

 Early Warning System

FMO-62505

Robust International Pte Ltd



Quick Facts

Countries	Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mozambique
Financial Institutions	Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO)
Status	Approved
Bank Risk Rating	B
Voting Date	2023-12-15
Borrower	Robust International Pte. Ltd.
Sectors	Agriculture and Forestry
Investment Type(s)	Loan
Investment Amount (USD)	\$ 7.50 million
Project Cost (USD)	\$ 50.00 million



Project Description

According to the Bank's website, the proposed financing is earmarked for Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Mozambique. FMO is the mandated lead arranger for a USD 50mln senior secured facility (on a best-efforts basis) composed of USD 40mln for capital expenditure (land, building warehousing facilities, machinery, and equipment) and USD 10mln for working capital. The facility will be funded by FMO-A (USD 15mln), Building Prospects (USD 10mln) and FIM funds (USD 15mln). FIM funds are funds serviced by FMO Investment Management and share an emerging market focus and the combined objective of investing for both financial returns and development impact. In addition, it is expected that a European DFI will participate for USD 10mln.

As an agricultural commodity trading company, Robust fits into the strategic plan of FMO through engagement, directly/indirectly, with smallholder farmers and supporting global food security. The investments in processing facilities will increase higher quality labour, add value to local products and reduce transportation. This supports economic growth in the region and increasing tax income for the three countries. The proposed blended financing will provide Robust with long-term financing for its capex investments and working capital in two LDC's (Burkina Faso and Mozambique) and in Cote d'Ivoire. Such long-term financing and working capital for perceived greenfield projects is not available from commercial lenders.



Early Warning System Project Analysis

This concerns an E&S B+ categorised investment. The sourcing and processing of cashew nuts in Cote d'Ivoire and sesame seeds in Mozambique and Burkina Faso have potential adverse E&S risks which extend beyond the site boundary but can be minimized through relevant mitigation measures. Main E&S risks of this investment include the labour and working conditions, climate change risks, supply chain labour and biodiversity risks, all exacerbated by the contextual risks of the countries in question.



Investment Description

- Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO)

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Private Actors Description

Robust International Pte. Ltd. (Robust) is a multinational agri-commodity processing & import-export business with its headquarters in Singapore. It has a vast operational network and presence in several countries across Africa. Its portfolio includes a wide variety of agricultural commodities with a focus on cashew and sesame seeds. The company is transforming from a traditional merchant to an end-to-end integrated supply chain company.



Private Actor 1	Private Actor 1 Role	Private Actor 1 Sector	Relation	Private Actor 2	Private Actor 2 Role	Private Actor 2 Sector
-	-	-	-	Robust International Pte Ltd	Client	-



Contact Information

No contacts available at the time of disclosure.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

As part of FMO's ex-ante disclosure (disclosure of transactions before contracting), you can send requests or questions for additional information to: disclosure@fmo.nl

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF FMO

Communities who believe they will be negatively affected by a project funded by the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) may be able to file a complaint with the Independent Complaints Mechanism, which is the joint independent accountability mechanism of the Dutch Development Bank (FMO) and the German Investment Corporation (KfW). A complaint can be filed in writing, by email, post, or online. The complaint can be filed in English or any other language of the complainant. The Independent Complaints Mechanism is comprised of a three-member Independent Expert Panel and it can provide either problem-solving, compliance review or both, in either order. Additional information about this accountability mechanism, including a guide and template for filing a complaint, can be found at: <https://www.fmo.nl/independent-complaints-mechanism>