

Luxembourg, 12 November 2020

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	AVRIL RDI PROGRAMME
Project Number:	2019-0349
Country:	FRANCE
Project Description:	The project will finance the promoter's Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) efforts targeting the development and production of protein for food and feed applications from oilseed crop, as well as bio-based materials substituting fossil source for chemical use.
EIA required:	no
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	no

Environmental and Social Assessment

The operation concerns the funding of the promoter's Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) activities over the period between 2020 and 2022 in the context of the promoter's on-going competitiveness strategy. The project includes (i) the identification of innovative application of oilseed crop and bio-based materials, new products and process developments, as well as related RDI investments, (ii) a first-of-a-kind innovative crushing unit to process rapeseed.

Environmental Procedures and Permits:

The RDI programme will be carried out within existing RDI facilities and production plants located in Europe (France, Belgium and Germany), that all hold an operational permit granted by the competent authorities.

The programme includes RDI activities that do not fall under the EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU and it is therefore not expected that the competent authorities will conclude that a significant modification of the environmental nor operational permits triggering complementary assessments is required.

If successful, the programme may result in RDI investments such as limited scale pilot and commercial upscale units that are generally covered by the environmental and operational permits of the facilities where they are imbedded. The promoter will undertake to provide to the satisfaction of the bank the relevant assessment reports and permits before the start of the construction.

The programme also comprises the construction and implementation of a first-of-a-kind innovative crushing unit to process rapeseed as well as extract proteins, and includes a wastewater treatment plant and a biogas production plant of 125 NM3 capacity. The site is located in a waterfront-industrial park in Dieppe (France), outside a Natura 2000 area, and has been screened-out by the local authorities in March 9th 2020; the site is classified as

¹ Only projects that meet the scope of the Pilot Exercise, as defined in the EIB draft Carbon Footprint Methodologies, are included, provided estimated emissions exceed the methodology thresholds: above 20,000 tons CO2e/year absolute (gross) or 20,000 tons CO2e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

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“Installations Classées pour la Protection de l’Environnement” (ICPE) and holds an operational permit granted by the “Prefet” in July the 24th 2020.

A significant proportion of the RDI efforts will be dedicated to the creation, development of innovative and sustainable bio-based material. If successful, the project will therefore bring about substantial externalities in the areas of Environmental Protection (reduced environmental footprint of agricultural activities) and Climate Resilience.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The RDI activity of Oleochemistry may use palm oil or its derivatives (e.g. crude glycerine), the promoter’s sustainable policy adheres with recognized international certification schemes, RSPO, or ISCC-EU.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Disbursement conditions

None

Undertakings

The Promoter shall inform the Bank about any change/modification/extension of the project that could trigger an EIA-IED permitting process, following EIA directive 2014/52/EU, amending 2011/92/EU and IED directive 2010/75/EU and submit the relevant assessment reports and permits to the satisfaction of the Bank before the start of the construction. If not satisfactory, the Promoter may be required to substitute project components, with the non-objection of the Bank or exclude them from the project scope.

Subject to the above-mentioned contractual conditions, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.