

Luxembourg, 16 June 2025

Public

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	<i>SODIAAL RDI PROGRAMME II</i>
Project Number:	<i>2024-0484</i>
Country:	<i>France</i>
Project Description:	Supporting the research, development, and innovations activities of Sodiaal dairy cooperative in France related to (i) the development of the promoter's portfolio of innovative dairy products, (ii) additional applications of existing ingredients and (iii) support the decarbonisation of milk producers.
EIA required:	No
Invest EU sustainability proofing required	Yes
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise:	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

Environmental Assessment

The operation includes financing a Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) programme aimed at acquiring new knowledge, improving production processes, enhancing products formulation and packaging. The outcome of the RDI activities is to support the market launch of new dairy products perceived as healthier, in sustainable packaging, with a reduced environmental footprint.



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Environmental Procedures and Permits:

All project activities are taking place in existing facilities having the required authorisation for the operations. According to EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU; the project does not require an EIA or the modifications of an existing EIA.

Climate Assessment

Climate change mitigation – The Promoter is a dairy processing cooperative that supplies milk from its farmers' members and processes it into drinking milk, yoghurt, cheese, cream, butter and whey protein concentrate. As such the counterparty is not directly involved in primary livestock production activities. SODIAAL has committed to decarbonisation targets aligned with the Science Based Target Initiative (SBTI) for both its own processing operations and for its dairy supply chain. It is expected that, if successful, some of the RDI activities supported by the project might lead to GHG emissions reductions at dairy factory and farm level.

Climate change adaptation: The counterparty was screened in for “high vulnerability” given the potential impact of climate change on the milk production sector and the potential impact of the counterparty on climate change vulnerability. SODIAAL has recognized several chronic and acute physical climate risks and is implementing adaptation activities to mitigate them. Identified risks are related to drought and heat waves affecting the wellbeing of dairy animals, storage of products, and the fodder supply chain. Adaptation measures include improved pasture management and ventilation for animal welfare, promotion of on-farm fodder production, improved chilling technology for dairy product storage, in combination with special training for farm consultants to train farmers in adaptation solutions. The counterparty has also implemented a water efficiency target for its dairy processing operations.

Paris Alignment of projects: EIB Paris Alignment for Counterparties (PATH) Framework

The counterparty is in scope and screened in the PATH framework, because it is considered high vulnerability.

The counterparty meets the requirements of the EIB PATH framework with its existing alignment plans.

Social Assessment

The project will contribute to secure some 159 existing FTE in RDI activities and is expected to create further 38 new jobs.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter facilities are certified for the following international schemes: FCA (Feed Chain Alliance Standard), previously GMP+ (Good Manufacturing Practices+), FSSC 22000 (Food Safety System), BRC (British Retail Consortium) Standard for Food Safety, ISO 9001 (Quality), ISO 14001 (environment), and OHSAS 18001 (health and safety hygiene security). These certifications are integrated into the quality management system corresponding to EIB's E&S standards.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Sustainability proofing

The project is carried out in compliance with applicable national and EU environmental and social legislation. Based on the environment, climate and social (ECS) information the project



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is deemed to have low residual ECS risks and impacts. No further sustainability proofing is required.

Disbursement condition

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 to the Bank.

The Promoter shall maintain its commitment to science-based decarbonisation targets and implement the necessary measures to achieve the targeted levels of decarbonisation.

Conclusion

The RDI project is not expected to bring about any negative environmental effects and if successfully implemented the supported RDI programme will result in indirect environmental benefits and more sustainable food production. Subject to the above-mentioned contractual conditions, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.