



INTERNATIONAL COFFEE ORGANIZATION  
ORGANIZACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DEL CAFÉ  
ORGANIZAÇÃO INTERNACIONAL DO CAFÉ  
ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE DU CAFÉ

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Projects Committee/  
International Coffee Council  
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London, United Kingdom

**Building a Financial Literacy Toolbox to  
enhance access to commodity finance for  
sustainable SMEs in emerging economies**

**Fast Track**

## **Background**

1. This document, submitted by the Finance Alliance for Sustainable Trade (FAST), contains the summary of a new project proposal designed to increase access to finance for sustainable agriculture producers and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) by improving producer and SME financial and accounting management capacity.
2. The proposal will be forwarded to the Virtual Screening Subcommittee (VSS) for an evaluation and will be considered by the Projects Committee in March 2012.

## **Action**

The Projects Committee is requested to consider this proposal as well as the recommendations of the VSS and, if appropriate, to recommend its approval by the Council.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

<b>Project Title:</b>	Building a Financial Literacy Toolbox to enhance access to commodity finance for sustainable SMEs in emerging economies
<b>Duration:</b>	15 months

### Project deliverables

1. The essential methodology will include steps to identify the financial and training needs and limitations of the sustainable SMEs in East Africa, through exchanges with technical service providers, partners of FAST operating in the region. The identification of these needs will guide the research and analysis of existing, publicly available materials, including FAST systematization on SMEs access to finance through FAST Financial Fairs (FFF) and the already available financial glossary on the FAST website<sup>1</sup>. From that FAST will be able to produce a concrete and adapted set of criteria and requirements for SMEs to access finance.
2. The proposed materials will form a 'first module' of the Financial Literacy Toolbox (FLTBX), which will be suitable for basic financial literacy training in preparation for requesting credit in the frame of FAST Financial Fairs<sup>®</sup>, and will be made available in English. The contents will also be tailored and adopted for the particular characteristics of the coffee sector in Africa, with a view of upgrading and adapting the contents to other regions, commodities and languages in the future.
3. The main deliverables of the project are:
  - a) Financial Literacy Toolbox: 'First Module': Basic Criteria and Requirements for SMEs in the Coffee Sector to Access Finance, in English. The training materials will be available online at FAST's website: <http://www.fastinternational.org>.

As the concept and the FAST Financial Fair<sup>®</sup> and the Financial Literacy Toolbox are its properties, FAST will contribute its copyrighted materials as an in-kind counterpart contribution to the project.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://marketplace.fastinternational.org/en/resource/glossary>

- b) A workshop for trainers in February 2012: The preparatory workshop will take place in Ethiopia during the 9<sup>th</sup> African Fine Coffee Conference and Exhibition of the Eastern African Fine Coffees Association (EAFCA).
- c) FFF in 2013: sustainable agriculture producers/SMEs will be prepared by trainers who attended training sessions held in the training workshop in Ethiopia.

### **Project timeline**

4. FAST has prepared the following timeline to complete the development of the tool, training workshop, and future FAST Financial Fair<sup>®</sup> organization within 15 months. The activities contributing to the project are divided into four components sections to ensure an effective completion of the tasks.

### **Tentative Project budget**

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Cost in US\$</b>
Development of a Financial Literacy Toolbox 'First Module'	15,000.00
CFC and ICB Monitoring	15,000.00
Organization of a workshop in East Africa in early 2012: 'Training for Trainers' who will train the sustainable SMEs	20,000.00
Organization of a FAST Financial Fair <sup>®</sup> in 2013 in East Africa with the trained sustainable SMEs support by trainers who participated to the 2012 workshop	70,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120,000.00</b>