

SEED CAPITAL GRANT SCHEME 2024

Priority Sectors and Definitions

1.0 Priority Sectors

“**Priority Sectors**” are the main sectors determined by the Government. The list of Priority Sectors are Tourism, Fisheries, Agriculture, Value-Added and Manufacturing, Blue Economy, Financial Services, Renewable Energy, Education and Information and Communication Technology.

2.0 Definitions

For the purpose of this Scheme, clear definitions of the relevant key terms are provided below, to ensure predictability and transparency, and to also provide guidance to all stakeholders:

- i. “**Start-up Business**” under this Scheme means a business that is not older than 36 months from the date of its registration with the Registration Division at the time of submitting the application, and meet the definition of Micro.
- ii. “**Micro Enterprise**” under this Scheme means an enterprise which has an annual sales turnover not more than SCR 2 million Seychelles Rupees;
- iii. “**Eligible Businesses**” means businesses satisfying the Scheme’s requirements and criteria as further provided for in **Section 2.2**;
- iv. “**Economic Diversification**” for the purpose of this scheme, means to satisfy the definition of Innovation and/or Value Addition.
- v. “**Innovation**” means a new or improved product, service or process (or a combination thereof) from;
 - a) the entity’s previous products, services or processes; or
 - b) other products, services or processes on the local market (originality);
- vi. “**Innovative Business**” means any business that satisfies the definition of Innovation above.
- vii. “**Value Addition**” means;
 - a) the transformation of raw materials to a product; and/or
 - b) the enhancement made to a product or service before offering it to consumers.
- viii. “**Priority Sectors**” are the main sectors determined by the Government. The list of Priority Sectors are Tourism, Fisheries, Agriculture, Value-Added and Manufacturing, Blue Economy, Financial Services, Renewable Energy, Education and Information and Communication Technology.
- ix. “**Evaluation Committee**” means the established Seed Capital Grant Evaluation Committee for the purpose of this scheme.

3.0 Eligible and Non-Eligible Expenses

The funding from this Scheme is mainly to support the beneficiary to raise additional funds, acquire technology and equipment and other relevant assets for the starting up or expansion of an eligible business.

3.1.1 Eligible Expenses

The Scheme will cater for qualifying expenses such as the following;

- Purchase of equipment and materials;
- Marketing and advertising related costs of the business, so that it may improve access to the market;
- Packaging and labelling which would further enhance the appeal and quality of the end product/service;
- Research and development;
- Personal contribution for bank loan, where higher capital is required;
- Intellectual Property Related expenses
- Rent/lease, which the business may incur if it is to find a workspace (for the initial three (3) months from the start of the operation of the business);
- Training

3.1.2 Non-Eligible Expenses

The Scheme will **NOT** fund the following types of expenses:

- Refinancing of existing loans;
- Payment of Arrears;
- Refunding of previous expenses relating to the business for which the grant is being applied for;
- Payment of airfares;
- Acquisition of bonds;
- Purchase of vehicle;
- Payment for construction or extension;
- Any other payments or funding which the Evaluation Committee deems irrelevant to the business.