



UNITATEA DE MANAGEMENT AL PROIECTULUI
"CONTROLUL INTEGRAT AL POLUĂRII CU NUTRIENȚI"

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Agriculture Expert (individual consultant) - 1 position

1. Background

Romania has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and a Grant from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to support the implementation of the Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project (the Project) in selected localities vulnerable or potentially vulnerable to the pollution with nutrients. The overall development objective of the project is to support the Government of Romania to meet the EU Nitrates Directive requirements by (a) reducing nutrients discharges to water bodies, (b) promoting behavioral changes at the communal level, and (c) strengthening institutional and regulatory capacity. The ultimate goal is to reduce over the long-term the discharge of nutrients and other agricultural pollutants into the Danube River and Black Sea through integrated land and water management.

The current Project closing date is May 31, 2017.

The Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests (MoEWF) received Additional Financing for the Project to finance the costs associated with the scale-up of the current Project nationwide, to be implemented over a six years period. The Additional Financing scale-up will broadly maintain the objective and structure of the Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project (INPCP) with slight modifications, to reflect the realities of the current situation and lessons learned under INPCP so far. The Additional Financing will finance works, goods, services and operating costs and will comprise four components, which are largely the same as in the INPCP, with slight modifications: (i) Component 1: Investments in Local Communities to Reduce Nutrient Pollution; (ii) Component 2: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building (which includes the sub-component 2.1. *Development of national knowledge and training providers, as well as support for on-farm demonstrations, to improve compliance, adoption and control of code of good agricultural practices to reduce nutrient pollution*); (iii) Component 3: Public Awareness and Information Support; (iv) Component 4: Project Management.

Under the Additional Financing the overall development objective of the Project is to support the Government of Romania towards meeting the EU Nitrate Directive

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requirements **at national scale**. The proposed interventions will build on the successes and lessons learned from the on-going Project as well as from similar projects in Europe and Central Asia and other regions.

The Additional Financing for the Project starts as soon as it is ratified by law by Romania and its' expected closing date is March 31, 2022.

Details regarding sub-component 2.1. *Development of national knowledge and training activities (through providers), as well as support for on-farm demonstrations, to improve compliance, adoption and control of code of good agricultural practices to reduce nutrient pollution*: The INPCP has supported Romania in developing and approving a “Code of Good Agricultural Practices for Water Protection against Pollution with Nitrates from Agricultural Sources”. However, farmers as well as inspectors of the Agency for Payments and Intervention in Agriculture (APIA) need knowledge, training and demonstrations to adopt comply and properly control the proper implementation of the Code. There is a need to develop at least one permanent facility in each of the development regions where farmers, trainers, APIA inspectors and local and regional authorities can go to see, learn and discuss practical demonstrations of its applicability; where information is requested, training and necessary backstopping is provided, including capacity to conduct on-farm demonstrations of good practices on local specific fields. Support will be provided for the development of eight knowledge and training providers (one in each development region) - or seven, if it is considered more efficient, to promote adoption of good agricultural practices to reduce on farm nutrient pollution. In case that, after a detailed analysis, it will be considered that developing such facility for the Bucharest-Ilfov region is not necessary due to the low agricultural profile, this region can be included in one of the neighboring ones. These knowledge and training providers will be developed on the basis of already existing research units under Romanian Academy of Agricultural Sciences (ASAS) and / or other agricultural universities, research institutes or centers, or other relevant existing institutions, based on their current capacity and relevance, as well as their long term commitments to promote sustainable and environmentally-friendly agriculture specific to the farming systems and needs of their region.

Under the present assignment, The Ministry of Environment, Water and Forests (MoEWF), through the Project Management Unit (PMU) responsible with the implementation of Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project seeks contracting specialized consultancy services to cover the agricultural field (1 individual consultant)

2. Objectives of the assignment

Key objectives of the consultancy services are to:

- (i) Provide expert knowledge and technical support to the PMU for the implementation of project's sub-component 2.1. *Development of national knowledge and training activities (through providers), as well as support for on-farm demonstrations, to improve compliance, adoption and control of code of good agricultural practices to reduce nutrient pollution.*
- (ii) Conduct the further detailed design of this sub-component and its particular activities avoiding overlapping with other available funding opportunities;
- (iii) Enhance the capacity of PMU to supply permanent professional services in the agricultural field, for the project benefit.

3. Scope of the Services:

The Agriculture Expert will coordinate his activities closely with the PMU. The Agriculture Expert will have the following tasks and responsibilities:

- A. Develop the implementation plan for the project's sub-component 2.1. *Development of national knowledge and training providers, as well as support for on-farm demonstrations, to improve compliance, adoption and control of code of good agricultural practices to reduce nutrient pollution (including specific forms and examples) to consolidate capacity building activities under Component 2;*
- B. Develop detailed selection criteria and terms of reference for contracting the services' providers - the eight knowledge and training providers (one in each development region) or seven, if it is considered more efficient, to promote adoption of good agricultural practices to reduce on farm nutrient pollution as part of the project's sub-component 2.1.;
- C. Support further the selection processes in order to contract the knowledge and training providers mentioned above (i.e. update the terms of reference based on the feedback received during previous selection processes; support in writing the responses to request for clarifications, if the case will be, etc.);
- D. The Consultant will support the activity of the PMU in connection with the implementation of agriculture related activities of the Project.

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The Consultant is expected to carry out the following **prior activities** in order to achieve the scope and objectives of the assignment:

- a) Get extensive knowledge of the Additional Financing project documents (Project Paper, Loan Agreement, Project Operational Manual, Project Procurement Plan, Project Action Plan among others);
- b) Be familiar with the World Bank procedures, regulations and policies;
- c) Have meetings with the PMU team to plan his/her activities and schedule for their implementation.
- d) Have meetings and consultations with the agricultural universities/academy, agricultural research institutes and centers, research farms, in order to evaluate their capacity and interest in being involved in such knowledge and demonstration program.

4. Qualifications and Experience:

- Academic education in agriculture, environmental protection or another relevant ancillary area;
- At least 15 years of relevant working experience;
- At least 10 years of academic background or specialized experience in agricultural practices and environment protection domains in Romania or internationally;
- Experience in elaborating, implementing and monitoring training programs in the field of good agricultural practices and/or environmental protection in the agriculture field;
- Proven experience in application in Romania or at European countries level of the EU Nitrate Directive provisions;
- Experience in EU Funds and programs preparation and implementation, particularly in preparation and implementation of National Program for Rural Development (PNDR);
- Sound knowledge and working experience with World Bank's procedures is desirable;
- Advanced PC skills and sound knowledge of the MS Office package: MS Word, Excel, Outlook, Power Point and MS Project;

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- Good capacity to communicate with people with different backgrounds and positions, as well as with local and national authorities taking into account the nature of the activities;
- Excellent command of spoken and written English is a must;
- Strong analytical skills, oral and written communication skills;
- Strong communication and reporting skills and ability to work in multidisciplinary teams.

In order to be able to charge the Client for the activities performed under these terms of reference, the expert must be either a person authorized under the Law 300/2004 regarding the authorization of individual persons and family associations to carry out independent activities or to act under a limited liability company or another form of organization that enables him/her to issue invoices for the services provided.

5. Duration of the Assignment, Reports and Time Schedule:

The total staff days input of the Consultant is estimated at 150 staff days to be performed within a period of engagement of about 9 (nine) months, until May 31, 2017. The consultant is expected to start performance of the services immediately after contract signing.

Subject to consultants' satisfactory performance of the assignment and if needed, the contract may be extended during the additional financing of the Project for providing technical assistance and down-stream work in the implementation of agriculture related activities of the Project.

As a result of the services, the Consultant should elaborate and submit the following deliverables:

1. the Implementation Plan for the project's sub-component 2.1. *Development of national knowledge and training providers, as well as support for on-farm demonstrations, to improve compliance, adoption and control of code of good agricultural practices to reduce nutrient pollution* (including specific forms and examples) to consolidate capacity building activities under Component 2, within two weeks as from the commencement of services;
2. Detailed selection criteria and terms of reference for contracting the services consultants - the eight knowledge and training providers (one in each development region) to promote adoption of good agricultural

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practices to reduce on farm nutrient pollution as part of the project's sub-component 2.1., as follows:

- a. A “framework” initial ToRs with general provisions nationwide applicable, within six weeks as from the commencement of services;
 - b. Detailed specific selection criteria and ToRs for two development regions that will be used in the first two selections of “*national knowledge and training activities*” **Providers**, within two weeks as from the Client's approval of the “framework” ToRs
 - c. Detailed specific ToRs for the rest six development regions (six or five ToRs) in which lessons learned and conclusions of the first two selections will be addressed, within two weeks as from the selection of the 1st two Providers, or within any other period agreed with the Client;
3. Final Report, after the finalization of the first two selection procedures of Providers but not later than one week before 31 May 2017. The Report will contain at least, but will not be limited to, a summary of the activities performed during the assignment with special emphasis on those related to the selection of the first two Providers, lessons learned, proposals for improvements, results and recommendations for improving the approaches and the sub-component further implementation related activities, amendments to the Implementation Plan if considered necessary.

All the deliverables of this assignment (as described above) will be submitted to the PMU and their approval by the Client's Representative(s) will constitute the basis for the payments made to the Consultant under the contract. All the deliverables will be elaborated in 2 copies in English and Romanian language.

6. Institutional arrangements, Data, Local Services, Personnel and Facilities to be provided by the Client

The Agriculture Expert:

- Will work under the direct supervision of the PMU (overall management), guided technically by the PMU Director and will cooperate closely with the PMU M&E Department and Procurement Department;
- Will report to the PMU Director;
- Will cooperate with the Ministry of Agriculture, with World Bank Project Task Team Leader, as well as with WB's specialists and with specialists from other World Bank financed projects , in the field of agriculture;

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- Will work for the project, at the Consultant's premises, at the PMU headquarters and/or at project sites as may be required, in order to ensure proper implementation of activities.
- Will devote significant time for travelling on site regularly, countrywide.

All documentation prepared by the Consultant in the course of the present assignment will remain the absolute property of the PMU. The Consultant will, not later than upon termination or expiration of the contract for the current assignment, deliver all such documentation to the PMU.

The Client will provide:

- Access to all relevant information, documents and stakeholders to facilitate the assignment;
- Adequate office space with essential office furniture, access to internet and network resources for those periods of the assignment decided by the Consultant as necessary to be performed at the PMU headquarters.