



## ADAPTATION FUND

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Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

***Approval of Request for No-cost Extension of Project Completion date: International Fund for Agricultural Development (Sierra Leone)***

**Request type:** Minor

***Summary of request***

On 16 March 2025, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) submitted the first request for a no-cost extension request for the project, 'Promoting Climate Resilience in the Cocoa and Rice Sectors as Adaptation Strategy (PCRCR)' implemented in Sierra Leone.

According to the memo provided by IFAD, the extension has become necessary due to several reasons, including: i) Seasonality of infrastructure development-related activities (needing completion within the six-month dry season window); ii) Delays in implementation due to the cumbersome procedures in recruiting the relevant staff; iii) Poor performance of the project implementation unit in the early years of the project due to poor financial management skills and high staff turnover, which caused instability in the staff hierarchy and adversely impacted the execution of the project; iv) Delayed availability of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) resources for the bulk of project-supported infrastructure; v) Following the mid-term review (MTR), the need to realign Inland Valley Swamp (IVSs) tasks and grouping together IVSs in areas with larger stretches of land, to enhance water management and minimize disputes within the communities – to expedite implementation of IVS and Infrastructure subcomponents.

The project has only about nine months left until completion, but there are still many activities left to implement, particularly on infrastructure, which are key for the project to achieve its overall goal. There is a danger of not finishing the rehabilitation of the remaining 3,632 ha of IVS, construction of 60 fishponds, 60 earth dams, 50 boreholes, 20 warehouses, 420 km of feeder roads, 150 km of trunk roads, and 360 km of farm tracks. Most of the sites have been selected, studies and tenders are about to be finalized. An 18-month no cost-extension would ensure that these activities are finalized.

***Secretariat's review of the request***

The Secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by IFAD and considers the request for an 18 month no-cost extension of the project completion date to be justified. It also acknowledges that the Designated Authority has been duly notified, in line with the Policy for Project/Programme Delays (Amended, 2025).

***Conclusion***

*Following the review of the request for an 18 month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 30 September 2025 to 31 March 2027 submitted by IFAD for the project "Promoting Climate Resilience in the Cocoa and Rice Sectors as Adaptation Strategy (PCRCR)," implemented in Sierra Leone, this has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy for Project/Programme delays.*

***Clearance: AFBSEC-2025-04***