



TERMS OF REFERENCE

Job title: Individual Consultant to support cooperation of farmers on both banks of the river Nistru

Reference to the: Advanced Cross-river Capacities for Trade

Contract type: Individual Contract (IC)

Contract Duration: July 2020 - December 2021

(estimated workload: up to 100 working days in total)

Background

The overall objective of the Advanced cross-river capacities for trade Project (AdTrade Project), implemented by UNDP with the financial support of Sweden, is to ensure that men and women on both banks of the Nistru River have better livelihoods and living conditions, due to improved cross-river cooperation to access the opportunities offered by Moldova's external trade arrangements, contributing to an environment of trust and cooperation across the river. The project will envisage provision of methodological and practical assistance in establishing long-term trade links and export promotion; support to existing and creation of new MSME and, as a result, creation of new jobs, in particular for vulnerable groups. These goals will be achieved through support to cross-river exchange of information, knowledge, experience and understanding of the opportunities provided by DCFTA to companies from the Transnistria region. Activities will also include learning from the successful experience of businesses from Eastern and Central Europe.

The main objectives of the Project are:

1. Improved cross-river exchange of information, knowledge, experience and understanding of the opportunities provided by DCFTA to companies from the Transnistria region.
2. Increased export activity of the business community from the Transnistria region as a result of better export promotion capacities and access to cross-river export support opportunities.
3. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises across the Nistru river, those led by women and benefitting vulnerable groups, are enabled to produce more competitive products.

The above aim at developing the exporting capacities of companies from the left bank and promote diversification of exports by offering support for strengthening the cooperation between agri-food producers from both banks of Nistru river. The confidence building potential will be emphasized throughout all the activities.

Specific context



One of the major problems of Moldovan producers is to ensure larger portfolios on highly competitive EU markets. Most value chain stakeholders (producer groups, small and medium-sized enterprises) do not grasp the advantages of creating cooperation platforms for exports. Additionally, there is limited availability of technical means/equipment, lack of enough financial resources for new investments, old production infrastructure and limited knowledge of the businesses from the Transnistria region about exporting to EU market.

Objective of the assignment

Individual Consultant to support cooperation of farmers on both banks (hereinafter National Consultant) will offer support to establish or extend the cooperation of farmers on both banks of Nistru river by providing specialized expertise and dedicated technical assistance. In particular, the National Consultant will assist the project team in planning and implementing measures aiming at institutionalization of the cooperation of small and medium-sized businesses and farmers around processing facilities/ logistic centres/ agri-food hubs/ agri-food clusters using sustainable and innovation approaches to designing production facilities. Also, he/she will support creation of enabling environment for creating infrastructure for cooperation, by engaging local private and public stakeholders in the developing joint infrastructure projects.

Key Activities and Outputs

- Conduct desk review of existing initiatives in the area of creation of processing facilities across Nistru river in agri-food sector, including assessment the current situation and existing legal forms of cooperation of agricultural producers according to the legislation and best practices of private or public funded projects from the banks of Nistru river;
- Support the project team to develop mechanisms of support the groups of producers for developing infrastructure projects on both banks of Nistru river;
- Offer capacity development support to existing and facilitate the creation of new groups of producers (Associations, Cooperatives, Producers Groups) to increase their organizational capacities for funds- rising and management of infrastructure projects;
- Help selected groups of producers to apply energy efficient technologies, digital services, sustainable and innovation approaches to designing production facilities;
- Support the project team to carry out preliminary technical evaluation of the investment project proposals submitted by the groups of producers;
- Provide support to the selected projects in the implementation stage, including for the institutionalization of cooperation between the farmers around processing facilities, and, later, monitor and evaluate the implementation.



For the given purpose, the National Consultant will carry out the following tasks:

#	Activities	Estimate Workdays	Tentative timeframe
1	<p>Inception</p> <p>Conduct desk review of existing initiatives in the area of creation of processing facilities across Nistru river in agri-food sector, including assessment the current situation and existing forms of cooperation of agricultural producers according to the legislation and best practices from the both banks;</p> <p>Based on the above, recommend adjustment of AdTrade project interventions accordingly and propose forms of cooperation between the agri-food producers from the both banks of Nistru river; develop a short intervention concept to support groups of producers on both banks with investment projects (to be implemented with project funds).</p> <p>Deliverables</p> <p>1.1. Short Assessment Report up to 5 pages 1.2. Intervention concept to support groups of producers on both banks</p>	Up to 10 days	July 2020
2	<p>Technical support to the project team</p> <p>Support the project team to implement the support scheme, the groups of producers for developing infrastructure projects on both banks of Nistru river;</p> <p>Support the project team to carry out preliminary technical evaluation of the investment project proposals submitted by the groups of producers,</p> <p>Provide relevant conclusions and recommendations regarding the improvement of selected projects, to ensure sustainability and confidence building aspects;</p> <p>Deliverables</p> <p>2.1. Progress report on conducted evaluation, containing up to four improved final project proposals</p>	Up to 20 days	July - November 2020
3	<p>Capacity development</p> <p>Conduct up to four informative sessions with groups of producers and deliver presentations regarding cooperation of agri-food producers;</p>	Up to 15 days	November 2020 - March 2021



	<p>Meet the relevant representatives and offer up to 10 individual consultations to the groups of producers on institutionalization of cooperation and preparation of sustainable investment project proposals;</p> <p>Provide support to the selected projects in the implementation stage, including for the institutionalization of cooperation between the farmers around processing facilities.</p> <p>Deliverables</p> <p>3.1. Presentation on cooperation of agri-food producers within 4 sessions conducted</p> <p>3.2. Progress report on 10 consultations conducted</p> <p>3.3. Progress report on provided coaching for the up to 4 implemented investment projects</p>	Up to 10 days per each investment project	
4	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation</p> <p>Carry out systematic monitoring field visits to the selected investment projects.</p> <p>Deliverables</p> <p>4.1. Monthly reports on progress.</p> <p>4.2. Final Progress Report, underlying the results of the conducted work and recommendations.</p>	Up to 15 days	March - December 2021
	Total	Up to 100 days	

The changes of the timeframe for the delivery of each activity/output per project shall be coordinated and agreed in advance with the AdTrade team.

Organizational setting

The Expert will work under the direct supervision of the AdTrade Project Manager/officer. The work is based on desk research and field visits. The Expert is expected to work approximately 10 working days during a month or more, depending on the volume of work. The Contractor will receive all necessary information for the fulfilment of his/her tasks. The expert will include in the her/his financial proposal all relevant expenses, including communication, internet, utilities, etc., necessary for the contract performance.

Payment for provided services

The payment for services provided by the Contractor under the AdTrade Project will be made post factum on a lump-sum deliverables basis, as per contract, after the work has been accepted by the AdTrade Project Manager.



Confidentiality

Materials provided to the consultant and all proceedings within the consultancy contract shall be regarded as confidential, both during and after the consultancy. Violation of confidentiality requirements may result in immediate termination of contract.

Qualifications and skills required:

The Expert should prove sound knowledge in agribusiness or rural development and experience in institutional development, in the area of business support infrastructure in rural areas, in particular:

Academic Qualifications:

- University degree in agriculture/agricultural economics, economy or related field. Additional degree/training and certification in agricultural economics is an asset.

Experience:

- At least 10 years of professional experience in agribusiness management/development;
- Minimum 5 years of proven experience and expertise, ideally within the framework of donor-funded agricultural/rural development projects.

Knowledge and competencies:

- Proven experience and knowledge in the area of agribusiness support infrastructure –feasibility studies, project proposal appraisal, formulation of procedures and regulations in formulating and selecting project proposals;
- In depth knowledge of the agricultural sector development issues in the Republic of Moldova;
- Knowledge of developments in the transnistrian region would be an asset;
- Demonstrable understanding of institutional development, in particular in the area of business support infrastructure in the rural area.

Abilities & skills:

- Proven ability to plan, work and deliver on agreed deadlines;
- Proven ability to operate effectively in a team;
- Demonstrated interpersonal and diplomatic skills, as well as the ability to communicate effectively with all stakeholders and to present ideas clearly and effectively;
- Attention to details;
- Proven report writing skills;
- Fluency in Romanian and Russian and working knowledge of English language;
- Computer literacy and ability to effectively use office technology equipment, IT tools.
- Proven commitment to the core values of the United Nations



Documents to be included in the proposals

Interested persons should submit the following documents:

1. Cover letter, stating the interest and qualifications for the assignment;
2. Financial proposal with daily professional fee and total lump sum for the assignment;
3. Duly completed P-11 form or CV indicating the contact details of at least 2 referees;
4. Copies of Professional Certificates if available.
5. Offeror's Letter confirming Interest and Availability.

The United Nations in Moldova is committed to workforce diversity. Women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other ethnic or religious minorities, persons living with HIV, as well as refugees and other non-citizens legally entitled to work in the Republic of Moldova, are particularly encouraged to apply.