



DFCD Project Snapshot

Supporting climate-resilient and traceable agricultural supply chains in Benin

July 2026

Name of client	MM Lekker
Website	www.mmlekker.com
Region	West Africa
Country	Benin
Sector	Agriculture – sourcing and trading of agricultural commodities
Project duration	September 2026 - September 2027
Confirmed financing	€150,000 grant from the DFCD Origination Facility €50,000 (MM Lekker co-financing: €30,000 cash + €20,000 in-kind)
Anticipated finance leveraged	~€2 million debt financing

Who is our (prospective) client?

MM Lekker is a Beninese agribusiness company established in 2022 and headquartered in Abomey-Calavi. The company sources and aggregates soybeans, cashew nuts, shea nuts and other agricultural commodities through a network of more than 5,000 smallholder farmers across Northern Benin.

Operating in a least developed country context characterised by significant agricultural potential and growing climate vulnerability, MM Lekker is helping strengthen links between smallholder producers and an increasingly sophisticated domestic agro-processing industry. Its business model combines direct sourcing, aggregation, quality control, warehousing and logistics services, supplying a range of local and regional processors.

Over the past three years, the company has experienced rapid commercial growth and has successfully accessed external working capital finance to support the expansion of its sourcing network. MM Lekker is now entering a new phase of development focused on strengthening the sustainability, resilience and traceability of its sourcing model while preparing for future investment and growth.

Why do we fund this project?

Northern Benin is becoming increasingly vulnerable to climate change. Rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, declining soil fertility and post-harvest losses are reducing agricultural productivity and increasing risks for rural livelihoods and food security. Smallholder farmers often have limited access to advisory services, climate information, quality inputs and finance, reducing their ability to adapt to changing climatic conditions.

At the same time, buyers, processors and investors are placing greater emphasis on traceability, responsible sourcing and strong environmental and social standards throughout agricultural supply chains.

MM Lekker has already piloted climate-resilient sourcing approaches with approximately 1,000 soybean farmers, generating encouraging results in the adoption of improved agricultural practices including the use of certified seeds, improved soil fertility management and timely weeding, as well as improved post-harvest practices such as proper drying, storage and quality management. The next challenge is to translate these early results into a practical and scalable sourcing model capable of benefiting thousands more farmers while meeting growing market and investor expectations.

Supporting businesses operating in least developed and climate-vulnerable markets such as Benin is central to DFCD's mandate to mobilise private investment for climate adaptation and resilience.

What is the intended funding objective?

The DFCD Origination Facility aims to support MM Lekker in building a more climate-resilient, traceable and investment-ready sourcing model capable of supporting future growth and investment.

While MM Lekker sources several agricultural commodities, the project will initially focus on strengthening the soybean value chain, which represents the company's main sourcing activity and offers the greatest opportunity to improve productivity, climate resilience and supply chain performance.

The project focuses on three complementary priorities:

- Designing and testing a **climate-resilient farmer advisory model** for soybean producers to improve productivity, resilience and post-harvest management – including harvesting at the right maturity stage, drying, storage, and quality management.
- **Digitalising farmer data and traceability** through the MM Lekker Connect platform, strengthening farmer profiling & management, supply chain transparency and operational efficiency.
- Strengthening **Environmental, Social and Gender (E&S/GESI)** systems to promote responsible sourcing and improve investment readiness.

Together, these activities will strengthen MM Lekker's sourcing model, improve supply chain resilience and position the company to mobilise larger commercial and climate finance investments.



The grant will support:

Milestone 1 – Climate-resilient farmer advisory services

- Develop a practical climate-resilient soybean production package adapted to local conditions.
- Establish 3–4 demonstration plots in key sourcing areas.
- Design and test a scalable extension model with approximately 200–400 soybean farmers.
- Improve post-harvest management and product quality management.

Milestone 2 – MM Lekker Connect Digital Platform

- Develop and operationalise the MM Lekker Connect platform.
- Digitally register an initial cohort of at least 1,000 farmers.
- Strengthen digital traceability, farmer profiling and system adoption.

Milestone 3 – Environmental, Social and Gender (E&S/GESI) strengthening

- Conduct an E&S and GESI assessment.
- Develop an E&S/GESI improvement roadmap and action plan.
- Build internal capacity and integrate ESG indicators into MM Lekker Connect.

What are the expected impacts of the company from 2027?

The intended impacts will be measured from 2027 onwards, allowing sufficient time for the Origination Facility activities to be implemented and for MM Lekker to progressively scale its sourcing model across Northern Benin.

The project is expected to contribute to:

- Expansion of MM Lekker's sourcing network from approximately 5,000 farmers today to between 15,000–25,000 farmers.
- A practical climate-resilient farmer advisory model successfully tested with 200–400 farmers, ready for wider deployment.
- Three to four demonstration plots showcasing climate-resilient agriculture, improved soil management and post-harvest practices.
- Registration of at least 1,000 farmers through MM Lekker Connect, providing the foundation for digital traceability and improved supply chain management.
- Increased adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, leading to higher productivity (15–25%), a 10–15% reduction in post-harvest losses and a more reliable, higher-quality supply of agricultural commodities.
- Stronger Environmental, Social and Gender (E&S/GESI) systems aligned with investor requirements and responsible sourcing standards.
- Mobilisation of approximately EUR 2 million in near-term commercial financing, with the potential to unlock additional working capital and longer-term investment as the business scales.



Environmental and social rationale

The project is expected to generate positive climate, social and environmental outcomes while strengthening MM Lekker's ability to manage risks associated with agricultural supply chains.

Climate adaptation

The project promotes climate-resilient agriculture, improved soil fertility management, better post-harvest practices and stronger farmer advisory services, helping smallholder farmers adapt to increasing climate variability and strengthening the resilience of agricultural supply chains.

Food security and rural livelihoods

By improving productivity, reducing losses and strengthening market access, the project contributes to more resilient rural livelihoods and improved food security in vulnerable agricultural communities.

Social inclusion

Women currently represent approximately 31% of MM Lekker's producer network but continue to face barriers in access to productive resources and services. The project will strengthen the participation of women and youth through improved access to advisory services, digital tools, and more inclusive sourcing practices.

Environmental sustainability

By improving productivity on existing farmland and promoting responsible sourcing and digital traceability, the project will help reduce pressure on land expansion while supporting more sustainable agricultural production systems.

Alignment with DFCD

Classified as Rio Marker 2 (Climate Adaptation), the project contributes to more climate-resilient agricultural value chains, improved rural livelihoods and increased investment in sustainable agriculture.

Contact us

For more information and if you want to share any confidential information you may have regarding the intended project or company, please contact:

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 Dutch Fund for Climate and Development