

TERMS OF REFERENCE

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL CONSULTANT

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. General

The Government of Moldova and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (an US Government corporation) signed a Millennium Challenge Compact on January 22, 2010, by which MCC will provide up to USD 262,000,000 in funding for two Projects designed to reduce poverty and stimulate growth in rural areas of the Republic of Moldova, namely: (a) Transition to High Value Agriculture Project (also “THVA Project”) and (b) Road Rehabilitation Project. The objectives of the THVA Project are to increase rural incomes by stimulating growth in irrigated HVA, and catalyze future investments in HVA by establishing a successful and sustainable model of irrigation system and water resource management.

The THVA Project consists of four reinforcing and integrated activities that, when implemented together, address the key constraints facing Moldovan producers: lack of reliable water, lack of financing, lack of access to markets and technologies, and lack of know-how. The THVA Project will increase the ability and willingness of farmers to make the transition to higher value fruit and vegetable production. By addressing infrastructure and institutional/market constraints, the THVA Project will break the vicious cycle of poor water service, low water tariff revenue, underinvestment in irrigation system maintenance, and low investment by farmers in HVA (resulting in low agricultural incomes). The THVA Project provides the first opportunity to pilot a set of institutional and management reforms, together with much needed infrastructure rehabilitation that will set the stage for future investment and enable Moldova to benefit from its natural comparative advantage in agriculture.

One key component of THVA Project is the Access to Agricultural Finance Activity (AAFA). The objective of the AAFA is to provide term financing needed to support increased investment in the HVA supply chain to facilitate the transition to HVA, with particular focus on serving farmers and enterprises operating in the irrigation systems targeted for rehabilitation. Improved sorting and packing of produce, and the ability to extend the production and marketing season can assist Moldovan producers to become more competitive in domestic and export markets and to sell their production at a higher price. However, with virtually no domestic sources of long-term funding and little ability to access international debt markets, Moldovan financial institutions largely lack the ability to lend for investments in the HVA supply chain for periods longer than three years.

The AAFA consists of two sub-Activities: (1) HVA Post-Harvest Credit Facility (the “Credit Facility”); and (2) Investment Development Services (the “IDS”). The Credit Facility will provide term loans (three to seven years) through participating financial institutions to fund post-harvest supply chain investments. It will be managed by the Credit Line Directorate (CLD), which is a program management unit within the Ministry of Finance acting under the Government Decision to oversee donor funded credit lines.

Support for investment development services will be provided on a demand-driven cost sharing basis through Moldovan investment development service providers (“IDS Providers” or “IDSP”) to those producers, producer groups and rural entrepreneurs interested in developing post-harvest investment projects and obtaining loans for them via the Credit Facility.

While the responsibility for operating in a safe manner to avoid any negative environmental or social impact lies with producers, producer groups and rural entrepreneurs that develop post-harvest infrastructure, the IDS Providers will assist the applicants for IDS to develop business plans that will attest their actions taken on complying with labor standards and working conditions, including occupational safety and health and community impacts such as public health, safety and security, and gender equality.

To ensure compliance of AAFA financed projects with existing environmental regulations, the CLD shall hire a short term Environment and Social Consultant (the “Consultant”) to provide guidance on initial project screening and review, develop training materials, conduct training sessions, review environmental management and monitoring plans submitted as part of the project appraisal process, and, periodically determine that monitoring is being carried out to appropriate standards.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The main objective of the assignment is to ensure that AAFA loans do not support projects that will contribute to the deterioration of the environment, health, or safety hazards.

Specific objectives are:

- (i) to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures are incorporated into the project documentation, and
- (ii) to monitor the projects to ensure that mitigation is carried out and to ensure that environmental impacts not previously anticipated do not occur.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work outlined below is not exhaustive and is intended only to provide a broad description of the assignment. The consultant will work under the supervision of the Head of CLD, as well as in close collaboration with the Participating Financial Institutions (PFIs) and other stakeholders, including End-Borrowers, IDS Providers, Millennium Challenge Account Moldova (the “MCA Moldova”) and will be responsible to ensure that proposed investment projects are in compliance with all environmental laws, standards and guidelines.

3.1. The tasks to be performed by the Consultant

- Provide guidance, consultancy and explanations to End-Borrowers and PFIs via personal, phone, email and/or skype (or other platform) communication on environmental and social mitigation measures that can be incorporated into project implementation;
- Provide guidance and backstopping to PFI loan officers on the application of project environmental and social screening procedures to project proposals;
- Develop training materials and provide training and consultation related to environmental and social screening procedures and environmental and social mitigation measures to PFIs, IDS Providers and End-Borrowers, at the request of MCC, MCA Moldova, CLD, PFIs, IDSPs or End-Borrowers;
- Perform clearance review of PFI’s and the End Borrowers environmental screening and loan eligibility for the proposed activities to be financed;

- Review environmental risk evaluation and determine if the proposed investment project falls within one of the environmental risk categories (conventionally divided into three main categories - I, II and III);
- Ensure that for each project the required environmental documentation are prepared by the End-Borrower. The required documentation should be prepared and adopted according to the national requirements before the financing is being disbursed;
- Review Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA), Environmental and Social Management Plans and monitoring plans (ESMP) for projects requiring them as the case may be;
- Prepare and periodically update an Environmental and Social Monitoring Program (ESMonP) for on-site monitoring the environmental and social performance of the Credit Facility Loans;
- In accordance with ESMonP, the Consultant shall undertake field visits to projects for which environmental clearance permits were required, to monitor compliance;
- Monitor all projects requiring an ESIA to ensure that mitigation is being carried out as planned and that no unidentified negative effects have occurred;
- Prepare periodic reports to CLD and submit information to MCC, MCA Moldova and CLD staff, experts and/or consultants on on-going basis, as requested, on environmental and social aspects and/or impacts of reviewed, approved and financed projects and/or project beneficiaries and efficiency analysis of mitigation measures applied to minimize negative consequences;
- Ensure that applicable national standards and guidelines are being achieved or followed by the End-Borrower. Where multiple projects are being carried out in geographical proximity, the Consultant will assess the possible cumulative effects on the environment (in particular natural habitats, forests, soil, air and water quality).

3.2. Other requirements

The Consultant shall be available at the CLD office not later than 24 hours from the moment a written notice has been sent to the Consultant via e-mail.

When communicating with End-Borrowers and/or PFIs via email, the Head of CLD or the CLD's contact person with Compact Program should be cc'd in emails.

4. QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Have university degree in environmental sciences, environmental management, sustainable development, natural resource management or related fields;
- Have at least 4 years of professional experience in environmental/social impact assessment and mitigation management.
- Be familiar with procedures for environmental assessments and monitoring, environmental management, national environmental legislation and permitting process;
- Have good understanding of international environmental guidelines and policies, MCC

Environmental and Social Assessment Guidelines and Gender Policy;

- Have demonstrated experience in planning and conducting public consultations, meetings and/or training sessions with different stakeholders;
- Have previous experience in environmental/social impact assessment and mitigation management of projects and beneficiaries in agriculture & food industry financed through credit programs of national/international development agencies/institutions will be a strong advantage..
- Be of outstanding character and integrity;
- Be free of conflict of interest and committed to protecting the integrity of the program;
- Be able to work under time pressure, on multiple tasks.

5. REPORTING

The Consultant will report directly to Head of CLD, who will manage and oversee implementation of Consultant's activity on a day to day basis and will be the contact person for the Project.

6. LEVEL OF EFFORT AND DURATION OF ASSIGNMENT

It is expected that overall duration of the assignment could extend through August 2015.

The Consultant is employed/contracted on a part-time basis. The normal working hours will be eight (8) hours per working day (from 8:30AM to 5:30PM, one hour lunch break).

7. LOCATION OF THE SERVICES

The Consultant shall provide the services at the CLD office in Chisinau, except on-site missions and communication with PFIs and/or End-Borrowers via phone or internet.

8. SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO BE PROVIDED TO THE CONSULTANT

The CLD shall provide to the Consultant adequate working place, premises and transportation/travel facilities for on-site visits of the Consultant to End-Borrower businesses financed out of Credit Facility loans.

9. INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

To be considered, applicants must submit the following information:

1) Cover letter (maximum three pages) addressing applicant's ability to perform duties and responsibilities as stated in the position description above.

2) Curriculum Vitae, not to exceed five (5) pages, showing at a minimum, the applicant's educational background including degree(s) obtained, professional experience in reverse chronological order, language proficiency, and any other relevant professional information.

When describing professional experience, the applicant should list the project names and dates, applicant's specific roles and responsibilities, and the name and contact information for applicant's

supervisor (telephone and e-mail).

3) Professional References: names and contact information (telephone number(s) and email address) of three professional references in addition to anyone already listed in Item (2) above. Please clearly state the relationship of professional reference to the applicant (e.g., supervisor, former colleague, other).

4) Deadline for receipt of the aforementioned information is July 10, 2014 at 17.00 local time, Chisinau, Moldova. Complete application packages must be expedited to either:

Mail to:

Credit Line Directorate of the Ministry of Finance (CLD)

57/1 Banulescu-Bodoni street, office 315 or 317, Chisinau, Moldova.

E-mail to: dlcminfin@arax.md

5) An email application should specify the position name for which you are applying in the subject line of the email message. The application materials should be submitted as attachments in PDF format.

6) If the applications are sent by mail, the application package must be sent in an A4 envelope that is marked with a reference. This reference can include the name of the applicant or any other single reference chosen by the applicant. Applications submitted by fax will not be accepted.

7) The cover letter and curriculum vitae must be submitted in English.

8) Short-listed applicants will be contacted for interviews. Questions and/or phone inquiries from applicants prior to formation of the short-list will not be accepted.

9) CLD reserves the right to contact applicant's listed references and any other relevant references that may aid CLD in evaluating the applicant's qualification and suitability for the position.