

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Republic of Tajikistan
Agriculture Commercialization Project
Grant No: H9640-TJ
Project ID: Number P132652
Assignment Title: Curriculum Modernization – Tajikistan Agrarian University and Vocational Agricultural Colleges
Reference No: AED/PMU/CQS/2016-04

The Republic of Tajikistan has received financing from the World Bank to support commercialization of agriculture by strengthening the ability of the new generation of small-scale, private farmers to engage in commercialization activities with the agribusiness sector and gain access to markets, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services will be supporting the AED PMU in implementation of Sub Component 3.1: Support to the Educational Establishments in the Agriculture Sector.

The university(s) and agricultural college will work with their Tajik counterparts to: develop a medium-term program to modernize their curricula, train selected staff and faculty to implement this modernization program, train staff and faculty to understand and deliver new course material, guide the university in decisions on the acquisition of new teaching material and equipment, implement a staff exchange program for selected Tajik staff and faculty, and guide expansion and modernization of current correspondence learning programs. An input of at least **6 person months is envisaged for support to the Tajik Agrarian University and at least 4 person months** is envisaged for support to the two vocational agricultural college. These inputs will be spread over 2 years.

It is planned to start the assignment in July 15, 2016 to July 15, 2018.

The Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan/Agriculture Commercialization Project now invites eligible university and vocational agricultural colleges to indicate their interest in providing the services, preferably as a single entity. Interested university and vocational agricultural college associations should provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

The shortlisting criteria for the university(s) and vocational college are:

- University(s) general experience (core business and years in business) – **20 points**;
- University(s) experience in the field of the assignment (number of years in the sector and similar assignments implemented in the 10 years) – **20 points**;
- The partner university will be an agricultural university, an agricultural faculty within a larger university or a consortium of universities. It will be located in a modern, market economy, have international standing and have demonstrated experience in collaborating and working with universities in developing countries in Central Asia or the countries of the former CIS-**20 points**;
- An agricultural university(s) of international standing, located in a modern, market economy; with demonstrated competence in the disciplines taught by the Tajik Agrarian University (Agronomy, Animal Science, Veterinary Science, Irrigation and Water Management, Agricultural Mechanization, Economics, Accounting and Finance, Horticulture and Biotechnology, Agri-Business) -**20 points**;
- The agricultural university(s) will have full national accreditation in their country of origin for the granting of Bachelors, Masters and Phds' in agriculture; and the vocational agricultural college will have full national accreditation in its country of origin for the granting of vocational diplomas in agriculture -**10 points**;
- The university will have demonstrated experience in working with similar institutions in Central Asia or the countries of the former Commonwealth of Independent States-**10 points**;
- The university should be able to provide faculty and staff with a good knowledge of Russian and English.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers, January 2011* ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may submit their REOI as an individual university or form an association involving a university(s) and a vocational college. All members of any such association shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire assignment. However, the experience of sub-consultant will not be considered while short-listing.

A Consultant will be selected based on the Consultants' Qualifications in accordance with the Guideline dated January 2011, revised July 2014. The best qualified and experienced firm shall be selected and only this one selected firm shall be asked to submit a combined technical and financial proposal.

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours: *08-00 to 17-00 hours*.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by May 31, 2016.

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