1. The Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security is introducing the Bio-Farming Promotion Scheme to encourage the development of Bio-Farming activities on a commercial scale.

2. The Scheme will be opened to Companies incorporated under the Companies Act on or after 02 June 2015, Cooperative Societies and individuals willing to embark in bio/organic farming activities and/or other natural farming systems for food crop production in either open field and/or under protected structures.

3. Under this Scheme, applicants satisfying the eligibility criteria for the Bio-Farming Promotion Scheme, will benefit from:-

   (a) Income Tax Holiday for the first eight years of operation of approved Bio-Farming Project;

   (b) Value Added Tax Exemption on production equipment and other inputs acquired for the implementation of the project;

   (c) Loan facilities at an annual interest rate of Key Repo less 1% (presently 3.4%) over a period of ten years for a maximum of 90% project financing under the MauBank SME Development Scheme; and

   (d) Fast track business support solutions from the Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) and MyBiz.

4. To qualify for the Scheme, Individual/Companies/Cooperative Societies will have to satisfy the following eligibility criteria:-

   (i) in case of Individuals, applicants shall be duly registered with the Small Farmers Welfare Fund (SFWF) and with the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Authority (SMEDA);

   (ii) in case of Companies, these should have been incorporated under the Companies Act on or after 02 June 2015 and hold a Business Registration Number;

   (iii) in case of Cooperative Societies, they should be duly registered with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies;

   (iv) the applicant or his/her representative should have attended training in Bio-Farming as approved by FAREI or hold proven expertise in the subject matter acceptable to FAREI;
(v) the applicant or his/her representative should either be the owner of the plot of land released for the project or shall hold a registered lease agreement for same which is valid for a period of at least 7 years at the time of application;

(vi) the applicant shall take commitment to implement the requirements of MauriGAP Part 1 (MG 1) – Basic requirements, and to be MG 1 certified within a period not exceeding 1 year from the starting date of the project; and

(vii) the applicant shall take commitment to comply with the requirements of MauriGAP Part 2 and MauriGAP Part 3, or any other Internationally recognized Organic standards, within a maximum period of 7 years after the starting date of the project.

Applicants who fail to comply with any one of the above-listed eligibility criteria will, without any form of process, be automatically disqualified as a beneficiary and have obligation to refund all fiscal or financial incentives obtained under the Bio-Farming Promotion Scheme.

5. A Bio Farming Development Certificate will be issued to those applicants complying with the above eligibility criteria and whose projects would have been approved.

6. For those requiring financial incentives, the approved projects will follow the same procedures of certification of MyBiz as per the existing SME Development Scheme.


8. Applications for Bio Farming Promotion Scheme should be submitted in sealed envelopes clearly marked on the top left hand corner “Application for Bio-Farming Promotion Scheme”. The application should be accompanied with a project proposal together with any relevant supporting documents mentioned at paragraph (4) above and should be addressed to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security, (Attention: Bio-Farming Unit) 9th Floor, Renganaden Seeeneevassen Building, Port Louis.

9. Applicants in need of support to prepare their project proposal may contact the Business Development Unit of FAREI, Réduit, 4669363, (Attention Mr. M. Nathoo).

Ministry of Agro Industry and Food Security
09 May 2016