



INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT PROCUREMENT NOTICE

Date: 31 March 2017

Reference: LEB/CO /IC/ 50/17

Country: Lebanon

Description of the assignment: Expert in Agro-food Value Chain Development to carry out an assessment of the Oregano value chain in Lebanon, including the development of an assessment report, an action plan and technical specifications for supporting the assessed value chains.

Project name: Support to Strengthen the Oregano Value Chain in Lebanon

Period of assignment/services: The consultant will be working for 60 days distributed over a period of 8 months.

Proposals should be submitted online through the UNDP job site at <https://jobs.undp.org/> no later than; **Tuesday 18 April 2017 at 11:59 P.M. Beirut local Time. Proposals will not be received through email.**

Any request for clarification must be sent in writing to the e-mail procurement.lb@undp.org. The UNDP Procurement Unit will respond in writing by standard electronic mail and will send written copies of the response, including an explanation of the query without identifying the source of inquiry, to all consultants.

1. BACKGROUND

Lebanon has experienced severe economic and social impact since the eruption of the Syrian crisis. As of January 2017 the number of registered displaced Syrians is 1,017,433 which amount to roughly 25% of the overall population of Lebanon. Livelihoods in Lebanon have been severely impacted by the demographic and economic shocks as a consequence of the Syrian conflict.

In 2015, the Ministry of Agriculture launched its 2015-2019 strategy, with the mission “to improve the performance of the agricultural sector contributing to the economic, social, environmental and sustainable rural development of Lebanon.” The Strategy outlines three specific objectives: I) to provide safe and quality food; II) to improve the contribution of agriculture to the economic and social development of the country; III) to promote the sustainable management of natural and genetic resources. Within this strategy specific targets were set to be reached by 2019 which include: increasing agricultural exports by 10%; increasing the irrigated agriculture land by 20,000 ha²; updating the irrigation systems of at least 1,000 ha² annually through subsidizing equipment to encourage farmers to update their irrigation systems; as well as building 50 mountain lakes and linking them to irrigation systems.

There are over 1,400 cooperatives operating in Lebanon. 1,201 cooperatives are considered to be active cooperatives, out of which 799 are agricultural cooperatives. The majority of cooperatives are present in South Lebanon, followed by North Lebanon and the Bekaa region. In spite of the potential for growth of Lebanese agro-food production and expansion to international markets, cooperatives within this sector often face several challenges. These among others include high operational costs, limited marketing and sales skills and outdated and old equipment and facilities which impacts the quality and productive capacities of cooperatives and hinders their ability to meet international food safety and quality standards.

The implementation of initiatives to strengthen value chain development is a crucial approach to enhance economic development, generate job opportunities and support inclusive economic growth. Moreover, strengthening value chains has the potential to provide economic benefits at multiple levels creating a trickle-down effect on vulnerable groups. The Ministry of Social Affairs (MoSA) jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) launched the "Lebanese Host Communities Support Project" (LHSP) in 2013 as a comprehensive, coordinated and durable response towards the Syrian Refugee Crisis and its implications on the country. The Livelihoods and Local Economic Development Strategy under LHSP seeks to address the challenges faced by Lebanon, in light of the Syrian crisis, in relation to the deteriorating economic conditions in the country and the increasing unemployment rates, poverty levels and consequently social instability, particularly in the most vulnerable host communities. This includes holistic interventions to strengthen value-chains. UNDPs approach to value chain development focuses on strengthening the competitiveness of value chains while allowing for the incorporation of a growing number of workforce. UNDP takes a system-wide perspective to value chain development, by addressing constraints at multiple levels (micro, meso and macro). Activities in this regard include supporting both domestic value chains (e.g. strengthening and linking rural producers with urban markets) as well as linkages to international / global value chains (e.g. upgrading and linking domestic producers with firms abroad)

The production of Lebanese Oregano (*Origanum syriacum*) is identified as a value chain that needs to be strengthened throughout the different phases of processing from planting, to cultivation and drying, packaging, and marketing. The plant has many aromatic and medicinal uses, but its primary use in Lebanon is culinary; it is indeed the main ingredient that is usually used in the Zaatar mixture. Oregano is a low-input crop that does not require a lot of fertilizers/pesticides, thus contributing to sustainable agriculture. Its cultivation and processing (threshing, drying, grinding and mixing with other ingredients) present important opportunities for income generation and job creation for the rural communities, making it an attractive alternative to other subsidized monoculture.

2. SCOPE OF WORK, RESPONSIBILITIES AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ANALYTICAL WORK

The consultant will be responsible for carrying out an assessment of the Oregano value chain in Lebanon. The assessments should include mapping and analyzing needs in relation to both vertical linkages (e.g. identifying constraints such as productive fragmentation and absence of effective local and national networks and identifying opportunities for increased collaboration and involvement of MSMEs/cooperatives with larger firms) and horizontal linkages (e.g. access to business services, economic development services, business associations and finance etc.), identifying other possible weaknesses and opportunities in the targeted value chains (e.g. weaknesses in productive performance, productivity and technological innovation), as well as regional or national level constraints to the advancement and competitiveness of the specific value chain (e.g. lack of quality and safety standards and control, lack of national or territorial marketing).

The assessment should identify targeted interventions to strengthen the value chain such as upgrading and strengthening the weakest links in the value chains (e.g. addressing infrastructure, technical capacity or financial gaps) to improve the overall competitiveness of the value chain, creating new linkages in the value chain (regionally, national or internationally) or strengthening existing ones to improve the efficiency of value chains. The assessment should in this regards result in the development of an action plan and technical specification for supporting the value chains. Taking a system-wide perspective to value chain development the assessment should identify any needs for interventions within the following 3 levels of intervention:

At the **macro level** identifying any needs for: supporting governmental integrated policies or networks of productive and non-productive stakeholders, supporting the organization of national partnerships, establishment of common production standards, enhancing national marketing strategies and optimizing strategic services (commercialization, marketing, brands, quality and food safety control etc.), supporting action research to enhance national and territorial knowledge for value chain development and facilitating access to international markets and international relationships and partnerships mainly through decentralized cooperation.

At the **meso level** identifying any needs for: strengthening regional and local institutions providing support services for the optimization of value chains, supporting development of regional and local networks, increasing awareness of regional and local actors, harmonizing strategies, marketing of activities at the local level, supporting the organization of local partnerships and creating territorial linkages.

At the **micro level** identifying any needs for: interventions to reduce cost (e.g. energy, water and industrial waste etc.), improve production performance, strengthen cooperative management, enhance commercial capacities, valorise human resources, support the use of new and/or more environmentally friendly technology, support the achievement of international quality and health standards for exportation and addressing other specific constraints or opportunities in support of the value chain.

As a cross-cutting concern the assessment should include the identification of activities that can contribute to the economic empowerment of women, including activities that may support women in moving beyond production activities. Beyond production activities refers to all agricultural value chain functions outside of production including but not limited to input and agricultural services, processing, marketing and retail sales.

The purpose of the assignment is to assist in the transfer of knowledge to stakeholders which will lead to at least one of the following:

- Improved quality
- Improved productivity
- Improved processing efficiency
- Improved Packaging
- Increased revenues
- Increased job opportunities

On this basis and in the framework of UNDP's support to Value Chain development the expert in agro-food value chain development should achieve the following results/deliverables:

1. Development of a value-chain assessment report for the Oregano value chain in Lebanon.

The assessment report should include the identification of needed interventions within the above noted 3 levels of intervention: macro, meso and micro level; and include mapping and analyzing needs in relation to both vertical and horizontal linkages. Moreover, it should include the identification of activities that can contribute to the economic empowerment of women.

2. Development of a detailed 1 year support action plan for the assessed agro-food value chains, including needed activities, timeline and actors to be involved.

3. Development of technical specifications for the needed support of the agro-food value chains in accordance with the support action plan, including but not limited to: specifications of any identified needed equipment for the cooperatives operating within the assessed value chains, TORs for any technical consultants needed to support the development of the value chains, specifications for any requirements to be met for entering new markets, etc.
4. Contribute to the technical evaluation of the equipment recommended or the technical consultant service requested under the value chain within the UNDP procurement process.

The following activities are requested to fulfill the above mentioned scope of work:

1. Desk review of existing value chain analysis.
2. Definition of the gaps in each value chain and the intervention needed to be prioritized.
 - a. Identify the stakeholders:
 - i. Farmers, cooperatives, MSMEs
 - ii. Education centers
 - iii. Suppliers
 - iv. Research institute
 - v. Ministries
 - vi. Other
 - b. Assess the stakeholders and define the intervention needs as per the value chain gap analysis. The interventions should include:
 - i. Definition of training needs
 - ii. Definition of new agriculture practices or production methods
 - iii. Definition of the new tools and equipment needed
 - iv. Identification of new markets
 - c. Development of specifications and Terms of Reference (TORS) for the defined interventions under activity 2b.
 - d. Contribute to the technical evaluation
3. Provide needed reporting on milestones and end of intervention

All the above noted activities should be carried out in close coordination and collaboration with UNDP staff.

For additional information, please refer to ANNEX I – Terms of Reference

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

I. Academic Qualifications:

- Bachelor degree in Agriculture, agro-food development, agro-business or other related field. Master degree related to these field will be a plus.

II. Years of experience and professional experience:

- Relevant experience in carrying out assessments in the fields of agro-food development, agro business and value chain development: at least 5 years;
- Relevant experience in writing technical reports and specifications assessments in the fields of agro-food development, agro business and value chain development;
- Experience in working with national and local authorities and other actors in the agro-food sector in Lebanon;
- Proven experience in similar value chain analysis in Lebanon or the region;
- Previous experience in the Oregano value chain is an asset.

III. Competencies:

- Established knowledge about the agro-food sector, local economic development and value-chain development;
- Proven strong oral and written communication skills;
- Ability to work under pressure, meet deadlines and handle multiple tasks simultaneously and accurately;
- Produces quality outputs in a timely manner when assigned a given task;
- Listen actively, acknowledging and responding constructively to other points of view;
- Full commitment to UNDP rules and regulations
- Proficiency in English and Arabic

4. DOCUMENTS TO BE INCLUDED WHEN SUBMITTING THE PROPOSALS.

Interested individual consultants must submit the following documents/information to demonstrate their qualifications:

(I). Technical Proposal:

- a) **Letter to UNDP Confirming Interest and Availability for the Individual Contractor (IC) Assignment** using the template provided by UNDP;
- b) **P11** (Personal History Form), indicating all past experience from similar projects, as well as the contact details (email and telephone number) of the Candidate and at least three (3) professional references;

- c) **Description** of the methodology that will be adapted and why the individual considers him/herself as the most suitable for the assignment.
- d) **Financial Proposal** that indicates the all-inclusive fixed total contract price, supported by a breakdown of costs, as per template provided (section I-ii). If an Offeror is employed by an organization/company/institution, and he/she expects his/her employer to charge a management fee in the process of releasing him/her to UNDP under Reimbursable Loan Agreement (RLA), the Offeror must indicate at this point, and ensure that all such costs are duly incorporated in the financial proposal submitted to UNDP.

5. FINANCIAL PROPOSAL

- **Contracts based on daily fee**

The financial proposal will specify the daily fee, travel expenses and per diems quoted in separate line items, and payments are made to the Individual Consultant based on the number of days worked.

The Contract will specify a daily fee, and monthly payments will be made to the awarded Individual Consultant as follows:

Daily Fee x Number of Days Worked per Month = Monthly Payment

In this respect, the consultant shall take into consideration the following:

- i. A daily working fee must be all inclusive;
- ii. An IC time sheet must be submitted by the Contractor.

In order to assist the requesting unit in the comparison of financial proposals, the financial proposal shall be presented using the format of Appendix a - Annex III.

Travel:

All envisaged travel costs must be included in the financial proposal. This includes all travel to join duty station/repatriation travel. In general, UNDP should not accept travel costs exceeding those of an economy class ticket. Should the IC wish to travel on a higher class he/she should do so using their own resources.

In the case of unforeseeable travel, payment of travel costs including tickets, lodging and terminal expenses should be agreed upon, between the respective business unit and Individual Consultant, prior to travel and will be reimbursed.

6. EVALUATION

Individual consultants will be evaluated based on the following methodology:

Cumulative analysis

When using this weighted scoring method, the award of the contract should be made to the individual consultant whose offer has been evaluated and determined as:

- a) responsive/compliant/acceptable, and
- b) Having received the highest score out of a pre-determined set of weighted technical and financial criteria specific to the solicitation.

** Technical Criteria weight; [70%]*

** Financial Criteria weight; [30%]*

Only candidates obtaining a minimum technical score of 70 points would be considered for the Financial Evaluation.

Criteria	Weight	Max. Point
<u>Technical Competence</u>	70%	100
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria A: Educational Background 	14%	20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria B: Experiences Relevant experience in carrying out assessments in the fields of agro-food development, agro business and value chain development: at least 5 years; Relevant experience in writing technical reports and specifications and evaluating technical offers 	17.5%	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Criteria C: Relevant Experiences Experience in working with national and local authorities and other actors in the agro-food sector in Lebanon Proven experience in similar value chain analysis in Lebanon or the region; Previous experience in the Oregano value 	17.5%	25

<i>chain is an asset</i>		
• Criteria D: Description of Methodology	21%	30
<u>Financial</u> (Lower Offer/Offer*100)	30%	100
<u>Total Score</u>	Technical Score * 0.7 + Financial Score * 0.3	

Weight per Technical Competence	
Weak: below 70%	The individual consultant/contractor has demonstrated a WEAK capacity for the analyzed competence
Satisfactory: 70-75%	The individual consultant/contractor has demonstrated a SATISFACTORY capacity for the analyzed competence
Good: 76-85%	The individual consultant/contractor has demonstrated a GOOD capacity for the analyzed competence
Very Good: 86-95%	The individual consultant/contractor has demonstrated a VERY GOOD capacity for the analyzed competence
Outstanding: 96-100%	The individual consultant/contractor has demonstrated an OUTSTANDING capacity for the analyzed competence.

How to apply:

The consultancy is open for all National consultants who meet the selection criteria and propose a competitive fee.

Interested consultants are requested to apply online using the UNDP jobs portal at

<https://jobs.undp.org/>

The job site does not allow to submit multiple files. At the time of preparing the application, consultants are requested to copy the CV/P11, technical proposal, Annex 3 (Offerors Letter) and the financial proposal in one document and upload the file as word or PDF to the job site.

ANNEXES

ANNEX I - TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

ANNEX II - INDIVIDUAL CONSULTANT CONTRACT AND GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ANNEX III - OFFEROR'S LETTER TO UNDP CONFIRMING INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY FOR THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTOR (IC) ASSIGNMENT