

Luxembourg, 22.07.24

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GROPPER Production modernisation
Project Number:	2023-0485
Country:	Germany
Project Description:	<i>The operation concerns the modernisation of productive and storage capacities of a German family-owned dairy company, over the period 2023-2026.</i>

EIA required: no

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: no

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The project is in line with the promoter's strategic focus on increasingly sustainable and efficient production and logistics throughout its operations to secure its competitiveness, including in the processing and placing on the market of labelled milk for bio and animal welfare certification schemes. The project includes activities related to i) the modernisation of existing facilities (to increase resource efficiency and reduce dependence on fossil fuels), and ii) to the construction and operation of an automated cold storage high-bay warehouse (to reduce road traffic in increasing the capacity of an existing cold storage facility at the production site and replacing two distant cold storage facilities).

The project will be implemented on two existing industrial sites with existing environmental and operating permits. Local authorities have screened out both projects and they therefore do not fall under Directive 2014/52/EU, amending 2011/92/EU.

As NATURA 2000 protected sites are present in radius of less than 5 km distance of each production sites, they are considered as being located in areas of critical habitat. The net positive impact of the project activities is due to the reduction of road traffic and logistic handling, and of the fossil fuel consumption and air pollution compared to the actual situation.

The promoter's activities are related to milk processing and do not entail an increase in production capacity. The modernisation of production will help securing the competitiveness of the Promoter and therefore support rural employment and allow producers to invest in environmental and animal welfare friendly practices, as supported by the promoter.

Following the EIB Carbon footprint methodology, the relative GHG emissions of the project before implementation are 4.4 kt CO₂-eq/y. The reduction of transport and the replacement of the natural gas by self-produced electricity offset these GHG emissions, leading to a relative emission of -4.4 kt CO₂-eq/y.

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



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The project has been assessed for Paris alignment. It is aligned with both low carbon and resilience of the policies set out in the Paris alignment framework – Low carbon v1.1 and particularly the table E, bioeconomy, maximising resource efficiency along the value chain from farm to fork.

EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty, Molkerei Gropper, is in scope and screened out of the PATH framework, because it is not considered high emitting or high vulnerability.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

In accordance with the promoter environmental management system certification for EMAS III and ISO 14 001 implementation, its impact on the environment is monitored, its footprint is constantly reduced, and It regularly publishes an environmental statement, including a sustainability report.

The energy management system is certified according to ISO 50 001 and the promoter is having several organic certifications as EC ECO regulation 2018/848, Bioland, Naturland, and the Bavarian organic seal.

The promoter food production system is compliant with BAT. Its food safety system is certified for IFS and BRC.

The promoter is also certified for the animal welfare label “Für Mehr Tierschutz” as he is purchasing and processing milk from certified farmers for animal welfare schemes.

The Promoter also developed its decarbonisation plan and will publicly disclose a new or updated alignment plan by end of 2024. The promoter is commitment since 2022 to the Science Based Target initiative and was setting its targets in 2023.

The Promoter is also certified ISO 45 001 for its safety and occupational management system.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Considering the overall positive effects of the project on the environment and considering the capacities of the promoter to manage its environmental, climate and social aspects, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in E&S terms.

Information request: Communicate its corporate sustainability report in accordance with EU legislation, including its environmental risk management.