

Questions and Answers

This document will be regularly updated to address all received questions.

Last update: May 27, 2022

ARE – Annual Program Statement (APS002): Agricultural Productivity Improvements to Strengthen Food Security in Lebanon - Optimizing On-farm Energy Use – Component two

1. Does APS002 support farmers who have plant nursery and sell seedlings?

Answer: This intervention is targeted for only vegetable farmers who have between 10 and 35 greenhouses.

2. Is the installation of PV system going to be soon in early summer season?

Answer: Applications are going to be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed bi-monthly. As the installation will proceed accordingly for the eligible applicants as soon as all technical and administrative procedures are met. Hence, everyone is encouraged to apply as soon as possible before funds are exhausted.

3. How is the process going to be if the application was accepted?

Answer: If the application is approved, a site visit will be scheduled with ARE's Renewable Energy expert and the selected supplier to validate the specifications. Once approved, the applicant will sign a contract with the selected supplier abiding by the agreed upon payment terms. It's important to note that ARE will make the payment directly to the supplier AFTER the installation is completed and verified by ARE's renewable energy engineer.

4. What is the ceiling of the grant for each eligible applicant?

Answer: ARE anticipates awarding up to \$8,500, so if the PV is going to cost more than \$10,000 ARE will only contribute the amount of \$8,500 and the rest of the cost is to be anticipated by the applicant.

5. How is the application process done?

Answer: Interested applicants may find this APS published on Daleel Madani. The applicant must fill out and send the application form found, other attached annexes are to be completed as well, application form can be sent according to the applicant's preference either in English or Arabic. All documents must be sent by email to the grants team email as mentioned in the APS.

6. Will small farmers with less than 10 greenhouses going to be included in this intervention?

Answer: This intervention will **prioritize** medium farmers that have between 10 to 35 greenhouses.

7. Are the applicants allowed to contact the 3 pre-qualified suppliers suggested by ARE?

Answer: ARE encourages applicants to contact all three shortlisted companies to ensure that the applicant gets the best value/quality for their farms. Applicant should select only one of them and send it with the application. ARE is not going to choose the suppliers on behalf of the applicant.

8. Is there a peak or maximum amount for the quotations?

Answer: There is no maximum amount for the cost of installed PV system, applicants are free to go with whatever cost they can afford and find suitable BUT ARE will only cover a maximum of \$8,500 even if the system cost was more than \$10,000.

9. Could the proof of land ownership such as title deed, be in the name of family member and not the applicant in particular?

Answer: In such case, an authorization letter from an official Notary public should be included with all registration documents (وكالة من كاتب العدل باسم مقدم الطلب).

Applicants must be legally able to use the land where the greenhouses are located for a minimum of three years.

10. Could the applicant not include a photograph of the greenhouses?

Answer: It is preferred that all application categories to be filled out to increase chances of scoring and eligibility accordingly.

11. Do all the greenhouses have to be in the same plot or can they be distributed on several ones?

Answer: It is preferred that all greenhouses to be in the same plot for better installation and function of the PV system. It could be accepted if the plots are near each other and registered to the same owner. Also, all the greenhouses should be irrigated from that same source where the PV system is proposed to be installed.

12. What is the purpose of each annex that are part of this APS?

Answer: Annex A is the grant application that must be filled out and submitted by the applicant. Annex B is Exclusive PV Supplier Information, so applicants can know the three suppliers and contact them.

Annex C is Required Certifications that need to be signed by the applicant. In addition to submitting some documents such as official registration at the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Commerce or business license, proof of land ownership, and Lebanese identification card (ID).

Annex D is Mandatory and Required as Applicable Standard Provisions. These USAID provisions are to be read and understood by the accepted applicants as they will be applied during the implementation of this intervention.

13. Can the well be located in a different plot than the greenhouses?

Answer: In such case, the applicant must have an official authorization letter such as a warranty paper (ورقة ضمان) from the landowner where the well is located for at least three upcoming years.

14. Could applicants choose any supplier they want?

Answer: Applicants are limited to choose only one supplier from the three pre-qualified suppliers that ARE is working with and provided in Annex B with all information to contact them.

15. When is the deadline for applications?

Answer: The deadline is on April 23, 2023, but applications will be accepted on a rolling basis and reviewed bi-monthly until the funds are exhausted and awards will be made on a first-come first-serve basis. Applicants are encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible (ASAP).

16. Are farmers that have high-tech and hydroponic systems (not typical greenhouses) qualified to this intervention?

Answer: If the hydroponic system covers the same area required for 10 to 35 greenhouses and produce vegetables as mentioned in the APS then farmer is qualified to apply.

17. Can the applicant who owns six presenting greenhouses with the plan of extending into more than 10 greenhouses to submit the application in response to the call and benefit from the support?

Answer: As listed in Section I.C Program Description of the published APS002 document, this intervention “prioritizes farmers that own between 10 and 35 greenhouses”, and all applications will be scored against the evaluation criteria found in the APS document Section 5 , also the interested applicants are encouraged to go thoroughly through the whole document to be aware of all eligibility and ineligibility criteria.