***Q1. If I am a cassava farmer in one of the districts but do have a company/not as yet but planning on that, can I apply?***

***A.*** *As part of the grantees eligibility criteria it is a requirement that applicants should be, formal entities that are registered legally in the district of operation.*

***Q2. What are the major focus areas of the grant?***

1. *To support innovative enterprises in the sesame and cassava value chain****s***
2. *To support growth-oriented actors in the cassava and sesame value chains*
3. *To promote local economic development by supporting businesses or enterprises that innovatively address the challenges that are faced by host communities and refugees*
4. *To link the supported enterprises to business development service providers to mentor them to improve on their business practices and access other potentials sources of finance to increase on their capital so as to better serve refugees and host communities in the target districts.*

***Q3. Is the experience restricted to 3 years only?***

***A.*** *Yes, the applicant enterprise must have been in existence for at least 3 years and be registered to operate in any of the 3 target districts. This gives an indicative level of assurance that the applicant has some experience in working with the local communities. Consideration will also been giving to entities with 2 years experience but with 2 years audited accounts.*

***Q4. Can an Organization based in Rhino camp composed of refugee and host community registered with sub county/district qualify if they don't have audited books of accounts?***

***A****. As indicated* *in*[*http://sites.google.com/view/agploutoslimited*](http://sites.google.com/view/agploutoslimited) *all other things being equal, preference will be given to proposals that:*

1. *demonstrate innovation in the sesame or cassava value chains*
2. *be able to create and increase economic opportunities and improve the livelihoods for either or/both host communities and refugees*
3. *have physical existence in either one or any the districts of Arua, Madi-okollo and Terego*

***Q5. Can funds under this call be applied to product development- e.g., incubating a new product within a value chain?***

***A****. Product incubation generally requires a lot of time before the final product can be tried and tested. The project life for this funding is 1 year to achieve results in any one or more of the 4 project objectives, a venture involving incubation may in most cases require more time than this.*

***Q6. How many entities are you likely to support with the grant?***

*A. The grant will support 10 entities with maximum of 30.000 USD per entity for a period of 1 year.*

***Q7. RUSDA as social enterprise works with cooperatives? We would like to know how the fund will help groups in VC and operational costs. Kindly give more information on operational costs considered.***

***A.*** *The expectation is that the enterprise is already operational and meeting its operational and administrative costs., the fund is to catalyze the growth of the value chain and benefit the populace in a sustainable way****.***

***Q8. We would like to know about the requirement for application.***

*A. Please go and log onto our website* [*http://sites.google.com/view/agploutoslimited*](http://sites.google.com/view/agploutoslimited) *for information on the project. You will find information on the project description, call for application documents and the application templates to be used.*

***Q9. Can an entity apply for both cassava and sesame value chains or are they restricted to only one?***

*A. Yes, however it is advisable to concentrate on one value chain to enable the applicant to achieve a holistic positive change in a particular chain unless you have justification to do so then you may consider different aspects of both value chains*

***Q10. Is the experience restricted to 3years only?***

*A. The years of experience is not limited to 3 it can be more but it should not be less than 3 years, it’s an average time to gauge whether the applicant is experience in the chosen value chain. Also special consideration can be giving to entities with 2 years’ experience but with potential to achieve the objective of the grants*

***Q11. Is the grant channeled towards new product development in the value chains?***

*A. The grant is not channeled towards a new product development, the applicant should be able to show that they have been engaged in activities along the chosen value chain and value addition is encouraged*

***Q12. Will the grant support be disbursed in time for the sesame season?***

*A. Yes, Sesame has 2 seasons and the funding will be disbursed in time.*

***Q13. Our company is within the cassava value chain but not in the target districts. Can we apply?***

*A. No, this grant funding is tailored to support innovative enterprise models/initiatives that have potential to increase economic opportunities and improve the livelihood of displaced persons and host communities in Arua, Madi-Okollo and Terego only and should be based in one of the proposed districts .*

***Q14. We are a non-profit NGO working with farmers in Arua. Can we be eligible for the grant?***

*A. No, Non-Governmental Organizations are not eligible; however, they may encourage their farmer entities to apply*

***Q15. Is there a way of knowing if our organization/consortium and our project idea/outline/concept fit your call****?*

*A. Please go and log onto our website in*[*http://sites.google.com/view/agploutoslimited*](http://sites.google.com/view/agploutoslimited) *for information on the project. You will find information on the project description, call for application documents and the application templates to be used.*

***Q16. How long will we have to complete a full proposal?***

***A.****Please submit you full detailed application of the proposed activity as per the stipulated e deadline for the call for proposal.*

***Q17. How long will it take to learn whether we will receive funding?***

*A. Following receipt applications and selection of grantees, all successful applicants will be informed in writing about project requirements including funds disbursement.*

***Q18. May you clarify the difference between expected results/outputs and deliverables?***

***A. Expected results/outputs*** *are results which are achieved immediately after implementing an activity. They are the short-term goals of the project e.g., 4000 farmers guaranteed access to new, higher-value equipment due to project intervention.*

***Whereas****;*

***Deliverables*** *are key program targets that must be met to qualify for initial or subsequent disbursements of project funds under the grant.*

***Q20. Clarify on Value Proposition and Business case of the proposal***

***A. Value proposition*** *explains how your product or service meets the current need/gap i.e., it communicates the “why” you should be awarded the grant in opposed to the other applicants. i.e., you work with 5000 farmers who will benefit from you installing a sesame cleaner through value addition to their sesame hence increase in incomes for them.*

***Whereas;***

***A business case*** *demonstrates the profitability of the business through the program. (push/pull interventions) after 12 months. If there is not a business case that generates profit after the intervention, there is unlikely to be any rationale for incentives and sustainability after 12 months****.***

***Q21. Do you expect us to consider cost-sharing of the project budget? If so, how much portion of the fund should we consider?***

***A*** *Yes, as part of the grantee eligibility criteria the applicant must show evidence of ability to provide counterpart funding of at least 30% own funds either in cash or in kind to implement the business model proposed.*

***Q22. Is there any budgeting regulations? We are wondering if we can include management cost into the budget, and how much portion of the budget should be used for operational cost.***

***A.*** *Yes,* t*he expectation is that the enterprise is already operational and meeting its operational and administrative costs., the fund is to catalyze the growth of the value chain and benefit the populace in a sustainable way.*

***Q23. Can this fund also BE used as working capital for buying Simsim or Cassava from rural farmers?***

1. *Yes, but it should be 15-20% of the total required grant is acceptable .We encourage successful grantees to use this as a leverage to access additional crop finance from financial institutions.*