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Reference:

31st October 2023

The National Science, Technology, and Innovation Council (NSTIC)

Ministry of Technical and Higher Education of Sierra Leone

New England Ville

Freetown

Attention of: The National Science, Technology, and Innovation Council Lead,

Subject: Endorsement for the Project Proposal - "Development of a Solar-Powered Water Chilling Mechanism to Boost High-Value Crop Cultivation in Low Land Areas of Sierra Leone"

I write on behalf of Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone to endorse the Consortium (University of Sierra Leone, Njala University and University of Johannesburg, South Africa) and to pledge our strong support for the project proposal titled "Development of a Solar-Powered Water Chilling Mechanism to Boost High-Value Crop Cultivation in Low Land Areas of Sierra Leone," which we believe holds immense promise for the agricultural sector in Sierra Leone.

This project, with its well-defined objectives and well-researched approach, addresses a critical issue faced by Sierra Leone's agricultural community. The challenges brought about by climate change, particularly in low-lying areas, are posing a significant threat to food security and the economic stability of our nation. The development and implementation of a solar-powered water chilling mechanism are indeed a timely and innovative solution to enhance crop yields while promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

The research team at University of Sierra Leone, Njala University and University of Johannesburg, South Africa has carefully designed a comprehensive plan that focuses on site-specific adaptation, controlled environmental systems, economic feasibility, community engagement, and capacity-building initiatives. These strategies are not only well thought out but also align with Sierra Leone's development priorities, which prioritize agriculture as a driving force behind economic growth.

We firmly believe that the proposed project carries immense scientific importance, addressing knowledge gaps specific to our region. Furthermore, given the urgency and magnitude of the challenges faced by Sierra Leonean farmers, this project has the potential to make a substantial impact on the livelihoods of our citizens, with high-value crops serving as a cornerstone of economic development.

The project's significance extends beyond the agricultural sector; it also holds special importance for the private sector. By fostering innovation and opening new market opportunities, it can contribute to the growth of businesses involved in agriculture and renewable energy, thereby promoting economic development in the country.

Additionally, we acknowledge the need to build research capacity in this area, and the proposed project provides a platform for skill development, knowledge transfer, and fostering partnerships with local research institutions and government agencies.

In conclusion, we believe that the "Development of a Solar-Powered Water Chilling Mechanism to Boost High-Value Crop Cultivation in Low Land Areas of Sierra Leone" is a vital project that aligns with the development priorities of our country and promises to bring about substantial improvements in our agricultural sector. We kindly request your support and partnership in making this vision a reality, and we are confident that the outcomes of this project will have far-reaching positive effects on Sierra Leone.

We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this proposal further and explore ways in which we can collaborate to achieve our shared goals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

FOURAH BAY COLLEGE
DEPUTY REGISTRAR'S
OFFICE
UNIVERSITY OF SIERRA LEONE

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Deputy Registrar

Fourah Bay College

University of Sierra Leone