

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Consultancy Services for the Implementation of startup packages for Window 1, GEF/QCBS-2019/001

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
“INFRASTRUCTURE AND RURAL FINANCE SUPPORT PROGRAMME”
CONSULTING SERVICES; QUALITY AND COST-BASED SELECTION
GEF GRANT - 2000001401

The Republic of Armenia has received Loans from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the OPEC Fund for Agricultural Development (OFID) and Grants from Global Environmental Facility (GEF) and IFAD and intends to apply part of these proceeds to make payments under the contract for: ***Consultancy Services for the Implementation of startup packages for Window 1, GEF/QCBS-2019/001***

Specific Objective of this Assignment

The specific objective of this consulting services assignment is to enhance the resilience of disadvantaged groups (women-led households, youths, and poor households) in the targeted communities and equip them to develop and enhance their agricultural production through tools, techniques, competencies and investments in sustainable farming systems and technologies.

“Rural Areas Economic Development Programmes Implementation Unit” SA /PIU/ invites all interested Consultants to submit Expressions of Interest to participate in the upcoming tender for the selection of Consultants for the implementation of assignment. A consultant may submit only one expression of interest whether alone or as part of a Joint Venture.

The following documents shall be submitted as part of the expression of interest:

- Letter of Interest addressed to the Director of the PIU.
- Details of the application including details of any joint venture partner (as per template provided)
- Details of previous similar projects meeting the Technical Qualification requirements, clearly labelling which project is submitted to comply with which criterion; project details should include project name, location, budget, commencement date, completion date, client, and scope of services provided (as per template provided)
- Financial Table showing annual turnover over the years 2016, 2017 and 2018 (as per template provided).

Major Qualifications Required (Shortlisting)

The consultant/service provider will be selected using the QCBS method. A detailed Request for Proposals will be sent to shortlisted firms from among those that qualify for this project based on the following qualifications criteria applicable to the firm or joint venture of firms expressing interest:

Technical Qualifications

- a) Experience in study and implementation of projects in the fields of agriculture and food processing (relevant to this assignment) in similar regions (at least 1 similar project in recent 5 years) – max. 25 points;
- b) Experience in identification of and working with target groups of beneficiaries (e.g. poor, women, youth, minorities, etc.) and provision of trainings to farmers on the themes of business and financial planning and sustainable farming (at least 1 similar project in recent 5 years, preferably in Armenia) – max. 25 points;
- c) Experience in the design and requirements elaboration of similar or relevant start-up packages (at least 1 similar project in recent 5 years) – max 25 points;
- d) Sufficient proven experience in Armenia in facilitation of participatory analysis and implementation support for small-scale community-based agricultural and rural entrepreneurship, Value Chain development projects – max. 25 points;
- e) The consultant should be established at least 5 years ago. In case of joint venture, this applies to the lead partner.

Financial Qualifications:

The consultant/service provider expressing interest must have an average annual revenue (turnover) of not less than USD 100,000 in the past 3 years (2016, 2017, and 2018).

Expression of Interest should be submitted in English, 1 original and 1 copy, electronically or in paper form. In case of contradiction between copies, the original hard copy will supersede.

The proposed duration of the services is 24 months.

The Consultant will be selected using the Qualification and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) in line with the procedures of the Procurement Guidelines and Handbook published by IFAD in September 2010 or any update to the above whenever published. The full Terms of Reference and the template for submission of Expression of Interest are published on <https://raed.am/en/procurement/adstatements.html> . For more information or clarifications, please write to procurement@raed.am. Clarifications should be received at most 10 days before the deadline and the answers will be published online at www.raed.am .

The Expressions of Interest should be submitted at the mentioned address until 18:00 hrs. on 27 January 2020.

“Rural Areas Economic Development Programmes Implementation Unit” SA

Director: Mr. Ashot Vardanyan

Address: 4 Tigran Mets, 6th floor, Yerevan, RoA

Phone: 374 10 – 54 – 65 -10; e-mail: procurement@raed.am