



IFAD VI	
Nr. Referință	AWPB 2016
Componenta	1.1.1.18
Categoria	3
Loan/Grant	GEF

Terms of Reference:

Development of the Study on conservation agriculture practices in the Republic of Moldova

Background

Declining soil fertility, climatic extremes, high costs of inputs and lack of support for diversified income sources are widely recognized as major factors responsible for declining agricultural productivity and increasing rural poverty. The National Development Strategy “Moldova 2020” envisages sustainable development of agriculture. Sustainable development of agriculture will be ensured through application of environmental friendly practices contributing to improvement of ecological indicators and products quality. Natural resource like soil, existing minerals, pastures, green plantations will be managed efficiently supported by conservation agriculture practices and sustainable crop production techniques.

Conservation agriculture (CA) is defined as a package of agronomic practices that includes: a) reduced or eliminated mechanical soil disturbance; b) soil cover with crop residues; and c) diversification of crop species grown in sequences and/or associations (FAO, 2007). The primary rationale for this combination of practices is that it protects the natural resource base for agriculture (e.g. preventing soil erosion) thereby contributing to maintenance of long-run agricultural productivity. A range of secondary benefits, to farmers (e.g. cost-savings from reduced fuel costs), and to the global environment (e.g. reduced emissions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; reduction in irrigation water use), are also suggested by CA advocates.

The Republic of Moldova is highly vulnerable to climate change and variability, and the economy is particularly vulnerable because of the limited capacity of its social and productive structures, and its heavy dependence on climate-sensitive sectors such as agriculture.

The promotion and implementation of CA is one of the strategic priorities of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry, as the best mean to improve soil water conservation, increase soil fertility and preserve long-term quality and productive capacity of soils. The Government of the RM approved CA Programme for period: 2013-2020.

Scope of work

The objective of the Study is to provide an overview of the application of conservative agriculture practices in the Republic of Moldova in terms of progress, barriers/constraints/opportunities and measures to be carried out in the next five years in order to increase agricultural productivity taking into account climate changes.

Tasks of the assignment

A service provider will be selected and contracted by CPIU-IFAD and Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry to undertake the **following tasks**:

1. Collect and analyse data on:
 - a) the extent of adoption of conservation agriculture and its constituent components (how widespread is the adoption of conservation agriculture practices in the Republic of Moldova, providing data on farmers applying zero-tillage, mini-tillage and strip-tillage, total cultivated land under each type of the CA soil preparation, structure of crops grown under CA system, comparative analyse of the crop yields on different system of soil preparation, type of farms, geographical location, etc.);
 - b) data on machinery, tools and equipment for CA Systems (machinery, tools and equipment available in the country: manufactures, distributors, suppliers, prices, customers' satisfaction etc.).
2. To analyse what kind of support and technical assistance for farmers on implementation of CA farming is provided.
3. Assess impact of conservation agriculture on sustainable crop intensification (impact on crop production, impact on food security, impact on soil and water conservation, case studies, models, etc).
4. Provide SWOT analyse on implementation of CA. Barriers/constraints/opportunities, advantages and disadvantages of conservation tillage. Identification of necessary measures to overcome constraints and ensure further improvement.
5. Develop recommendations for Policy makers on improvement of transfer of technology and implementation of CA.
6. Develop recommendations for research and education institutions on improvement of CA adaptation in Moldova.
7. Develop practical recommendation for farmers who are in transition to CA or implement CA technologies.

Timeframe

The timeframe for this assignment is tentatively October –November 2016, but preferably not more than 50 working days.

Minimum eligibility criteria

- Legal entity registered in the Republic of Moldova.
- At least 5 years' experience in development of surveys, studies, strategies in agriculture.
- Has developed in the last 5 years at least three surveys, studies, assessments, strategies papers in agriculture.

Evaluation criteria

Criteria	Score
1. Company relevant specific experience:	20
1.1 Total experience, years	50%
1.2 Number of elaborated studies	50%
2. Proposal and methodology: Relevance of data collection techniques – up to 10 pts. Data quality assurance (number and relevance of data sources, accuracy, completeness, update status, relevance, consistency across data sources, reliability, accessibility) – up to 10 pts.	20
3. Key personnel, including:	50
3.1 Team Leader	20
General qualifications/studies	30%
Participation in similar assignments	70%
3.2 Experts in agriculture	30
Diploma/certificate in agriculture (2 experts)	30%
Participation in agricultural studies: data collection/analysis, development of strategies, recommendations, assessments, surveys etc.	70%
4. Time frame: ≤40 working days – 10 pts., 50 working days – 8 pts.	10
Total:	100

Offer content

Interested organizations should submit their applications consisting of the following documents/information to demonstrate required qualifications:

1. Technical Proposal will include:

- a) The organization profile.
- b) List of the previous contracts for similar services provided in the last 5 years, indicating information on: contractor, year when services were provided, short description of provided services, experience with public authorities, NGOs, farmers, international organizations, cost of the contract.
- c) List of key staff which will be involved in assignment, including CV with indication of relevant experience and for what chapter of the study is responsible.
- d) Draft structure/ content of the study.
- e) Methodology and description of proposed data collection techniques and data quality assurance.
- f) Time frame with description of the activities on each task.

2. Financial proposal

Detailed Financial proposal shall include the total cost and list all major cost components associated with the services, and the detailed breakdown of such costs. Cost for services must be provided in USD at 0% VAT.

Evaluation

The winner will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the current edition of IFAD Procurement Guidelines, based on selection method "Quality and Cost-Based Selection (QCBS)", the final score obtained by each company being composed of 70% of the score for the parameter, Quality" (evaluated based on technical bid) and 30% -score obtained for the parameter, Cost" (established based on financial bid). The financial offer will be opened only if the provided technical offer will pass the minimum technical score of 70 points.

Conditions for offer's submission

To be considered, interested companies should submit their proposal (technical and financial) one as "Original" and second as "Copy" in separate sealed envelopes. Each envelope will consist of the technical and financial offer sealed in separate envelopes as well (a total of 2 envelopes, each with 2 envelopes inside). Offers should be submitted to the: CPIU-IFAD, 162, Stefan cel Mare si Sfint blvd., office 1303, MD-2004 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova no later than **07th October. 2016, 10:00**. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing by standard electronic communication to: office@ifad.md.

Additional information

CPIU-IFAD is entitled to cancel the tender at any stage of the competition due to the impossibility of financial coverage or due to unconformity of tenders to the requirements set out in the tender documents or other justified reason.