

Environmental and Social Data Sheet

Overview

Project Name: SODIAAL RDI IN DAIRY ACTIVITIES
Project Number: 2017-0565
Country: FRANCE
Project Description: Supporting the research 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) the adaptation of the industrial process.

EIA required: No

Project included in Carbon Footprint Exercise¹: 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 innovative application of milk ingredients, new products and process developments, as well as related RDI capital expenditures.

Environmental Procedures and Permits:

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".

The RDI program will be carried out within existing R&D facilities and production plants in France, and will neither involve the construction of new, nor the modification of the existing RDI facilities. These activities do not normally require an EIA according to 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 complimentary assessments is 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.

Social Assessment, where applicable

The project will contribute to secure some 185 existing FTE in Research, Development and Innovation activities. In addition, it will create 27 new jobs in RDI.

Public Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement

French legislation foresees that all projects falling under the ICPE category require public information sessions for stakeholder including, 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 operated according to EU standards and are certified under various international schemes, such as FCA (Feed Chain Alliance Standard), previously GMP+ (Good Manufacturing Practices+), FSSC 22000 (Food Safety System) or BRC (British Retail Consortium) Standard for Food Safety, ISO 9001 (Quality), ISO 14001 (environment), and OHSAS 18001 (health and safety hygiene security) are integrated into the quality system. Certification scheme is foreseen to be 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 SODIAAL require a registration and/or conformity either with the regulation (EC) No 852/2004 on the hygiene of foodstuffs or to a mandatory French NFU standard. For those purposes, the Promoter commissions development and registration activities and studies required by regulatory authorities to trusted service companies for the realisation of studies.

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-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.

Conclusion

The RDI project is not expected to bring about any negative environmental effects and if successfully implemented many RDI programs may result in indirect environmental benefit, such as GHG emission savings and more sustainable agriculture. Subject to the above mentioned contractual conditions, the project is acceptable for EIB financing in environmental and social terms.