

SCOPE OF WORK

Consultant Name:	TBD					
Project/Activity Name:	USAID/Sweden FARMA II Project {Bosnia}				Activity #	
Assignment Title:	Consultant for MAPs cultivation and sustainable collection					
Position Type:	Full Time		Part Time		STTA	X
Consultant Nationality:			TCN		CCN	X
Engaged By:	Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd.					
Position Reports to:	Deputy Chief of Party & MAPs and Honey Expert					
Assignment Period:	Start Date: February 2019			End Date: March 2020		
Total LOE for Position:	Total LOE: 20		Onsite: 16	Offsite: 4	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. 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.

Background

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a very long tradition in collecting wild medicinal and aromatic plants and has made this into a profitable activity, as the exports of MAPs and forest fruit are about three times higher than imports.

Despite intensive agricultural systems, a majority of MAPs processors rely on raw material supply from the nature, making collection one of important income generators in rural areas. Even with the suitable climate, sufficient areas, high unemployment rate, world market demand and trends, MAPs cultivation is not sufficiently promoted among farmers.

Purpose of the assignment

The purpose is to further strengthen MAPs value chain by promoting sustainable collection of wild MAPs and diversification of cultivated MAPs – both, organic and conventional; and to create a critical number of local experts capable to support producer organizations and small farmers who want to diversify their production. This activity is expected to produce the following results:

- To raise awareness about the importance of sustainable collection of MAPs through trainings on sustainable collection (to include wild herbs, but also mushrooms and forest fruit) in harmony with EU best practices;
- To increase cultivated areas under MAPs, while promoting diversification based on market assessments and avoiding overproduction of only one plant species;
- To train farmers about MAPs cultivation agro techniques, with special attention to youth and women;
- To strengthen MAPs value chain by connecting producers and processors;
- To ensure that within the reasonable timeframe (1-3 years) POs and farmers will be able to provide sufficient quantities of raw material for processing;
- To help create sustainable rural jobs and increase incomes across BiH;

- To train public and private advisors about MAPs cultivation so that they can continue assisting and promoting MAPs cultivation.

Anticipated Activities

- In cooperation with the FARMA II MAPs and Honey expert, the consultant is expected to assess the current situation in production of different MAPs species and to identify specific crops and varieties into which local producers can diversify, given the competitive and comparative advantages of BiH and existing market opportunities;
- Prior to trainings, produce or update cost estimates for the production of up to 20 plants (conventional and organic), including descriptions of the plants and the descriptions of main steps during cultivation (one A4 sheet for each plant);
- Conduct at least 10 trainings in different locations;
- Trainings will be organized according to the needs of formal or informal groups of people, who are interested to start cultivation and / or are willing to increase MAPs land plots and/or need technical assistance for MAPs that they are already cultivating; trainings will not be the same in each location (i.e. in southern part the training will cover plants that could be cultivated there, and for which there is interest and potential);
- Trainings for cultivation will cover the following (organic and conventional): land preparation, sowing/planting, care (irrigation, fertilization, cultivation etc.), harvest and post-harvest handling (i.e. drying, cutting, leaf separation etc.), production cost analysis, market demand including market prices and potential buyers / processors. Trainings will be combination of classroom and practical;
- Apart from trainings on MAPs cultivation the expert will organize trainings on sustainable collection separately, in at least three locations, and will also ensure that sustainable collection is also promoted during trainings on MAPs cultivation. Trainings on sustainable collection will cover principles of sustainable collection and major characteristics / habitat / collection principles for at least 50 plant species (combined in multiple locations) and at least 5 mushrooms;
- Advise on basic processing (drying, cutting) during all trainings (for cultivated and collected).

Deliverables

- Up to 20 production cost estimates for selected plants species (cultivated) and with the description of main steps during cultivation process (organic and conventional) prepared prior to trainings and distributed during the trainings; Materials developed under FARMA I are to be used to the extent possible and updated with current prices. These materials will serve as a guide for farmers willing to invest into MAP cultivation.
- Minimum 10 trainings on MAPs cultivation held around the country, leading to farmers understand the importance, advantage, profitability and market demand for cultivated MAPs, as well as the difference between organic and conventional cultivation. Attendance sheets, evaluation forms and photos taken during the training provided for each training;
- Minimum 5 trainings on sustainable collection held in cooperation with the leading exporters for MAPs, wild mushrooms and forest fruit; a map of key wild plants per region is to be developed and shared with interested new or existing collectors on FARMA II website. Attendance sheets, evaluation forms and photos taken during the training provided for each training;
- The trainings described above should target supporting minimum 100 POs from around the country, and each participants should attend minimum two trainings on this topic.
- Final report produced, with recommendations for the future;

Timing and Level of Effort

Total LOE is 20 days, including up to 4 days for preparation of cost estimates and short description of cultivation for each plant. Activity is envisioned to start in February with anticipated trainings to start March 2019 throughout March 2020.

Qualifications and skills

- University degree in agriculture, combined with at least 10 years of practical experience in MAPs cultivation / collection / basic processing
- Excellent knowledge of MAPs industry in BiH and familiarity with world trends
- Ability to work and organize trainings throughout BiH
- Ability to organize locations for practical trainings
- Ability to link primary producers with processors
- Fluency in local languages
- Valid driving license and possibility to organize transportation to / from trainings

This is short term technical assistance (STTA) position for BiH Nationals.

We encourage qualifying candidates to send a Cover Letter including three References and CV.

The closing date for the receipt of applications is February 3, 2019.

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.