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## MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD, and FORESTS

**File No.:** 21/24

**Date:** 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2021

Mr. Carsten Linnenberg  
UNIDO Project Lead  
AD Solutions UG,  
Stolzenmorgen 25,  
35394 Giessen – Germany.

**Re: Tonga Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forest (MAFF) endorsement of the proposed strategies and specific agricultural support elements in support of the proposed commercial scale biogas plant based initially on Hybrid Tropical Grass (the commercial biogas project)**

Dear Carsten

I am particularly honoured to express, on behalf of the Tonga MAFF, its exclusive interest with the above commercial biogas project to be carrying out and implement in Tonga. Since Agriculture is one of the primary sectors in Tonga where the highest percentage of the populations are substantially dependent for living, it is the main national economic drivers, in co-operations with Fisheries and Tourism.

With its current economic developments, Tonga has seen to face various problem issues of unsustainable economies due to high dependencies on overseas imports with unbalanced exports. Two of the main highest national imports are energy and food.

MAFF has been directly engaged in the development of the commercial biogas project and we agree with the strategy to base this project initially on Hybrid Tropical Grass. MAFF has also helped co-develop the overall project strategies and the specific agricultural support elements and we strongly believe that these strategies and specific agricultural support elements will support a successful biogas project in Tonga.

MAFF also understands that once implemented, the proposed commercial biogas project will then enable the development of a wide range of agricultural systems aimed at reducing Tonga's heavy reliance on imported foods and feeds and providing growth and value-adding opportunities for the Tongan agricultural sector. This is the main, longer term focus of MAFF.

As such, I assure you with my highest confidence that in the longer term the commercial biogas project's agricultural components will facilitate to resolve Tonga's main objective of the agricultural sector in food security and assisting with its current unsustainable economy by increasing import substitutions in increasing local food productions of poultry meat and livestock feed productions. Furthermore, in terms of the energy sector, it will see to reduce energy costs by reducing

heavy dependencies on imported fuel but rather using biogas and photosynthesis. Tonga's geographical tropical locations favoured this idea for the photosynthesis based power system.

It is speculated that such a project would be very much appropriate to be implemented in Tonga, which will fit with its current economic development.

Sincerely yours



Manaia Halafihi  
Acting CEO



cc:

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