



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Africa
Western Africa

Brussels 22/03/2024
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Dear Guido Bohmann,

Thank you for your email dated 11 February 2024 sent to the President of the European Commission, Ms. Ursula von der Leyen and, who has asked me to reply on her behalf.

First of all, I would like to thank you and comment on your commitment to climate change and environmental protection by proposing an innovative solution in the energy sector in line with the EU Green Deal energy transition.

Solar panels integrated into the roofs of greenhouses offer a promising solution toward achieving sustainable energy goals while supporting agriculture. More specifically Agrivoltaics is an emerging concept that combines land use for both solar power generation and agriculture. Instead of dedicating separate land areas for solar panels and crops, agrivoltaics aims to maximise efficiency by integrating solar panels into existing agricultural spaces. The potential of Agri-PV has only begun to be tapped, and Africa and other developing countries could take the lead in this burgeoning new sector.

Concerning your request for support, let me start by explaining that the development cooperation between the European Union and each of its partner countries is framed by a multi-annual programming setting mutually agreed upon priorities and areas of intervention. The multi-annual indicative programmes for the countries of the Sahara and Sahel regions are available through the following link: https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries_en

Our Delegations in-country and national authorities then elaborate projects to implement this programming. Their execution is managed by our services, by partner countries' authorities or international organisations. They then usually give rise to competitive tenders for contracts with private companies or calls for proposals for grants to civil society organisations, which are published on our partners' and/or on our own websites. Direct award of grants or contracts is only possible under very specific conditions or for small amounts.

I suggest that you consult the website of the EU Delegations in the Sahara and Sahel regions following this link https://www.ecas.europa.eu/ecas/eu-world-0_en where you will find information on our cooperation priorities and actions as well as our and our partners' main tenders and calls for proposals. I would also recommend that you consult our online platforms where all our tenders and calls for proposals are published and can be applied to (for tenders and calls for proposals : <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>).

Guido Bohmann
By email: dr.guido.bohmann@green-deserts.org

Concerning small-scale PV applications, we are supporting GET.Invest, a programme that mobilises investments in renewable energy in developing countries, supporting project developers and companies toward investment readiness and which connects them with financiers. It aims to substantially increase investment volume, contribute to building sustainable energy markets, and address the twin challenge of sustainable energy and climate change. GET.invest provides a range of services, including market information, funding databases, and advisory support and serves as an access point for information about and facilitated access to European support and financing instruments for energy projects and companies in Africa.

You may also contact the implementers of our projects that are relevant to your endeavour to check whether there would be opportunities for direct support.

Yours sincerely,

[E-signed]
Maria Pilar Palmero Vaquero
Head of Unit