Early Warning System

IFC-44111

Apeel Science

Quick Facts

Countries	Mexico, Peru, South Africa
Financial Institutions	International Finance Corporation (IFC)
Status	Proposed
Bank Risk Rating	B
Borrower	APEEL TECHNOLOGY, INC.
Sectors	Agriculture and Forestry, Industry and Trade
Investment Type(s)	Equity
Investment Amount (USD)	$ 15.00 million

Project Description

This proposed equity investment of up to US$15 million in Apeel Sciences (“Apeel” or “the company”) - (https://apeelsciences.com/) - is to support its commercial expansion of its proprietary products – edible coatings – used for extending quality and shelf life of fruits and vegetables (e.g. avocados, limes, apples) amongst the emerging market retailers and suppliers in Mexico, Peru and South Africa. This financing will complement an IFC advisory engagement to set-up pilots with retailers, expand its footprint of existing suppliers and draw in new suppliers.

Apeel Sciences’ plant-derived coating (lipid-based product) for fruits and vegetables is safe, made from naturally occurring products, and its application has proven in the market to give 1.5x or greater shelf-life extension, significantly reducing costs of shrink, spoilage and water usage, and increasing produce quality. Apeel’s coating has demonstrated its efficacy across 30+ fruits and vegetable categories. By focusing on the issue of perishability and reducing the rate of spoilage across the entire value chain, Apeel products provide numerous sustainability benefits, such as (i) reduction in food loss and waste; (ii) elimination or reduction in need for single-use plastic packaging; (iii) decreased reliance on cold chain infrastructure; (iv) logistic shifts to lower-emission transportation modes (e.g. air freight to sea freight); (v) creation of market linkages that increase the participation in the global supply chain; and, finally (vi) increased access to fresh fruits and vegetables. The ingredients in Apeel’s products are designated as FDA GRAS or “Generally Recognized As Safe” and have a substantial history of safe use. Additionally, the Codex Alimentarius’ General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) has authorized the use of the ingredients in Apeel in over 25 food categories, including infant formulae as well as surface-treated fresh fruits and vegetables. Apeel offers products for both conventional and USDA organic certified organic producers and is allowed for us in a variety of markets including the United States, Canada, Mexico, Chile, Peru, Costa Rica, the European Union, South Africa, China, and Japan, among others.

Apeel’s products are manufactured in a powder form at its food-controlled facility located in Goleta, California (USA). This facility is located in a business park. The powder is packaged and shipped to a customer’s integration site (e.g. an agri-produce packing house owned by a grower, packer, importer or distributor) where the powder is mixed in solution with water and sprayed onto the produce before it is packed and distributed to retail stores. This process is typically in-line with the standard sorting and packing procedures of the produce packing houses. Aside from its HQ/food-controlled facility in California, Apeel has commercial offices in Europe (The Netherlands), Latin America (Mexico) and the USA.

Investment Description

- International Finance Corporation (IFC)

Private Actor 1	Private Actor 1 Role	Private Actor 1 Sector	Relation	Private Actor 2	Private Actor 2 Role	Private Actor 2 Sector
-	-	-	-	APEEL TECHNOLOGY, INC	Investor	-

Contact Information

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

You can submit a request for information disclosure at: https://disclosures.ifc.org/#/inquiries

If you believe that your request for information from IFC has been unreasonably denied, or that this Policy has been interpreted incorrectly, you can submit a complaint at the link above to IFC's Access to Information Policy Advisor, who reports directly to IFC's Executive Vice President.

ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISM OF IFC/MIGA

The Compliance Advisor Ombudsman (CAO) is the independent complaint mechanism and fact-finding body for people who believe they are likely to be, or have been, adversely affected by an IFC or MIGA- financed project. If you submit a complaint to the CAO, they may assist you in resolving a dispute with the company and/or investigate to assess whether the IFC is following its own policies and procedures for preventing harm to people or the environment. If you want to submit a complaint electronically, you can email the CAO at CAO@worldbankgroup.org You can learn more about the CAO and how to file a complaint at http://www.cao-ombudsman.org