



ENTERPRISES & INFRASTRUCTURE

BIO enables companies to grow and prosper, to generate jobs and build expertise. In order to accomplish this, clients not only need tailor-made investments but also the skills and know-how to increase their business performance and improve sustainable business development practices at all levels.

Through grants from the Business Development Support Fund, BIO co-finances Technical Assistance (TA), Feasibility Studies (FS) and Investment Support for innovative SME's.

INSTRUMENTS

Technical assistance

Improving business performance, skills and standards are important to ensure the success of a project or company. BIO co-finances TA to support its clients in strengthening their competencies and business model to improve their performances and development impact. TA applications are open to existing clients only.

Feasibility study

The FS analyses the technical viability and profitability of an investment project and is indispensable prior to creating or further developing a company. The study can include technical, environmental and social, market or financial aspects. FS applications are open to existing and prospective clients. Example: E&S impact study of a new solar project; market and technical study for agribusiness project.

Investment Support for Innovative SME's

BIO can support SME's in developing innovative projects and services by co-financing fixed assets or operational expenses. The business model, product or service must be innovative compared to the local context and demonstrate strong development impacts. Applications are open to existing clients only. SME's in the following sectors are eligible:

- Renewable Energy projects (<10MW installed capacity); and
- SME's in the field of agriculture/agri-business, or with digitalisation or climate change projects

TA PROJECT EXAMPLES

- Long-term technical advisor to provide guidance, implement and train staff on new technology;
- Energy or resource efficiency audit;
- TA for preparation of a certification (such as ISO, Smart Campaign, Fairtrade ...);
- TA for actors in the value chain: out-growers program, training to suppliers;
- Support to professional network organisation to launch sector-wide project;
- Improve institutional and managerial capacity in treasury and financial management by strategic review and training;
- Upscaling business models, Environmental & Social management systems or corporate governance structures.



CRITERIA

Successful applications meet a number of criteria. BIO evaluates the project's development impact, expected outcome, coherence of the work programme, skills of the expert and the budget and planning. Projects are to be implemented by external qualified consultants.

Specifically for FS applications, BIO will assess the sponsor's or promotor's quality, experience and track record. All proposed projects have to be in line with BIO's investment strategy and country eligibility criteria.

AMOUNTS

For TA projects and investment support, the maximum amount is €350,000. Both the budget and the co-financing rate should be proportional to the financial capacity of the company and the development impact of the project.

For FS projects, the subsidy may account for up to 50% of the total cost with a maximum of €100,000 per client.

ELIGIBLE COSTS

Services are carried out by external, independent and qualified experts who are selected through a transparent process and are approved by BIO. Projects in progress and costs incurred are not eligible for BIO co-financing. For the innovative projects, fixed assets and opex are eligible, and must be incremental to the project.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Ask our team for the application form, fill it out and send it to supportfund@bio-invest.be. The Business Development Support team will review your application and can support you in further structuring your project.

EXAMPLE : PURATOS GRAND PLACE VIETNAM

FACTS & FIGURES

<i>Sector</i>	Enterprises SME
<i>Subsector</i>	Agribusiness
<i>Country & Region</i>	Vietnam, Asia
<i>Instruments</i>	Technical Assistance
<i>Amount</i>	€ 86,000



PROJECT

Puratos Grand Place Vietnam (Puratos GPV) is a cacao and chocolate processing company in Vietnam. The company is the first vertical integrated cacao transformer in Vietnam, sourcing from 2000 smallholders and processing the cacao in the country of origin. BIO approved a loan of USD 1.5 million in 2016 to finance a new grinding line to process cacao beans in cacao mass.

BIO approved different technical assistance projects of a budget of EUR 86.000, which entailed:

- Study analyzing the Vietnamese cacao beans as source for cacao mass;
- Assist and train farmers in the value chain of Puratos GPV in sustainable farming techniques;
- Design and implement a risk management policy.