REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

**Republic of Serbia**

**Serbia Agriculture Competitive Project (SCAP)**

**Project ID No.: P167634**

**Assignment Title:**

**Study on Innovative Farming and Climate Smart Agriculture Practices in Serbia**

**Reference No.: SER-SCAP-CQS-CS-24-87**

The Republic of Serbia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Serbia Agriculture Competitive Project (SCAP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The primary objective of this assignment is to procure a qualified Consultant (firm) with specialized expertise in digital design, web development, and project management.

**Scope of Services**

The consultancy will focus on conducting a comprehensive study to evaluate innovative farming and climate smart agriculture (CSA) practices in Serbia, emphasizing vertical farming. This involves a multifaceted analysis covering historical evolution, current practices, future prospects, comparative advantages, global best practices, policy recommendations, stakeholder engagement, and the development of an implementation roadmap. The study aims to provide actionable insights and strategic guidance to stakeholders for enhancing the sustainability, productivity, and resilience of Serbia's agricultural sector to climate change.

The consultancy's responsibilities for this study include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

* **Conduct a thorough Present Situation Analysis:** Examine the current state of innovative farming, CSA, and vertical farming in Serbia, including infrastructure, technologies, adoption rates, and integration within the agricultural sector.
* **Assess Future Outlook and Potential:** Analyze the growth potential of innovative and climate-smart practices in Serbia, considering technological advancements, market demands, environmental sustainability, and policy frameworks.
* **Analyze Comparative Advantages of Serbia:** Evaluate Serbia's climatic, land, and technological resources to identify unique opportunities for advancing sustainable agriculture.
* **Review Global Best Practices and Applicability:** Identify and assess global case studies of successful innovative farming and CSA implementations, focusing on their applicability to the Serbian context.
* **Develop Policy Recommendations and Strategic Directions:** Formulate policy recommendations and strategic directions based on the study's findings to support the adoption of innovative farming and CSA practices in Serbia.
* **Facilitate Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration Opportunities:** Map out potential collaboration opportunities among government, private sector, academic institutions, and international organizations to foster a supportive ecosystem for innovative farming.
* **Create an Implementation Roadmap:** Design a detailed roadmap for the implementation of recommended practices and policies, including timelines, key actions, and responsible parties.
* **Multidisciplinary Approach:** Employ a multidisciplinary approach integrating agricultural sciences, environmental sustainability, economic analysis, and policy studies to ensure a comprehensive study.
* **Prepare Comprehensive Reports:** Compile detailed reports and analyses to inform stakeholders about the study's findings, recommendations, and proposed strategies.
* **Offer Expert Guidance and Workshops:** Provide expert guidance and conduct workshops for stakeholders to disseminate the study's findings and foster capacity building in innovative and climate-smart agriculture practices.
* **Continuous Support and Evaluation:** Offer ongoing support to stakeholders for the implementation of the study's recommendations and evaluate the progress of adopted practices and policies.

**Required consultant’s (company) qualifications**

To be considered for the consultancy on the Study of Innovative Farming and Climate Smart Agriculture Practices in Serbia, Consultant must meet the following qualifications:

* At least 2 years of experience in advancing innovative agriculture practices, utilizing modern technologies to improve farming efficiency and productivity.
* Experience in utilizing technology to enhance agricultural efficiency and productivity, such as automated irrigation systems, drone technology for crop monitoring, and/or data-driven farming decisions.
* Experience in climate-smart agriculture project/s with practical application and measurable outcomes, is an asset.
* Experience in implementing agricultural practices that integrate sustainability, focusing on resource conservation, ecosystem management, and sustainable production cycles, is an asset.
* Experience in projects implementing local and EU agricultural policies, subsidies, and regulations impacting the adoption of innovative and climate-smart practices, is an asset.
* Experience working effectively with public institutions and/or experience with grant and funding programs, ensuring clear communication and actionable insights, is an asset.
* Experience in producing comprehensive, well-documented reports that align with international standards and project objectives, is an asset;

The Consultant should propose minimum key staff:

**Key expert no. 1 – Team Leader**

* Minimum of a Bachelor’s degree.
* Over 10 years of experience in leadership positions in business, including the field of agriculture.
* Proven track record in implementing agricultural development projects and/or initiatives
* Participated in at least one research or development project focused on new innovative and climate-smart agricultural practices.
* Participated in at least one research project or study, and contributed to the formulation of research objectives, methodologies, and implementation strategies.

**Key expert no. 2 – Climate Smart Agriculture Expert**

* Over 5 years of experience in applying climate-smart agriculture practices, including roles such as a horticultural expert in implementing new climate-smart technologies.
* Minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture or a related field, advanced degree is a plus
* Participated in multiple projects focused on innovative and climate-smart agricultural practices.
* Proven experience in working with research institutions.

**Key expert no. 3 – Agricultural Analyst**

* Over 5 years of research experience, in academia preferred.
* Minimum of a Bachelor’s degree, advanced degree is a plus, in Agriculture or a related field.
* Participated in multiple research and development projects focused on innovative and climate-smart agricultural practices.
* Preferably participated in published scientific and/or research papers

Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

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| General Experience of the Firm | 30 points |
| Specific Experience of the Firm Related to the Assignment | 70 points |
| **TOTAL:** | **100 POINTS** |

The detailed Terms of Reference for the above referenced assignment is posted on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM): <http://www.minpolj.gov.rs/category/javni-pozivi/>.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with Consultant`s Qualifications Based Selection (CQS) as set out in the **World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers – Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, World, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018** (“the Regulations”). The Consultant that obtains the highest score during evaluation of expressions of interest will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the Regulations setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

The Central Fiduciary Unit of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible 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.

Expressions of interest in English language must be delivered in a written form to the **e-mail** below by **November 11, 2024, 12:00 hrs, noon,** local time.

**When submitting Expressions of interest please indicate assignment and reference number for which you are applying**.

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