****

**PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP INVESTMENT FUND**

**APPLICATION FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE**

The Local Food and Farm Council is dedicated to addressing the challenges confronting the farming and fishing sectors. Our Public-Private Investment Funding Partnership provides crucial financial assistance. By joining forces and making strategic investments, our goal is to equip farmers and fishers with the necessary resources for success. This endeavor is focused on promoting sustainability, boosting productivity, and fortifying the resilience of our Virgin Islands.

Together, we are forging a path toward a more prosperous future for agriculture, fostering growth and sustainability through collaborative partnerships. If additional space is required, kindly provide further details on a separate sheet and attach it to the application.

|  |
| --- |
| **Application Details** |
| Application Deadline: May 31, 2024 | Funding Decisions: July 31, 2024 |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Applicant Information:**
 |
| Full Name:       | Business Name:       |
| Mailing Address:       |
| Email Address:       | Telephone Number:       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Location:**

(Please indicate the island where your operations are based)  |
| [ ]  St. Croix | [ ]  St. Thomas | [ ]  St. John |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Funding Category:**

(Specify your profession or the type of funding you are pursuing. Select one)  |
| [ ]  Farmer  | [ ]  Fisher | [ ]  Other (Please specify)       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Investment Classification:**

(Choose the appropriate funding tier based on your business experience.)  |
| [ ]  [[1]](#footnote-1)Tier 1 Funding (Suitable for beginning farmers or fishers with 0 – 5 years of business experience) |
| [ ]  [[2]](#footnote-2)Tier 2 Funding (Designed for experienced farmers or fishers with five or more years of business experience) |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Amount of Investment Requested:**

(Select the requested funding amount or specify.) |
| For Tier 1 Applicants: | [ ]  $25, 000.00 | [ ]  $55,000.00 |
| [ ]  $35,000.00 | [ ]  Other (Please specify)       |
| For Tier 2 Applicants: | [ ]  $40,000.00 | [ ]  $75,000.00 |
| [ ]  $50,000.00 | [ ]  Other (Please specify)       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Government Funding Received:**
 |
| Have you received any other funding from government sources for your farming or fishing operations? This includes grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of financial assistance.  |
| [ ]  Yes | [ ]  No |
| If **Yes,** please provide the following details: | If No, please skip to section 7: |
| 6a. Source of Government Funding:  |       |
| 6b. Amount Received:  |       |
| 6c. Purpose of Government Funding:  |       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Type of Investment Requested:**

( Please provide further details on the type of Investment you are requesting. Select all that apply) |
| [ ]  Matching Grant Funds[[3]](#footnote-3) | Name of the Grant Provider: | Amount Received: |
| [ ]  IRS Formed Cooperative Funds[[4]](#footnote-4) | [ ]  Organizational Groups Fund[[5]](#footnote-5) |
| [ ]  Individual Farmer Funds[[6]](#footnote-6) | [ ]  Individual Fisher Funds[[7]](#footnote-7) |
| [ ]  Reimbursement for Equipment or Materials[[8]](#footnote-8) | Identify the Equipment or Materials:       |
| [ ]  Purchase of Equipment or Materials[[9]](#footnote-9) |
| [ ]  Other (Please specify)       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Purpose Explanation for your Investment:**

(Please briefly explain the purpose of your investment request.) |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Business Venture Overview:**

(Provide a concise overview of your farming or fishing venture, outlining its objective, activities, and anticipated outcomes) |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Investment Utilization Plan:**

 (Detail the planned allocation of investment funds, specifying how each portion will be utilized within your business venture (e.g., equipment procurement, land acquisition, technology, implementation, labor expenses, etc.) |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Impact:**

(Describe how the investment will positively affect your farming and fishing operations, including metrics like the number of products sold or expected to be sold, productivity enhancement, and sustainability measures.) |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Experience and Track Record:**

(Briefly outline your relevant business or individual experience, sales, and proven track record in managing ventures in the agricultural or fishery industries.) |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Accountability Measures:**

(Describe the mechanisms you will employ to ensure transparent and accountable utilization of the investment funds, including reporting procedures and internal controls.) |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Productivity:**

(Explain how these funds would contribute to increasing productivity in your farming or fishing operations)  |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Sustainability:**

(Describe how you intend to integrate sustainability practices into your farming or fishing operations to ensure long-term environmental and economic viability)  |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Projections/Timeline:**

(Provide a realistic timeline or projections for executing your business activities, including milestones and projected completion dates.)  |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Additional Information:**

(Include any supplementary materials or documentation that support your application and enhance its credibility.)  |
|       |

|  |
| --- |
| 1. **Agreement to Terms and Conditions:**

By affixing my signature below, I affirm that the information provided above is true and accurate. Additionally, I commit to furnishing all requisite documents, including tax records and business licenses, requested by the Local Food and Farm Council to evaluate my application fairly. If my application is approved, I understand that I must execute an agreement that may contain conditions and expectations for receiving the requested funds.  |
| Signature: | Date:      |

|  |
| --- |
| **Submission Details** |
| Please submit your completed to:vilocalfoodandfarmcouncil@doa.vi.gov | For inquiries or assistance:340-693-1003 |

*We appreciate your interest in our funding partnership initiative.*

1. *Funding provides support tailored to the needs of farmers or fishers starting out in their respective industries, offering resources and assistance to help establish or support initial startup businesses.* [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Funding offers assistance and resources to established farmers and fishers with a proven track record, aiding further growth and development initiatives.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. *Funds provided to match investments made by applicant aimed at promoting growth and sustainability.* [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Financial resources designated for cooperative ventures or projects formed in compliance with IRS regulations. These funds support collaborative initiatives within the agricultural or fishing sector, adhering to specific IRS guidelines for cooperative investments.*  [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. *Funding support designated for collective initiatives undertaken by organized groups within the farming or fishing sectors to facilitate the implementation of collective projects and initiatives to benefit the broader farmer or fishing community.* [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. *Funding tailored to meet the needs of individual farmers, addressing their unique challenges and requirements. These funds provide direct support to individual farmers to help them overcome obstacles, improve their operations, and achieve their goals within the agricultural sector. Funds requested to cover expenses incurred for essential equipment or materials vital to farming or fishing operations, purchased up to six months prior to the application date.* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. *Financial resources aimed at supporting individual fishers in their professional development and sustainability efforts within the fishing industry. These funds provide direct assistance to individual fishers to help them improve their practices, enhance their livelihoods, and contribute to the sustainability of the fishing sector.* [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. *Funds requested to cover expenses incurred for essential equipment or materials vital to farming or fishing operations, which were purchased within six months prior to the approval of the application date.* [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Funding allocated for acquiring e*ssential equipment or materials crucial for improving productivity and efficiency in farming or fishing endeavors. These purchases are planned to occur within six months following the approval of the application.* [↑](#footnote-ref-9)