

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## ABOUT SL-ACCELERATOR

SLAccelerator is the SME Technical Assistance Facility of the Sierra Leone Agro Processing Competitiveness Project (SLAPCP), a Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) of the Government of Sierra Leone (GoSL) project financed by the World Bank. SLAPCP focusses on providing solutions to key market failures inhibiting competitiveness of the agro-processing sector and limiting firms and SMEs' productivity in Sierra Leone.

SL-Accelerator's flagship cohort-based program is a 10-12 months business accelerator program for agro-processing businesses in Sierra Leone. The program is two-phased including:

- A first phase (6 months) of formalization, business model development, customer traction and investment readiness through BDS training, coaching, mentoring, peer learning, networking and linkage building; and,
- A second phase (4-6 months) of matching-grant competition, award and implementation (with a phased, performance based, disbursement).

## Deadline

Apply until **February 15, 2021, 23:00hrs GMT** by sending your completed form to [info@slagcelerator.org](mailto:info@slagcelerator.org) or hand delivered to the project office at **19 Liverpool Street, Freetown** (or a regional drop-off point to be communicated during regional marketing events).

**Any submission after the deadline will not be considered.**

## Selection

After the first evaluations in late January, if shortlisted to the second rounds, we will contact you for a brief interview to discuss your application. The final results for cohort-one selection will be announced in late **February 2021**.

### 1.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To apply for admission into SLAccelerator's Principal Cohort-Based Programme, an enterprise **MUST** meet the following set criteria as a minimum requirement:

- ✓ SME applicant must be a for-profit private registered entity in Sierra Leone.
- ✓ SME owner (in the case of a partnership, the majority shareholder) must be a citizen or legal permanent resident of Sierra Leone, with the project operated in Sierra Leone.
- ✓ The core business of the SME must be agro-processing. *Agro-processing is defined as the addition of value to raw or semi-processed agricultural produce/material cultivated in Sierra Leone (crops, livestock, poultry, fisheries, apiculture, forestry) through product transformation; post-harvest cleaning, grading, sorting and packaging; storage and distribution.*
- ✓ Applicant must have a fully developed and marketed product.
- ✓ Applicant must not have contravened any existing laws in the conduct of their business.
- ✓ Applicants with a verified history of non-performance and/or fraud on grant-funding from other programs will be automatically disqualified.

### NOTE:

- *Institutions with any shareholding by Government or other state institutions are excluded from participation.*
- *Women-led and women-owned enterprises are particularly encouraged to apply.*