

GUIDELINES FOR SME DEVELOPMENT SCHEME CERTIFICATE

This scheme applies to Companies, Cooperative Societies and Individuals.

1. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION

To be eligible for the Scheme, an entrepreneur should meet the following criteria:

- (a) His/her enterprise should have been either (i) incorporated as a small company under the Companies Act, **or (ii) formed as a Cooperative Society, or (iii) an individual issued a Business Registration Card; on or after 2 June 2015** and registered under the SME Act 2017;
- (b) the project value should not exceed Rs 20 Million;
- (c) the projected annual turnover should not exceed Rs 50 Million;
- (d) none of the shareholders of the Company/ members of the Cooperative Society should hold interest/share in any other entity having an Annual Turnover at individual or group level exceeding Rs 50 Million; and
- (e) the Company/ Cooperative society/Individual should be involved in any one of the following priority sectors:
 - (i) ICT and other Export Services, preferably engaged in activities such as, mobile applications development, websites development and software development.
 - (ii) Manufacturing (production, transformation and processing, excluding trading, assembly and service activities).
 - (iii) Aqua-culture and other value added Ocean Economy related activities.
 - (iv) Renewable and Green Energy (production, transformation and processing, excluding trading, assembly and service activities).
 - (v) Handicraft (locally manufactured)
 - (vi) Bio-farming and other value added Agri-Business such as
 - Crop production in open-field/under sheltered farming systems, to include perennial/non-perennial crops (fruits, ornamentals, spices, medicinal plants)
 - Sheltered aquaponics/hydroponics
 - Bee-Keeping (production of honey, bee wax and other associated products)
 - Breeding of farm animal: Cattle, goats, sheep, pig, rabbit
 - Production of breeding stock
 - Rearing of birds for meat and eggs: Chicken, duck, turkey, geese
 - Support services to Crop/Livestock Production (installation/ rehabilitation of greenhouses, maintenance of orchards, spraying, land preparation, provision of mechanical facilities for harvesting, pruning of fruit trees, cleaning of livestock farm)

- Production of planting material (Fruits, vegetables, ornamentals excluding turf and lawn)
- Post-harvest activities (cleaning, trimming, grading, disinfection, packaging for market, including provision of ripening services)
- Transport and marketing of agricultural produce
- Silviculture, including forest tree nurseries
- Fresh water and marine aquaculture
- Processing and manufacture of food products (fish, crustaceans, meat, dairy, vegetables, fruits, spices)
- Distillation of essential oils
- Manufacture of animal feeds
- Agro-Tourism
- Production of fodder

2. FISCAL & NON FISCAL INCENTIVES

A SME Development Scheme Certificate will be issued to a Company or a Cooperative society or an Individual meeting the eligibility criteria and having shown proof that the required financing has been secured.

Holders of the SME Development Scheme Certificate will be eligible for the following incentives and facilities:

- (a) Income tax holiday for the first 8 years and other tax concessions.
- (b) Business support solutions from SME Mauritius.
- (d) Fast-track mechanism for obtaining permits and licences.
- (e) MauBank SME Financing Scheme which are as follows:
 - (i) Interest rate (Key Repo Rate less 1.0%), **currently 2.5% for the first 4 years.**
 - (ii) A maximum of 90% project financing with maturity of up to 10 years. However, the entity must provide evidence of 10% own finance. This can be in terms of cash in hand or in bank, immovable assets (land and building), equipment already purchased.
 - (iii) As part of the Special Grant, an amount of up to Rs 10,000 may be allocated for the preparation of the business plan or carrying out of feasibility study of a proposed project by an SME.

3. APPLICATION PROCEDURES AT SME Mauritius

Eligible Companies or Cooperative Societies or Individuals are requested to apply in the prescribed application form for the SME Development Scheme Certificate and submit the following (in two copies):

For Companies:

- (i) NID cards of shareholder/s
- (ii) Utility Bill of main shareholder (CEB or CWA or Telephone Bill)
- (iii) Business Registration Card
- (iv) Particulars of Company (Shareholders)
- (v) Certificate of Incorporation
- (vi) Certificate of Registration as SME
- (vii) Profit & loss Statement of Accounts for the last 3 years of other entities in which the shareholders listed in the application form hold shares/interest.
- (vii) Bio Development Certificate delivered by Ministry of Agro- Industry & Food Security for Bio Farming projects.
- (viii) Pro-forma/Quotation of equipment & accessories.
- (ix) Letter of Intent from potential clients expressing interest to purchase products/services.
- (x) Hard and Soft copy (CD) of Project Brief /Business Plan

For Cooperative Societies:

- (1) NID cards of the President & Secretary
- (2) Utility Bill of President & Secretary (CEB or CWA or Telephone Bill)
- (3) Business Registration Card
- (4) Certificate of Cooperative Society
- (5) Certificate of Registration as SME
- (6) List of members & Managing Committee
- (7) Minutes of Board approval recommending application of the scheme with seal of the society.
- (8) Bio Development Certificate delivered by Ministry of Agro- Industry & Food Security for Bio Farming projects.
- (9) Pro-forma/Quotation of equipment & accessories.
- (10) Letter of Intent from potential clients expressing interest to purchase products/services.
- (11) Hard and Soft copy (CD) of Project Brief /Business Plan

For Individuals

- (i) NID card of Individual
- (ii) Utility Bill of individual (CEB or CWA or Telephone Bill)
- (iii) Business Registration Card
- (iv) Certificate of Registration as SME
- (v) Bio Development Certificate delivered by Ministry of Agro- Industry & Food Security for Bio Farming projects.
- (vi) Pro-forma/Quotation of equipment & accessories.
- (vii) Letter of Intent from potential clients expressing interest to purchase products/services.
- (viii) Hard and Soft copy (CD) of Project Brief /Business Plan

Kindly note that SME Mauritius will accept and process only application forms duly filled and submitted together with the required support documents.

4. ISSUE OF LETTER OF INTENT

- (a) Once the project is approved, a letter of intent would be issued to the Company/ Cooperative Society/Individual.
- (b) The validity period of the Letter of Intent is for **6 months** as from the date of issue and it does not automatically qualify your entity to all the benefits associated with the SME Development Scheme Certificate

5. OTHER CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO A COMPANY/COOPERATIVE SOCIETY/INDIVIDUAL GRANTED A LETTER OF INTENT AND A SME DEVELOPMENT SCHEME CERTIFICATE.

- (a) The Company/ Cooperative Society will be not allowed to make any transfer of shares or amendment to its shareholding structure;
- (b) The Company/ Cooperative Society/ Individual should be solely engaged in the activity to which a SME Development Scheme Certificate has been issued;
- (c) SME Mauritius should be informed in writing as soon as it starts operations; and
- (d) The Company / Cooperative Society / Individual should provide any additional information and documents pertaining to the Company, as may be required, to SME Mauritius and other Government institutions for monitoring and evaluation exercises.
- (e) Holders of the SME Development Scheme Certificate can accede to financial incentives only after a favourable feasibility study and banking assessment have been carried out.
- (f) The Company/ Cooperative Society/ Individual should inform SME Mauritius, whenever its annual turnover exceeds Rs 50 M.

SME Mauritius

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