ALLIANCE FOR COMMODITY TRADE IN EASTERN AND SOUTHERN AFRICA (ACTESA).

MARCHE COMMUN DE
L'AFRIQUE DE L'EST ET
AUSTRALE

السوق المشتركة للشرق
والجنوب الأفريقى

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MATCHING GRANTS UNDER THE COMESA EAC HORTICULTURE ACCELERATOR (CEHA).

The **Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA)**, a Specialized Agency of **COMESA**, through the **COMESA–EAC Horticulture Accelerator (CEHA)**, invites official applications from agribusinesses operating in **Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, and Rwanda** for Matching Grants aimed at accelerating the growth and sustainability of horticultural value chains. This call is issued under the **CEHA Matching Grant Facility Implementation and Award Modality (MGFIAM)**, designed to support innovative agribusiness projects that enhance smallholder farmer incomes, promote gender equity, foster climate-smart practices, and strengthen competitiveness within horticultural value chains across the region.

In addition to financial support, the programme offers tailored non-financial assistance, including business development services, value chain integration, and facilitation of market access.

GRANT DETAILS

- **Funding Range**: USD 50,000 to USD 100,000.
- **Matching Requirement**: Applicants must contribute a minimum of **50% of the total project cost**, in cash.

Successful applicants will also benefit from:

- **Business Development Support**: Training on business planning, financial management, and inclusive horticulture strategies;
- **Market Access and Partnerships**: Linkages with regional buyers, suppliers, and logistics providers;
- **Capacity Building**: Technical assistance to improve productivity, post-harvest handling, and food safety systems;
- **Investor Readiness**: Matchmaking with local and regional investors, as well as ongoing investment mentorship for select grantees.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To qualify, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. **Sector Focus**: Operate within the **potato, onion, or avocado value chain**, including production, processing, aggregation, or export;
2. **Geographic Scope**: Must operate within Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, or Rwanda.
3. **Commercial Viability**: Demonstrate financial soundness, operational sustainability, and a scalable business model aligned with CEHA objectives;
4. **Co-Investment Capacity**: Provide and demonstrate evidence of the availability of 50% cash contribution and commitment
5. **Social and Environmental Responsibility**: Comply with local regulations, labour and environmental standards, and demonstrate inclusion of women, youth, and climate-smart agricultural practices.

FOCUS AREAS

Projects must CEHA's strategic priorities:

- **Farmer Income Growth and Stability**: Contribute to the increase in small holder productivity and profitability.
- **Gender Equity**: Strengthen women's participation and empowerment in the horticulture value chain.
- **Climate Resilience**: Promote sustainable irrigation, resilient seed systems, and renewable energy use.
- **Market Development**: Strengthen market linkages, improve post-harvest handling, and enhance product quality and standards compliance.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

1. **Company Profile**: Institutional capacity and readiness to execute.
2. **Innovation**: Introduction of new products, technologies, or business models addressing sectoral challenges.
3. **Social and Economic Impact**: Job creation, income growth, and gender/youth inclusion.
4. **Environmental Sustainability**: Integration of eco-friendly, climate-smart solutions.
5. **Scalability and Sustainability**: Replicability and potential for long-term impact.
6. **Cost-Effectiveness**: Efficient and transparent resource utilization aligned with CEHA's objectives.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

- Activities already funded by other development partners.
- Administrative costs unrelated to the proposed project.
- Purchase of vehicles or non-project-specific equipment.
- Activities undertaken prior to grant approval.
- Payment of Salaries, personnel costs.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested businesses are encouraged to submit a comprehensive proposal that includes:

1. A detailed business plan outlining objectives, activities, and financial projections.
2. Evidence of a minimum 50% matching contribution.
3. Valid legal registration and compliance documentation.

This call targets enterprises in the **Irish Potato, Avocado, and Onion** value chains, each to be strengthened through robust business linkages and competitiveness across all nodes of the chain.
For consortium applications, a **Letter of Intent** signed by all members is required.
Templates for the short proposal and Letter of Intent are available for download.

Submission Deadline: **14th January 2026, 17:00 hrs EAT.**

Submission Process:

Email: Applications should be submitted to Tenders@comesa.int
Please copy NMunalula@comesa.int

Guidelines and application templates can be accessed via the **COMESA** and **ACTESA** websites or obtained from the **CEHA National Chapter offices** in the target countries.