

SCOPE OF WORK

Consultant Name:	TBD				
Project/Activity Name:	Sweden/USAID FARMA II Project {Bosnia}	Activity #	4729		
Assignment/Job Title:	Training and Technical Assistance on Modern Production of Cheese				
Assignment/Job Type:	Full Time		Part Time		STTA X
Nationality:	USA		TCN	X	CCN
Engaged By:	Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd.				
Reports to:	Agri-Policy Expert & Deputy Chief of Party				
Assignment Period:	Start Date: July, 2020		End Date: October, 2020		
Total LOE:	Total LOE: 25 days	Onsite: 10	Offsite: 13	Travel: 2	

USAID/Sweden FARMA II - Description of Project

The Government of Sweden and USAID 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. Sweden/USAID FARMA II will achieve this by assisting agricultural producer organizations to adopt European Union (EU) and international agricultural and food standards and new production techniques, produce new high value products and expand their access to foreign and domestic markets.

Scope of Work – Training & Technical Assistance on Modern Production of Cheese

Background

BiH imported cheese for over 82 million BAM in 2019 resulting in a significant deficit in the dairy sector. Smaller dairies in BiH generally focus on the production of value-added products, such as cheeses, yoghurt, sour cream and spreads. Although milk exports by weight have increased, BiH still imports a number of high value dairy products such as cheese and butter. FARMA II continues to support cheese processors to improve their technologies and product quality. This has allowed those producers to invest in small, but strategically vital, production initiatives and to venture into Eastern European markets (mainly Serbia, Montenegro and Kosovo). Many larger dairy farmers have seen this as a new opportunity to generate an income for their families, and as a result, younger people are choosing to stay and work on their farms instead of moving to the nearby towns. There is a great interest in different regions of BiH in so called “on farm cheese production”, which gives these farmers, especially women and youth, opportunity to have production of value added products on their own family farms. This activity will increase sustainability and incomes for these families and continue to enhance rural development.

Purpose of the assignment

The purpose of this assignment is to provide training and technical assistance to improve cheese production techniques, using the latest production standards according to EU requirements, and to evaluate opportunities for new cheese varieties, new flavored products and other value added dairy products. The provision of the technical assistance would take place in two phases. The first phase would be virtual distance learning and the second phase would be practical trainings on production of modern market oriented cheese using the latest production cheese techniques.

Consultant Tasks for the Assignment:

- To prepare training materials for virtual distance learning on modern cheese production; For those farmers who wish to enter cheese production but still do not have their own equipment, the consultant will recommend what kind of equipment is necessary to start with cheese

processing and what types of cheese would be the best to produce (allocated time – up to 2 days).

- To perform in total 24 hours of virtual distance trainings on modern production of cheese with selected cheese producers from across the country; This will include four hours of group training (two sessions with two hours for a group of 10 POs) plus 10 individual trainings 2 hours each, focusing on the needs of individual POs. FARMA II will make a selection of 10 individual POs that will receive direct visits based on the criteria related to sales, experience, technical capacity and willingness to host the trainings for small groups (allocated time – 3 days).
- To visit 10 cheese processors and provide detailed on site instructions on how to improve production techniques and processes in order to increase the quality and introduce new value-added products; Other producers from the region will be invited for these sessions (allocated time – 10 days + 2 travel days)
- Follow up consultation, preparation of detailed reports with recommendations and photos for the 10 visited cheese processors and the final report (allocated time – 8 days).

Beneficiaries

- This activity will target a group of 30-40 cheese processors for attending the online webinars and workshops in the initial stage.
- Based on the selection criteria, direct visits will target 10 POs, while the remaining POs will be invited to attend in the nearest location.

Deliverables

- Training materials for virtual distance learning on modern cheese production prepared and shared with FARMA II (including video clips, photos and PowerPoint slides);
- Virtual trainings on modern production of cheese delivered to the selected cheese producers and recorded for FARMA II files (2 group and 10 individual sessions). The consultant will prepare a brief report to document the results and recommendations from these sessions.
- Detailed on site instructions provided to at least 10 POs on how to improve their production techniques and processes in order to increase the quality and diversity of their cheese and other high value dairy products;
- Detailed reports with recommendations and photos prepared for the 10 visited cheese processors and the final report.

Schedule

The expected start date for this assignment is July 2020 and the activities should be completed end of October 2020. It is planned that the consultant will travel two times to BiH in order to train cheese producers in NE BiH, NW BiH and Herzegovina and to visit 10 POs directly. The total number of billable days for the assignment is 25 days, with up to 10 days in country (plus 2 travel days), up to 2 days for preparation of training materials, 3 days for performing virtual trainings, and up to 8 days follow up consultation, preparation of the follow-up and final report(s). The final report should be due not later than 10-days after the end of the visit.

Qualifications and skills

- University Degree in Technology, Biotechnology or Agriculture preferred – with extensive experience in the modern/ on farm production of cheese;
- At least 10 years of extensive experience in both classroom and on-farm-training on the modern production of cheese;
- Experience working with Swedish and USAID funded agricultural projects and knowledge of BCS language are an asset.

Special conditions for applying for this position.

Please submit following:

- ✓ Your CV (not more than 3 pages) and Cover Letter;
- ✓ Three references from relevant clients.
- ✓ Include **Ref: Modern Production of Cheese** in the email subject and send to info@farmabih.ba

This is short term technical assistance position for nationals of the regional countries.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is May 20, 2020.

Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd is an equal opportunity employer.

All information received will be treated with confidentiality.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.