



Ebonyi State Ministry of Lands and Survey Investment Approval Process (IAP)

**OchoUdo-Centenary City Secretariat, Abakaliki
07037430702**

**In Accordance with the provisions of Executive Order No. 007 issued on the
Establishment, Adoption and Implementation of Framework for Responsible and
Inclusive Land Intensive Agriculture**

Large-scale agricultural investments in Ebonyi State are underpinned by a framework defined by Ministry of Lands and Survey FRILIA Principles. This large-scale agricultural investment approval process has been designed to be in line with the principles of FRILIA. It consists of the following 6_stages:.

Process Stage	Responsible Party
<p>Stage 1: Initial Inquiries & Know Your Customer (Due Diligence) Assessments</p> <p>A. ___ should be the primary entry point for ALL large-scale agricultural investments in [Ebonyi]</p> <p>B. ___ approached by potential investor (or in some cases ___ may reach out to a potential investor)</p> <p>C. ___ conducts preliminary due diligence on investor and provides investor with information related to potential investment.</p> <p>D. Possible initial engagement with community if area has been preliminarily identified. [1 week]</p>	<p>A. Ministry of Lands and Survey</p> <p>B. Ministry of Lands and Survey</p> <p>C. Ministry of Trade and Investment</p> <p>D. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>

<p>Stage 2: Information Exchange & Site Visits</p> <p>A. ___ continues to provide information and resources the potential investor may need to proceed with the investment. Also coordinates the investor’s interaction with other government agencies and helps the investor locate service providers.</p> <p>B. ___ arranges for site visits for the investor after notifying local officials and communities of investor interest.</p> <p>C. ___ notifies local government officials, other ward and community stakeholders to engage in internal consultations and then to respond preliminarily whether they might welcome the investment. [1 week]</p>	<p>A. Ministry of Lands and Survey B. Ministry of Lands and Survey C. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>
<p>Stage 3: Potential Investor Proceeds or Withdraws</p> <p>A. The investor reacts to the community’s initial response to the potential investment and the investor’s own assessment of the viability of the investment and potential site. If the investor decides to withdraw, the process stops. If the investor wishes to consider a different location within the State, the process reverts to Stage 2. The process also ends if the community decides not to proceed.</p> <p>B. If the potential investor decides to proceed and the community is supportive, the investor should engage further, build relationships with the community and get them fully involved. The investor and the community (with legal assistance provided by Ministry of Justice should begin to discuss a community engagement plan to guide the ongoing consultations. [1 week]</p>	<p>A. Investors B. Ministry of Justice C. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources D. Ministry of Lands and Survey</p>
<p>Stage 4: Investor Enters into a Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) with ___ and Representatives of the Affected Communities.</p> <p>A. ___ does more in-depth due diligence on the investor and ___ shares additional due diligence findings with other stakeholders.</p> <p>B. Consultations with the community continues and a community engagement plan may be agreed to at this point.</p> <p>C. If all parties continue to be supportive of the proposed investment, they attempt to agree on an MoU that covers the framework of the investment, how much land is required, benefits that may accrue to the community, commitments to ongoing consultation, preparation of an ESIA, etc. The MoU does not legally commit any party to a final agreement on the proposed investment. [1 week]</p>	<p>A. Ministry of Lands and Survey and Ministry of Trade and Investment B. Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>

<p>Stage 5: Investor Completes and Shares a Feasibility Study, Business Plan and an independent Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).</p> <p>A. _ makes its determination whether the ESIA is acceptable and notifies the investor within 3days of receiving it.</p> <p>B. If not already completed, a community engagement plan should be finished in this stage.</p> <p>C. Land lease discussions can continue (if begun in a previous stage) or begin. Leases should not be finalized and signed until Stage 6.</p> <p>[1 week]</p>	<p>A. Ministry of Environment B. Ministry of Lands and Survey C. Ministry of Lands and Survey</p>
<p>Stage 6: The parties enter into Final Agreements.</p> <p>A. The final agreement is likely to be contained in several individual agreements or could be combined into one document. While the precise requirements will vary, approved investment is likely to include some or all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Land lease agreement 2. Outgrower contract(s) 3. Community impact and benefit agreement 4. Community engagement plan 5. Monitoring plan 6. Inclusive, accessible and equitable dispute resolution mechanisms <p>[1 week]</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice Ministry of Lands and Survey Investors Ministry of Trade and Investment Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources</p>

The 6 stages provide an overarching framework that guides all the toolkits of FRILIA. However, the unpacking of these stages varies from one toolkit to another. Hence, each of the FRILIA toolkits has its own approach embedded within the overall investment project cycle.

Signed:

Dr. Matthew Edegu Nwobasi
Honourable Commissioner
Ebonyi State Ministry of Lands and Survey.
21st December, 2024