

## REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

**Issuance Date:** Feb 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Closing Date:** March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Subject:** **Request for Applications-RFA-The SMAC Project-01-02**  
Encourage the Localization of seed production by promoting Quality Declared Seeds (QDS) through Local Seeds Businesses (LSBs).

**Reference:** Issued Under Caritas Switzerland (CACH) funded Strengthening Market Actors and Communities through Market Systems Development implemented by SPARK

### Introduction

Strengthening Market Actors and Communities (SMAC) is a 15-month project funded by Caritas Switzerland from August 2023 to October 2024. The SMAC Project will be implemented through a Market System Development (MSD) approach. In poor and fragile contexts such as South Sudan, vulnerable people often cannot reap the benefits of market systems, e. g. they do not have access to the market, they are in weak negotiation positions, or they cannot enforce or influence the rules. Even if the poorest gain access to markets, their participation in the economic system does not necessarily equal an exit from poverty. With the MSD approach, SPARK, as an implementing organization, will contribute to system change through a focus on creating incentives and influencing the behaviours of market participants. In this project, SPARK will enable actors who are already participating in the market system (e. g. input suppliers) to enhance their services or products (e. g. provide services) to address the underlying problems that exist in the market system and that negatively affect the farming communities

Through this Request for Applications (RFA), the SMAC project seeks to identify and partners with a consulting firm (s)/Seeds company (ies)/organization(s) with experience in building the capacity of LSBs in production and marketing of QDS identify and partner with processors, and/or any market actors in the bee honey value chain to promote the. The private agribusiness will contribute towards the production and marketing of Quality Declared Seeds by LSBs to improve productivity of the smallholder farmers.

SPARK intends to provide milestone-based performance awards to at least 2 eligible companies/agribusiness/market actors (for-profit organizations) with awards up to a maximum amount of USD 50,000 each. The expected duration of the SMAC project support or the period of performance is 10 months. **SPARK, as a primary implementer reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted.** Interested applicants should send a request for the detailed RFA documents to the email: [SMAC\\_partnership@spark-online.org](mailto:SMAC_partnership@spark-online.org), subject line: **RFA-The SMAC Project-01-02**