

# ***Buy-In Mechanism***

## **Enhancing Growth through Regional Agricultural Input Systems (EnGRAIS) for West Africa Project**

The Feed the Future EnGRAIS project is a five-year (2018-2023), USAID-funded activity that seeks to *contribute to improved sustainable agricultural productivity for food security and inclusive growth for West Africans* through its strategic objective (SO) to *increase regional availability and use of appropriate and affordable fertilizers*. Under its base funding (\$10 million), EnGRAIS will focus on regional and limited piloting of in-country activities that have the potential to be adapted and scaled up for use across the ECOWAS sub-region. However, under its *IR4, Mobilizing commitment and harmonizing engagement from key stakeholders across West Africa supported by mission buy-ins*, EnGRAIS has the potential to obtain USAID bilateral mission buy-ins to focus on national-level needs that help meet its overall goal and SO.

### **Advantages over other Project Design Options:**

- **Wide Scope** – While proposed buy-in activities must fall within the scope of the overall EnGRAIS results framework (RF) and particularly IR4, these are both broad enough to encompass a wide array of desired fertilizer/inputs development activities.
- **Customized Indicators/Other Requirements** – Missions can establish their preferred sub-RF, indicators and other requirements for EnGRAIS buy-in activities.
- **Streamlined Process** – The West Africa Regional Mission (USAID/WA) Agreements Officer (AO) and Agreements Officer's Representative (AOR) require only an agreed statement of work (SOW) and a budget for consideration and approval of a buy-in.
- **Quick Processing/Approval** – Due to IFDC/EnGRAIS's current capacity and presence in the region, a buy-in could feasibly be awarded and activities started within weeks. Buy-ins require clearances/approvals only by the bilateral Mission and the USAID/WA AOR/AO, and are not subject to the new Senior Obligation Alignment Review (SOAR) requirements.
- **Global Development Alliances (GDAs)** – The EnGRAIS award supports/allows buy-ins to take the form of GDAs, thereby facilitating bilateral missions' ability to negotiate leverage with private sector partners.
- **Strong Linkages** – To the regional EnGRAIS program and its networks, facilitating synergistic activities, including collaboration on implementing regional policies and lessons learned in the national context, and connecting with and benefiting from the project's WAFA, CORAF and ECOWAS partnerships.

### **Mechanism Process:**

1. **Negotiate and agree** on SOW, budget and other bilateral mission requirements with EnGRAIS management;
2. **Submit** agreed buy-in package to USAID/WA AO and AOR for approval;
3. After approval, affect **fund transfer** to USAID/WA;
4. AO executes a within scope **modification** to existing EnGRAIS Cooperative Agreement; and
5. Following approval of the modification, USAID/WA and the mission authorize start of EnGRAIS buy-in **implementation**.