

SCOPE OF WORK

Consultant Name:					
Project/Activity Name:	USAID/Sweden FARMA II Project {Bosnia}	Activity #			
Assignment Title:	Agricultural Advisory Services Expert				
Position Type:	Full Time		Part Time		STTA X
Consultant Nationality:			TCN		CCN
Engaged By:	Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd.				
Position Reports to:	Chief of Party				
Assignment Period:	Start Date: February 2017		End Date: April 2017		
Total LOE for Position:	Total LOE: 17		Onsite: 10	Offsite: 7	Travel:

USAID/Sweden FARMA II - Description of Project

USAID and the Government of Sweden have awarded Cardno Emerging Markets USA a five-year contract for implementation of the Fostering Agricultural Markets Activity II (FARMA II) project in Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH). The purpose of the FARMA II project is to create agricultural and agribusiness economic opportunities for BiH farmers and entrepreneurs. This will be achieved by assisting agricultural producers in adopting EU and international agricultural & food standards, adopting new production techniques, adding value and expanding access to both domestic and foreign markets; and by strengthening BiH public sector institutions ability to implement regulations, norms, practices, and rules in the areas of agriculture & food, veterinary & plant health and safety, accreditation, standardization and quality certifications to meet EU and international trading standards and requirements.

Background

Agricultural advisory services are one of the major sources for learning about agricultural techniques and practices and play a crucial role in ensuring sustainable agricultural development. Due to the lack of public funding and investment in advisory services over many years, BiH still lacks an effective advisory service system. Public funding that is available to support advisory services is currently only sufficient to cover basic staff and operational costs. Public advisers are also required to perform a range of administrative functions and duties, leaving little time available to provide advice to farmers. Private advisory services do exist in some parts of the country, operating predominantly using donor funds or on a fees-for-service basis. Other private associations and companies employ agronomists and other experts which also provide some targeted support for farmers which tend to be paid for through supply of commodities. Overall the current state of play in the provision of advisory services is ad hoc, disorganized and unsustainable without external donor support. There are also no systems in place that would allow for the establishment or maintenance of minimum standards of advice or training for farmers. This lack of such advisory services continues to limit the ability of the agriculture sector to improve productivity, standards and overall competitiveness. To respond to these needs, an Advisory Services Working Group (ASWG) has been established to facilitate coordination on this issue, aiming to develop a more coherent and coordinated approach to guide public, private and donor support in this area in the future. As part of this process, the ASWG has identified the lack of effective and sustainable financing mechanisms as one of the key elements preventing the development of an effective market for such services in BiH.

Purpose of Assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to develop technical proposals to stimulate the development of a sustainable market for professional Agricultural Advisory Services in BiH through the design of possible financing options/ mechanisms, guided by relevant experience in BiH, the wider Western Balkans region and the EU, where relevant which

could potentially be piloted through existing or planned donor and/or public sector grant programs (ideally combining private, public and donor funding sources).

Activities

The activities planned under this assignment include the following:

Activity 1 -.Desk based research and assessment

- Review of BiH past experience for the financing and support of advisory services (based on existing documents and desk research)
- Comparative assessment of advisory service financing mechanisms and experience, with a particular focus upon EU, IPARD and other relevant pre-accession measures, where appropriate. This should also cover an assessment of schemes targeted at training and certifying advisers, where possible;
- Participation in working group and sub-group meetings, as required as part of the research and consultation process
- Development and presentation of summary assessment report, highlighting main findings and recommendations for approach and methods, tailored to the BiH environment and needs;

Activity 2 -.Design and development

- Design and presentation of at least 1-2 piloting options, including an assessment of their potential advantages and disadvantages (and/or where appropriate, alternative proposal for each entity).
- Development of draft Advisory Services measure fiche and supporting documentation on implementation rules and procedures to guide call for applications for funding (possibly to include manual of procedures, templates, checklists etc.).
- Development of draft Training measure fiche and supporting documentation on implementation rules and procedures to guide call for applications for funding (possibly to include manual of procedures, templates, checklists etc.).

Deliverables

- Comparative assessment report on advisory service financing and support mechanisms
- Design and presentation of at least 1-2 piloting options
- Draft Advisory Services measure fiche and supporting documentation
- Draft Training measure fiche and supporting documentation

Timing and Level of Effort

Total LOE is estimated at up to 17 days and is expected to take place between February and April 2017.

Expert profile

Qualifications and skills:

- University degree in agricultural sciences or closely related subject
- Ideally, post-graduate degree in agricultural sciences or closely related subject
- Excellent analytical, communication, presentation and facilitation skills
- Excellent written and oral English language
- Excellent computer skills and proficiency in Microsoft Office applications

Professional experience:

- At least 10 years relevant professional experience

- Relevant practical programming and policy development and implementation experience in support of agriculture and/or farm advisory services in the EU, IPARD and/or other relevant pre-accession countries
- Previous experience of working in the Western Balkans would be an advantage
- Previous experience of working with international donor organizations in the development of relevant grant programs would be advantage
- Knowledge and practical experience of working with EU rural development programs from a programming perspective would be a distinct advantage (i.e. managing authority and/or paying agency)