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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

**REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA**

**Armenia: Climate-Adaptive Food Security Enhancement Project (CAFSEP)**

**CONSULTING SERVICES**

**Selection of Rural Development and Agriculture Consultant company**

**Grant No. 9241 ARM**

**Reference No. CAFSEP -CS-24-01**

**Publication date: 01.08.2024**

**Deadline for submission of Interests: 09.09.2024**

The Government of the Republic of Armenia (RA), represented by the Ministry of Economy (MoE) has received a financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) (financed by the Japan Fund for Prosperous and Resilient Asia and the Pacific) toward the cost of the “Climate-Adaptive Food Security Enhancement Project” (hereinafter: CAFSEP or Project) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Project aims to improve food security, increase agricultural livelihoods, support income-generating activities and enhance the adaptive capacity of highly vulnerable communities. The project will develop renewable energy solutions for at least 10 vulnerable communities in Shirak and Tavush provinces that have high poverty incidence of 35% and 38% respectively.

The consulting services will be required for a period of three years from to undertake community mobilization, outreach, consultation, identify the need and required assets (equipment, tools, seeds, etc.) for developing livelihoods and enhancing food security, support handover of assets to households and installation of equipment, provide training, technical and knowledge support, including financial literacy, and business skills training, business development support, mentoring and coaching.

The key aspects of current consulting services for Rural Development and Agriculture Consultancy will include (but not limited to) the following:

* 1. Reaching out to farmers, community, WUAs;
  2. Facilitate and support the Project Implementation Team (PIT) of the MOE and communities in selecting of farmers;
  3. Consult with households, provide technical guidance and identify required agricultural inputs for them;
  4. Develop training modules on the identified topics (considering Japanese visibility);
  5. Develop/print and deliver training materials, video instructions to beneficiaries;
  6. Develop video materials to share through an online platform (considering Japanese visibility);
  7. Conduct trainings and ongoing consultations for smallholding farmers on effective agricultural techniques;
  8. Advise and support to establish high value gardens (crops/berry/vegetables, fruits) in beneficiaries’ backyard farms;
  9. Coach selected households;
  10. Support in installation of drip irrigation systems in backyard gardens; support in establishing orchards;
  11. Train beneficiaries how to operate and maintain the installed equipment and systems; and
  12. Support in organizing and mobilizing farmer field days (FFD) to bring stakeholders including farmers from the target and nearby area as well as nearby areas, representatives of state and municipal agencies. The objective of the FFDs will be to demonstrate, share, and discuss agricultural management practices and equipment. The field day can include presentations, a farmer’s market, and walk-throughs of the fields.

Interested Applicants must provide information evidencing that they are qualified and experienced to perform those Services. For that purpose, documented evidence of recent and similar services shall be submitted.

The Consultant (firm) will be registered in Armenia under relevant laws and regulations and must be in compliance with all such laws and regulations. The minimum requirements for the consulting firm are: at least 7 years of extensive and proven experience in conducting training and capacity building of farmers in agriculture projects funded by international development organizations. At least 5 years of country and regional experience. The Consultant is expected to provide permanent personnel (at least 6 persons, estimation of 65 person/month during the 12 months of contract duration).

The organization shall mobilize a professional team in Rural Development and Community Mobilization. Team members must have professional experience/practice as Smart-Agricultural Specialist, Community Mobilization Specialists, Agronomist, Agricultural Economist, Value Chain Specialist or related experience during the recent at least 7-10 years. Experience working with Government entities on contractual basis is desirable. Participation in projects financed by international donor organizations is required.

The Ministry of Economy of RA (MoE) now invites eligible Consultant firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

A Consultant firm will be selected in accordance with the Fixed-Budget Selection procedures set out in the ADB’s Procurement Policy (2017, as amended from time to time: [ADB Procurement Policy](https://www.adb.org/documents/adb-procurement-policy)) and Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers (2017, as amended from time to time: [Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers](https://www.adb.org/documents/procurement-regulations-adb-borrowers)).

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by email in PDF format to the address below no later than **September 09, 2024** and must be specifically marked “Expression of Interest for the Selection of Rural Development and Agriculture Consultant”.

Interested Applicants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours from 10.00 to 17.00 (local time).

Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Armenia

Attn: Ms. Lusine Ananyan, Head of International Programs Coordination Division of the Agricultural Programs Implementation Department of the Ministry of Economy of RA

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