**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)**

**THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

**PROJECT “RESILIENT AGRI-FOOD CLUSTERS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT”**

**Credit No.7562-KG, Grant No.: GAFSPNTFC4129-KG**

**Assignment Title:** Consulting company for mobilization and training of farmers of both agriclusters (dairy and horticulture)

**Reference No**.: RACDP/QCBS-1

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Kyrgyz Republic received financing from the World Bank for implementation of “Resilient Agri-food Clusters Development Project” and intends to use part of resources for consulting services.

**Objectives of the assignment**

The main objective of this assignment is to increase the capacity of the direct beneficiaries of the project through comprehensive training in the technology of dairy farming and fruit and berry production with a focus on climate change resilience.

Thus, the company hired through bidding should mobilize and train beneficiaries of both clusters: 1) Dairy cluster in Chui and Jalal-Abad regions and 2) Fruit and berry cluster in Naryn and Jalal-Abad regions.

Training programs will include production improvement, product quality management, animal husbandry and health, integrated pest and disease management, sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) compliance, and adoption of climate-resilient technologies and practices.

**Key specialists to perform the assignment:**

1. Head of CTC - Group Leader;
2. Leading trainer in the field of animal husbandry: veterinary medicine, animal science;
3. Lead trainer in agronomy/agriculture;
4. Business planning specialist/trainer;
5. Social Mobilization Specialist.

**Duration:** The assignment will begin in April 2025 and finish at the end of 2028.

The detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the assignment*: are attached to this request for expressions of interest.*

The Agribusiness Competitiveness Center now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

**To be shortlisted, the consulting companies shall meet the following qualification requirements:**

* Experience in providing training services and knowledge transfer in the field of agriculture (livestock - with an emphasis on dairy farming) and fruit growing based on the principles of “Farmer Field School”, namely in the application of integrated production management practices - at least 3 contracts over the last 8 years;
* Experience in social mobilization of farmer groups - at least 3 contracts;
* Number of projects for the provision of training and consulting services with similar tasks implemented by the company over the past 5 years - at least 3 contracts;
* Experience in developing educational booklets, brochures in the field of livestock farming, fruit growing - at least 3 contracts;
* Experience working with donor projects to implement similar tasks - at least 5 years;

Interested Consultants are requested to refer to paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of Section III of the World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers, July 2016 (the “Procurement Regulations”), which set out the World Bank’s conflict of interest policy. In addition, please refer to the following specific conflict of interest information related to this assignment:

Consultants shall not be engaged to perform any assignment that would conflict with their previous or current commitments to other clients or that would place them in a position where they cannot perform the assignment in the best interests of the Borrower. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, Consultants may not be engaged in the circumstances set out below:

1. a firm engaged by the Borrower to provide goods, works or non-consulting services for the Project (or an affiliate that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with that consulting firm) shall be disqualified from providing Consulting Services that result from or are directly related to those goods, works or non-consulting services. This provision shall not apply to different firms (consultants, contractors or suppliers) that together perform the obligations of a contractor under a turnkey contract or a design and construction contract;
2. a firm engaged by the Borrower to provide consulting services for the preparation or implementation of the Project (or an affiliate that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with that consulting firm) shall be disqualified from subsequently providing goods, works or non-consulting services that result from or are directly related to those consulting services. This provision does not apply to different firms (consultants, contractors or suppliers) that together perform the obligations of a contractor under a turnkey or design and construction contract;
3. No consultant (including personnel and sub-consultants) or affiliated person (that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by or is under common control with that Consultant) shall be engaged to perform any assignment that by its nature creates a conflict of interest with another assignment of the Consultant;
4. Consultants (including their experts and other personnel and sub-consultants) that have a close business or family relationship with the professional personnel of the Borrower, or the agency implementing the project, or the recipient of a portion of the Bank’s financing, or any other party representing or acting on behalf of the Borrower that is directly or indirectly involved in any portion of:
5. preparation of the Terms of Reference for the performance of the assignment;
6. the contract selection process; or
7. contract supervision, may not be awarded a contract unless the conflict arising from these relationships has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Bank throughout the selection and execution process of the contract.

Consultants may collaborate with other firms to enhance their expertise, but must clearly indicate whether the association is a joint venture and/or a subconsultant. In the event that a joint venture is selected, all partners in the joint venture are jointly and severally liable for the entire contract.

The consultant will be selected in accordance with the QCBS (quality and cost-based selection) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from 08:30 to 17:30 (local time).

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by 17:00 on February 28, 2025.

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