

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES, FISHERIES AND SHIPPING

SEMI-INDUSTRIAL FISHING VESSEL GRANT SCHEME **GRANT TO FISHERMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

1. The Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping is inviting fishermen cooperative societies who wish to benefit from the scheme to submit their applications for a grant to purchase a semi-industrial fishing vessel under the “*Semi-Industrial Fishing Vessel Grant Scheme - Cooperative Societies*”.
2. Successful applicants will be eligible to a grant of maximum Rs 6M for the purchase of a new or second-hand semi-industrial fishing vessel of less than 5 years.
3. Detailed information, along with the application form, can be obtained in all Fisheries Post around the island or downloaded from the Ministry’s website at the following link:
(<https://blueeconomy.govmu.org/Pages/Downloads/Downloads.aspx>)
4. Duly filled in application form should be submitted along with all relevant supporting documents in a sealed envelope and marked “*Semi-Industrial Fishing Vessel Grant Scheme - Cooperative Societies*”. The envelope may be addressed to the Supervising Officer, Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Level 4, LIC Building, President John Kennedy Street, Port Louis or be deposited at the nearest Fisheries Post.

Ministry of Blue Economy,
Marine Resources,
Fisheries and shipping,
4th Floor, LIC Building,
Port Louis.

12 September 2024

**MINISTRY OF BLUE ECONOMY, MARINE RESOURCES,
FISHERIES AND SHIPPING**

**Level 4 , L.I.C. Building, John Kennedy St.,
Port Louis, Mauritius**

Tel.: (230) 2112470 – 75 Fax: (230) 208 1929 E-mail: blueeconomy@govmu.org

**APPLICATION FOR GRANT TO PURCHASE A SEMI-INDUSTRIAL FISHING VESSEL
BY FISHERMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

1. Full name and address of applicant

- a. Name of Cooperative Society:
- b. Address:
.....
.....
- c. Registration No.....
- d. Contact No of President.: Fixed Mobile
- e. Email address:
- f. No of members who are registered as fishers

2. Name and address of office bearers

- a. President:
- b. Secretary:

3. Name of cooperative members who are registered as fishers

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

4. Description of vessel to be purchased

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.....
.....
.....

5. Cost estimate (including vessel and equipment)

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6. Expected delivery date of vessel

.....

7. Full name and address of boat builder for new vessel/supplier of proposed semi-industrial fishing vessel for second hand vessel (as applicable)

a. Name:

b. Address:

.....

.....

8. Declaration

We undertake to operate the semi-industrial fishing vessel, on which a grant has been provided, in the outer lagoon and bank fisheries in line with the fishing license granted for a period of at least 10 years.

We declare that the particulars given above are true and correct.

President

Secretary

Name:.....

Name:.....

Address:

Address:

Signature:

Signature:

Date:.....

Date:.....

List of supporting documents to be submitted for new vessels

S.N	Documents	Remarks
1	Certificate of Registration	
2	Copies of Fishermen Card or Continuous Record Books of 3 fishers who are members of the Cooperative Society	
3	Quotation of vessel and list of equipment from an approved boat-builder or seller, in case of second-hand vessel	
4	Evidence that the boat builder is recognised by the Government authority in the country of origin	
5	In case vessel will be procured through local supplier, to submit evidence that the local company is an accredited agent for the import of vessels and to submit quotation in MUR	
6	Project proposal as per the project guidelines	
7	Evidence on the availability of funds of an amount of at least 10% of the cost of the project (Vessel and equipment)	

List of supporting documents to be submitted for second hand vessels

S.N	Documents	Remarks
1	Certificate of Registration	
2	Copies of Fishermen Card or Continuous Record Books of 3 fishers who are members of the Cooperative Society	
3	Quotation of vessel and list of equipment from seller	
4	Evidence that the boat builder is recognised by the Government authority in the country of origin	
5	In case vessel will be procured through local supplier, to submit evidence that the local company is an accredited agent for the import of vessels and to submit quotation in MUR	
6	Project proposal as per the project guidelines	
7	Evidence on the availability of funds of an amount of at least 10% of the cost of the project (Vessel and equipment)	
8	A letter from owner confirming that he is agreeable to sell his vessel	
9	A copy of the registration certificate of the vessel	
10	A boat certificate certifying that the vessel is not more than 5 years old with an economic lifetime of a minimum of 15 years	

Notes:

- i) application form and supporting documents to be submitted in **DUPLICATE**.
- ii) failure to submit all the required supporting documents may delay the processing of the application and may also entail rejection of the application.
- iii) applicants are advised to consult the website of the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping with respect to the equipment that should be included in the cost estimates.

**GRANT TO PURCHASE A SEMI-INDUSTRIAL FISHING VESSEL
BY FISHERMEN COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES**

Additional Information

1. Semi-Industrial Grant Scheme

This Scheme provides for a grant to Fishermen Cooperative Societies to meet 50% of the cost of a semi-industrial fishing vessel up to a maximum of Rs 6 million.

The beneficiary will also avail of credit finance/leasing facilities up to a maximum of 40% of the cost of the vessel from the Industrial Finance Corporation of Mauritius Ltd. (IFCM). The interest rate will be 2.5% per annum for beneficiaries having a turnover not exceeding Rs.250 million per annum and 3% per annum for those having a turnover in excess of Rs.250 million per annum.

A new semi-industrial fishing vessel is estimated to cost in the range of Rs. 10million to Rs. 15million.

2. Who is Eligible?

Under this Scheme, registered fishermen cooperative societies will be eligible for a grant to meet 50% of the cost of a new or second hand semi-industrial fishing vessel to fish in the outer lagoon and on the banks

The scheme is open to registered fishermen cooperative societies that:

- (i) have at least **3 members who are fishers registered** with the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping; and
- (ii) can provide evidence on the availability of funds of an amount of **at least 10% of the cost of the project.**

3. Who is not eligible

- fishermen cooperative societies that have already benefited from a grant under this scheme; or
- fishermen cooperative societies whose members have already benefited from the grant through another cooperative society.

4. **Type of Semi-Industrial Fishing Vessel**

The semi-industrial fishing vessel should be above **12 metres but less than 24 metres** in length overall and should be fitted with inboard engine and all the navigation, communication, safety and appropriate fishing equipment. In the event of a second- hand fishing vessel is to be acquired, it should not be more than 5 years old with an economic lifetime of a minimum of 15 years.

The grant shall be used exclusively towards financing of semi-industrial fishing vessel.

5. **How to benefit from the Scheme?**

Interested registered fishermen cooperative societies are required to submit their applications together with all relevant documents in a sealed envelope addressed to the Supervising Officer, Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping, Level 4, LIC Building, President John Kennedy Street, Port Louis or be deposited In the nearest Fisheries Post.

The sealed envelope should be clearly marked '**Application for Grant under the Semi-industrial fishing vessel grant scheme - Cooperative Society**'.

The Application Form and Project Guidelines can either be collected from all Fisheries Posts around the island or be downloaded from the website of the Ministry (<https://blueconomy.govmu.org/Pages/Downloads/Downloads.aspx>).

6. **Processing of Applications**

A Selection Committee set up by the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping shall verify all the applications received to ascertain whether the applicant is eligible for a grant under the Scheme. In this respect, the applicant may be required to furnish additional information/documents as may be required by the Selection Committee for a proper assessment of the applications.

Applications found to be technically feasible will be submitted to the IFCM for financial assessment.

The Ministry will issue a Letter of Intent to successful applicants to allow them to proceed with the acquisition of the vessel.

7. Disbursement of Grant

The IFCM shall disburse the grant money and Credit Finance and/or lease proceeds in favour of the boat builder/seller and/or the supplier of equipment subject to:

- (i) favourable recommendations from the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping;
- (ii) receipt of a certificate of conformity from the Marine Surveyor at different stages of completion; and
- (iii) all criteria under the scheme being satisfied by the said society.

The IFCM shall, upon approval, charge a processing fee of 1% of the lease financing amount.

The successful applicant will be required to deposit its minimum contribution of 10% of the cost of the vessel with IFCM as a precondition to disbursement.

Successful applicants will also be required to sign a Letter of Undertaking with the Ministry of Blue Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping prior to the disbursement of funds by the IFCM.

8. Tenure of Lease

The IFCM shall apply the tenure of lease to be for a maximum of 7 years, subject to surveyed lifetime of the vessel. In case of a second-hand vessel, it should not be more than five years old since date of built and economic lifetime of a minimum of 15 years.

The IFCM shall inscribe a *lien* on the vessel up to the extent of the lease amount advanced to the beneficiary.

The selected cooperative society will not dispose of or lease the semi-industrial fishing vessel in respect of which a grant has been disbursed without the prior approval of the Ministry.

12 September 2024

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Project Guidelines

(Fishermen Cooperative Societies engaged in fishing)

SN	Description	Remarks
1	Fish species targeted	
2	Fishing areas where fishing will be carried out	
3	Number of fishing vessels already owned	
4	Total investment cost, including own contribution and loans	
5	Number of persons to be employed, including number of registered fishers	
6	Marketing and sale strategy	
7	Expected turn over	

Requirements for Equipment for Fishing Vessels of more than 12 Metres but less than 24 Metres in length

For each vessel:

1. Enough life rafts to accommodate all PERSONS the vessel is permitted to carry on board and fitted with Hydrostatic Release Unit (s). Life raft(s) to be serviced annually. HRUs to be replaced when expired. Life raft to be equipped as per SOLAS.
2. At least 2 lifebuoys fitted with buoyant line of 30 metres each.
At least one of the lifebuoys to be fitted with a self-Igniting light.
Life buoys to be fitted with retro-reflective tape.
3. Pyrotechnics:
 - (a) Rocket Parachute Flares
 - (b) Hand Flares
4. At least one lifejacket (SOLAS & fitted with light) for each person on board and 2 spares.
5. Enough and appropriate fire extinguishers as determined by surveyor, but in any case, not less than four (Aqueous foaming 2x9lt, CO₂ 2x5kg). Extinguishers to be serviced regularly.
6. Electric Fire alarm which may be used as General Emergency Alarm.
7. Fire Hydrants/Fire Nozzles/Fire Hoses as appropriate.
8. At least 1 Fireman's Axe.
9. Radar reflector of suitable size.
10. **Navigation Equipment**
 - (a) Magnetic compass is to be in a waterproof marine binnacle. Compass awing is to be carried out for the compass at intervals determined by the marine surveyor and a deviation card is to be placed in a waterproof casing alongside it available for ready reference.
 - (b) Radar (at least one)
 - (c) Echo Sounding Device (one set)
 - (d) At least one GPS
 - (e) Navigation charts for area vessel intends to navigate
 - (f) Parallel Ruler/Set Squares, Pencils
 - (g) Dividers 1 set
 - (h) One Barometer
 - (i) Lights as per Collision Regulations
 - (j) Daylight signaling equipment for visual distress signaling as per international conventions.

11. **Communication Equipment**

- (a) HF/SSB Radio (one x 500 watts) with DSC facility
- (b) Standard MMB VHF set (25 watts)
- (c.) EPIRB (one) with inbuilt GPS and fitted with HRU
- (d) SART (one)
- (e) Navtex Receiver (one)
- (f) One portable VHF – GMDSS compatible with Channel 16
- (g) One Satellite Phone
- (h) VMS and AIS (Class B)

12. Vessel to be fitted with anchor and associated equipment.