

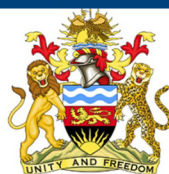


MODERN COOKING FOR HEALTHY FORESTS ACCELERATOR

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



The information sessions for forest friendly and landscape restoration enterprise and entrepreneurs will be conducted in Lilongwe, Salima, Dedza, Mzimba Mzuzu, and Nkhatabay.

Below are some of the envisaged FAQs. These have been developed to aid the preparedness of the team as experience has shown that these are some of the commonly asked questions when a project is rolling out.

1. What is the Modern Cooking for Healthy Forests in Malawi (MCHF) Accelerator Forest Friendly and Forest Landscape Restoration Challenge?

MCHF defines Forest Friendly and Forest Landscape Restoration enterprises as those enterprises that produce, process or otherwise add value to natural and/or agricultural products that can be produced at scale without risk of forest or land degradation. MCHF is an activity co-funded by USAID and UKAID, and is designed to promote sustainable forest management in Malawi and promote sustainable energy options to maintain forest cover and reduce land-based emissions. MCHF will help Malawi reduce unsustainable tree cutting in both public and customary forests, improve forest cover as well as conserve associated watersheds.

The MCHF Accelerator Forest Friendly and Forest Landscape Restoration Challenge has been introduced in order to identify, nurture and scale up selected forest friendly and land restoration businesses within the MCHF central landscape (which spans Dedza-Lilongwe-Salima), and the northern landscape (which spans Mzimba, Mzuzu and Nkhatabay). This may include but is not limited to enterprises that sustainably harvest/cultivate and commercialize natural products ; cultivate and commercialize tree crop; high value wood/alternative biomass; and last but not least, even woodlots for firewood

2. Who can apply?

Any person, group or cooperative with a business or idea of a business that is focused on forest friendly enterprises. For example, Honey, Moringa, Coffee, Essential Oils, High value timber, Macadamia, and Sunflower.

3. How does it work?

Applicants will be encouraged to send their applications via a web portal and/ or also through district community development office, either electronically or with a hard copy, after which a team of independent judges will select semifinalist. Selected finalists will go through a 6 months' acceleration program and receive trainings on how to scale up their businesses. Those who successfully complete acceleration program and the training may qualify for some matching grants or seed money of up to MK 3,750,000.00

4. Who is eligible to apply?

This is open to all Malawians entrepreneurs, particularly youth and women, and/ or any business registered in Malawi.

5. Is it for the districts where the information sessions are being held only?

Primarily, this is looking for entrepreneurs in MCHF targeted Districts, notably, Lilongwe, Dedza, Salima, Mzimba, Mzuzu and Nkhata Bay.

6. How will the applications be submitted?

These applications will be submitted directly either online at www.mchfaccelerator.com and by submitting hard copies distributed through the District Community Development Office for those who may not have access to electronic platforms.

8. When is the deadline for submission?

2nd July, 2021

9. Is there any fee to pay for applying?

No. Applications are free.

10. What are some of the things I should take note of when applying?

No. Applications are free. During your application please ensure that you respond to ALL mandatory questions.

11. How will the submitted applications be judged?

A team of independent judges have a criterion for selection. Some of the areas they will be focusing on are: ability to scale, market validation, sustainability of business and your business model.

12. How long will the programme run for?

This is a 6 months programme.

13. Who will be involved in selecting the winners?

A panel of independent judges will be conducting the reviewing of all applications.

14. What kind of support will each entrepreneur who has been selected receive?

The selected Entrepreneurs will receive both technical and advisory support and/or business development services. Some successful and promising entrepreneurs, especially those with the potential to scale activities more broadly within a selected landscape may, upon request, qualify for a matching grant of up to MK 3,750,000.00