

Luxembourg, 16 April 2018: MC meeting (no Board meeting)

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name:	GROUPES ROULLIER RDI PROGRAMME FINANCING
Project Number:	(2017-0960)
Countries:	France, Spain, Italy
Project Description:	Financing the research activities of the Promoter mainly in France related to (i) enhancement of the promoter's portfolio of plant and animal nutrition products, (ii) the development of additional applications, and (iii) the optimization of the industrial process.
EIA required:	No
Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise ¹ :	No

Environmental and Social Assessment

The operation concerns an investment program comprised of Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) activities in the context of the promoter's on-going competitiveness strategy. The project includes the identification of novel active ingredient and nutrient absorption mechanism, new products and process developments, as well as related RDI capital expenditures.

Environmental Procedures and Permits:

The RDI program will be carried out within existing R&D facilities and, to a lower extent, in production plants in France, Spain and Italy, and will neither involve the construction of new, nor the modification of the existing RDI centres. Therefore, these activities are not expected to require an EIA according to EU Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU.

Some of the RDI related capital expenditures will be implemented within the existing facilities and are not expected to fall under annex II of the EIA Directive 2014/52/EU amending Directive 2011/92/EU.

Under French law, the sites concerned by the programme fall under the provision of the EIA Directives and IED², for "Installations Classées pour la Protection de l'Environnement" (ICPE) and hold valid environmental and operation permits approved by the "préfet". Due to the technical characteristics of the foreseen investments (RDI investments within existing fully equipped facilities), it is not expected that the competent authorities will conclude that a significant modification of the environmental nor operational permits triggering complimentary assessments are required.

If successful, the newly developed products and processes are expected to have positive effects on the environment and contribute to a more sustainable agriculture.

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 100 000 tons CO₂e/year absolute (gross) or 20 000 tons CO₂e/year relative (net) – both increases and savings.

² Industrial Emissions Directive.

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Social Assessment, where applicable

The project will contribute to secure 8 000 existing jobs in the company, including 200 FTE in Research, Development and Innovation activities. During implementation, the project is estimated to provide 844 person-years of employment. In addition, it will create 17 new jobs in RDI.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

The French legislation foresees, for all projects falling under the category “Installations Classées pour la Protection de l’Environnement” (ICPE), to inform the public, associations and local authorities of any substantial modification of existing permits through the publication of an impact assessment defined under the French Environment Code.

Other Environmental and Social Aspects

The promoter facilities are based on the highest international and EU standards and are certified under various international schemes, such as FCA (Feed Chain Alliance Standard), previously GMP+ (Good Manufacturing Producer+), Feed certification, in compliance with FAMI QS code (Feed Hygiene Regulation), ISO 9001 (Quality), ISO 14001 (environment), and OHSAS 18001 (health and safety hygiene security) are integrated into the quality system. The procedures are reviewed and audited – and if necessary revised – each year to ensure the system always reflects the latest knowledge and insights.

Parts of the products developed by GROUPE ROULLIER require a registration or a provisional authorisation for sale as fertilisers and conform either to the regulation (EC) No2003/2003, to national regulations or to a mandatory French NFU standard. The animal feed production has to be registered and in compliance with the regulation (EC) No 37/2009 and (EC) No 183/2005. For those purposes, the Promoter commissions development and registration activities to trusted service companies for the realisation of studies required by the regulatory authorities. A list of these companies has been provided, along with the corresponding GLP³ certification and, where applicable, GEP⁴ permits for experimental field studies. They operate in compliance with the relevant EU legislation.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Disbursement condition

None

Undertakings

The Promoter shall inform the Bank about any change/modification/extension of the project that could trigger an EIA-IPPC 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.

Conclusion

The project is not expected to bring about any negative environmental effects and will result in indirect environmental benefit, such as GHG emission savings and more sustainable

³ Good Laboratory Product

⁴ Good Experimental Practice: the management of efficacy evaluation trials.

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agriculture and development of products with enhanced fertilizer efficiency and biostimulant activity. Considering all the measures put in place by the Promoter to ensure that the project complies with EU and national environmental legislation, subject to the above-mentioned disbursement condition and undertakings, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.