.1.20 Development of new Inland Valley Swamps for rice production to increase the production of smallholder farmers and diversify and expand their revenue sources.		R	с	с	с	I	Т	Т	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	1	T
	2.1.21 Wet-season valley bottom water control cascaded dykes		R	с	с	с	Т	Т	ı.	Т	Т	1	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	1
	2.1.22 Micro-catchment water runoff control dykes		R	с	с	с	Т	T	ı	Т	Т	Т	ı	Т					
	2.1.23 Construction or consolidation of structures for gravity irrigation serving 8,000 producers		R	с	с	с	I	Т	I	I	I	I	I	I					
	2.1.24 Watershed rehabilitation, water efficiency and management,		R	с	с	с	I	I	I	ı	I	I	I	I					
	2.1.25 Training and extension and infrastructure rehabilitation and construction including drainage systems		R	с	с	с	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I
	2.1.26 An assessment of the impact of cassava production on rural livelihoods as a climate change adaptation strategy		R	с	с	I	Т					Т	ı	I	I				
	2.1.27 Selection of pest resistant varieties and cultural practices (distance between plants, irrigation management, and weeding)		R	с	с	I	I	T	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I.	Т
	2.1.28 Community mobilization and organizing to take up cassava as a climate smart cash crop and cooperative development		R	с	с	I	Т	Т	Т	Т	I	Т	Т	Т	T	T	I	I	T

TITLE OF I	PROJECT: INCREASING RURAL COMMUNITIES' ADAPTIVE CAPACITY AND RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE IN BANDAMA BASIN IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE		202	25			20	26			20	27			20	28		202	29
Outputs	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
	2.1.29 Support female farmers to engage in commercial cassava production (including training in sustainable cassava production, negotiating access to farmland, tractors)		R	с	с	Т	I	I	Т	Т	Т	I	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т
	2.1.30 Conduct random control trails for rigorous testing and evaluation of the impact of cassava uptake on the resilience of female farmers and drought prone communities		R	с	с	I	I					I	Т	Т	Т				
	2.1.31. Support cooperatives with processing units		R	с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т									
Outpu	t 2.2 – Income-generating activities focusing on climate resilient fish farming on the Bandana river basin, conservation, processing units, marketing) are promoted as livelihood diversification measures																		
	2.2.1 Construction of 20 earth dams less than 15m high for fish farming activities.		R	с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т							1		
	2.2.2 Establishment of fish farms, including the creation of value-chain services (fingerling, etc.).		R	с	с	ı	Т	Т	Т	Т									
ACTIVITIES	2.2.3 Training of farmers on Tilapia and Milkfish production		R	с	с	I	Т	Т	Т	Т									
	2.2.4 Designing and construction of ponds/enclosures		R	с	с	I	I												
	2.2.5 Purchase and distribution of fingerlings to farmers		R	с	с	I	I												
	2.2.6 Establishment and building capacity for fish farmers cooperative		R	с	с	I	I	I	I	I									
	Component 3: Institutional capacity building, policy engagement and knowledge management.																		
Output 3.2	Capacity of the government (esp. Ministry of Environment, SODEXAM, and Africa Rice) in managing climate risk is strengthened																		
ACTIVITIES	3.1.1. Strengthening of capacities of staff Ministry of Environment, SODEXAM on climate change adaptation (Capacity building through technological enhancement, Training to enhance institutional capacity)		с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	I.	I.	ı.	Т					
	3.1.2. Strengthening of the Meteorological Department and local representation, including capacity building through technology enhancement and training to enhance institutional capacity.		с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т					
	3.1.3. Technical Assistance for improved policy frameworks to mainstream climate risks in into sectoral strategies and policies.		с	с	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т					
	Output 3.2: Monitoring & Evaluation and Coordination of the Adaptation Activities																		
	3.2.1. Support to the development of Measurement Reporting and Verification system of climate response programmes.		С	С	I	T	T	T	T	T	I	I	I	I	Т	Т	T	T	I.
ACTIVITIES	3.2.2. Support to the improved monitoring & evaluation and knowledge management activities, which will include; Additional baseline survey costs (related to climate change adaptation) and additional terminal survey costs (related to climate change adaptation).		с	с	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	1
	3.2.3 Project management and coordination, including the recruitment of Climate change adaptation specialist for the duration of the project and Staff training on adaptation-related issues.		I	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	I.	I.	I.

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Outputs	Activity	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2				
	3.2.4. Production of knowledge management products like packages of practices, enewsletters, interviews and success stories		I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	I	T	Т	I	I.				
	3.2.5. Dissemination of Production of knowledge management products via online and offline channels.		I	Т	ı.	ı	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	Т	1				
	Recruitment of local staff	R	R																				

R - Recrutiment

C - Contracting

I - Implementation