



TERMS OF REFERENCE

DEVELOPMENT OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT SURVEY OF THE AGRICULTURAL REVITALIZATION PROJECT (IFAD II)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Agricultural Revitalization Project (ARP), the second IFAD funded project in Moldova, has started in January 2006 and was envisaged to be finalized in March 2013. Currently the project is in final stage of implementation period.

The goal of ARP is to contribute to the alleviation of poverty in rural areas through the revitalization of village economies, thereby creating employment opportunities and generating income for the rural population. The project aims to benefit village agricultural workers, farmers, members of farmers' and other community-level organizations, and local entrepreneurs in participating rural communities.

ARP is implemented through its four components:

(i) *Participatory Community Development* – this component has enabled communities to acquire the capacity to take charge of their own development process. The component has focused on community mobilization and empowerment, and technical support and training. The component comprises two sub-components:

- *Community Mobilization and Empowerment* – has offer technical assistance focusing on developing the capacities of pre-selected participating villages to understand and operationalise the ARP strategy and to develop and implement Village Economic Development Plan.
- *Technical Support and Training* – potential borrowers could receive the necessary technical assistance in preparation of business plans and investment proposals, accounting and financial management, and business management skills among others.

(ii) *Institutional Capacity Building* – through this component the project has supported the development of necessary institutional and technical support to project participants at the village level.

(iii) *Community Economic Investments* – the component provide funding for the development of privately owned and managed economic infrastructure in participating villages.

(iv) *Project Management* – overall management of the project.

CONTEXT AND GENERAL SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The context of the ARP completion, according 2012 IFAD supervision mission recommendation, CPIU-IFAD should contract a national consultant to conduct the program impact assessment including RIMS¹ indicators and project completion report.

The objective of consultancy is to perform final impact evaluation of the project (implementation period January 2006 – December 2012) by assessing how the intervention being evaluated affects outcomes, whether these effects are intended or unintended.

¹ Result and Impact Management System - is the framework adopted by IFAD for measuring and reporting the results and impact of financed programmes.

The impact evaluation should provide the assessment of Project achievements, in terms particularly in the livelihoods of beneficiaries that relate to the implemented Project activities, and the sharing of lessons learned and development experience.

The assessment of Project performance should have a special emphasis on:

- *Relevance* – the extent to which the objectives of the development intervention are consistent with beneficiary requirements, country needs, institutional priorities, partners and donors policies, as well as Project coherence in achieving its objectives;
- *Effectiveness* – the extent to which the development intervention’s objectives were achieved or are expected to be achieved taking into account their specificities (not just physical outputs but also high-level results; explaining factors determining achievements, including change of context; looking at other possible achievements);
- *Efficiency* – a measure of how economically resources/inputs are converted into results, with reference to project benchmarks (include project delays, overruns; technical issues; operational cost ratio, economic rates of return);
- *Sustainability* - the likely continuation of net benefits from a development intervention beyond the phase of external funding support. It also includes an assessment of the likelihood that actual and anticipated results will be resilient to risks beyond the project’s life;
- *Rural poverty impact* - the changes that have occurred or are expected to occur in the lives of the rural poor and their community (whether positive or negative, direct or indirect, intended or unintended) as a result of development interventions, (i.e. changes in: household income and net assets, human and social capital and empowerment, food security and agricultural productivity, natural resources and the environment, institutions and policies);
- *Gender Equality and Women Empowerment* – design features, implementation features (AWPB and allocated resources), effectiveness (results achieved), sustainability of gender-related results, performance of partners in promoting gender quality and empowerment of women.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND TASKS

- Before starting, be thoroughly familiar with the Project (objectives, outputs and undertaken activities, etc.) from the key background documentation provided by CPIU-IFAD (project appraisal report, supervision mission reports, progress reports, M&E reports and special studies, background information on the project area, etc.);
- Agree with project management on the methodology of the review, in terms of: (i) the level of participation vis-à-vis management on the process of data collection, data analysis, etc. (ii) the sampling methodology to be adopted (interviews, questionnaires, participatory techniques, etc.);
- Per component, assess physical progress, efficiency and adequacy, in terms of delivery of project inputs, outputs and outcomes;
- Assess the relevance and effectiveness of all implemented Project activities, including technical assistance and training given to Project beneficiaries/stakeholders in relation to design objectives;
- Analyze which factors and constraints have influenced Project implementation, including technical, managerial, organizational, institutional and socio-economic policy issues, in addition to other external factors unforeseen during design;
- Produce a clear set of lessons learned that can benefit the project in its remaining lifespan.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

- Degree of higher education in economics/ agriculture or closely related discipline
- Extensive knowledge of the rural business development and financing;
- Various methodological skills (local development, empowerment, experience with impact assessment assignment, participatory research, gender competence, etc.);
- At least 5 years of professional experience in working with international organizations preferably related to monitoring and evaluation activities;

- Robust analytical skills;
- Excellent report writing skills, as well as the ability to present results in a clear and effective manner;
- Fluent written and spoken Romanian and English;
- Excellent proficiency in computer applications.

DELIVERABLES AND TIMEFRAME

It is expected that the consulting company will conduct: (i) the first stage of the assignment in **November 2012 – January 2013** and provide the English version of the Project impact assessment report no later than **25 January, 2013**.

OFFER CONTENT

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

1. *Technical Proposal* will include: the profile of the company, relevant experience for the assignments, staffing (CV of each team member), proposed methodology to perform the assessment, the work plan (activities) and resources (including number of person-day);
2. *Financial proposal* will obligatory include the consulting fee and operational expenditures related to the assignment. The cost of services must be provided in USD².

THE EVALUATION CRITERIA

The consultant 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 60 points.

CONDITIONS FOR OFFER’S SUBMISSION

To be considered interested companies should submit their proposal (technical offer and the financial one) an original and a copy, in separate sealed envelope at the following address: CPIU-IFAD, 162, Stefan cel Mare si Sfint blvd., office 1303, MD-2004 Chisinau, Republic of Moldova no later than **29 October 2012, 17:00**. Any request for clarification must be sent in writing by standard electronic communication to office@ifad.md or marina.ianev@ifad.md

² As per the Government Decree no.246 dd. 08.04.2010 procurement of goods and services under the IFAD-funded programmes shall be carried out applying 0% VAT.