

Call for Experts - Climate-Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development Project, Kyrgyzstan

Landell Mills is seeking a team of international experts for an ADB funded project, Climate-Resilient Agricultural Value Chain Development in Kyrgyzstan.

About the project

The overall objective of the project is to reduce poverty through improved rural productivity and the creation of income-earning activities. The proposed project will finance value chain facilities such as processing, storage and transport to accommodate incremental production as a result of increased on-farm productivity and value chain consolidation activities. This aims to provide a 'pull factor' to promote (i) crop and/or commodity production planning and zoning; (ii) application of conservation and climate-smart agriculture; (iii) improvement of post-harvest handling in the vicinity of production zones and along the value chain; and (iv) promotion of sustainable linkages among farmers and agribusinesses (input suppliers, service providers, and commodity aggregators) and/or appropriate models for agricultural cluster development while ensuring optimal use of public funds.

About the roles

International Horticulture Value Chain Specialist/Team Leader

Specific Objectives

Team Leadership

- i. Support the PIU in the preparation of monthly, quarterly and annual reporting obligations under the grant/loan;
- ii. Provide a point of contact between the government MOA and ADB with project management structures to coordinate activities of individual specialists;
- iii. Assist in the preparation of annual workplans and associated budgets for consideration by the government and ADB;
- iv. Assist the PIU in coordinating the activities of the VCSC;
- v. Assist in the development of an PPMS system that reports implementation progress of both project outputs and the preparation of PIU reporting responsibilities;
- vi. Support the PIU office in maintaining accurate accounts and financial reporting as required under the loan/grant;
- vii. Manage the inputs of specialist consultants engaged through the ISC contract and guide their activities and reports to ensure inputs are timely and achieve their intended purpose; and
- viii. Other tasks agreed with the MOA PIU management.

Horticulture Value Chain

- i. Assist the PIU in the identification of target value chains to be the focus of project interventions from both a commodity and geographical perspective;
- ii. Assist the PIU in developing models of value chains identifying the main stakeholders detailing respective value addition in the marketing chain for use by PFIs to identify their borrowers;
- iii. Review of available value chain studies undertaken in Kyrgyz Republic, review, available international acknowledged horticulture value chain model applicable to Kyrgyz Republic and

- prepare commodity market investigations and analyses for potential horticultural value chains to assist in identifying the most promising areas for potential subprojects;
- iv. Provide technical support to the VCSC in their development of the activities to strengthen linkages between farmers/farmer groups and downstream value chain operators;
- v. Assist the financial management specialist to develop training programs to introduce improved financial management practices amongst PFIs to generate the measures required for monitoring and reporting;
- vi. Conduct annual reviews of subloans to determine if changes are needed in the means of identifying potential bank clients and in the nature of interventions provided under the project; and
- vii. Conduct annual reviews of PFI loans financed by the project to determine efficiency of implementation and the realization of benefits accruing to borrowers.

Required expertise and experience

Expertise is needed in small to medium enterprise business development and planning. The position requires a minimum of 10 years' experience in the field of agri-business development and more than 5 years' experience in value chain development (ideally with horticultural produce and marketing). The specialist will have tertiary qualifications from an internationally recognized institution and will be fluent in the English and Russian language. S/he will be based within the MOA PIU but will be required to travel on frequent occasions to project provinces. The specialist will be able to demonstrate good written skills in English and Russian. S/he will have good interpersonal and communication skills and will be familiar working in large multi-national teams.

Financial Management Specialist

Specific Objectives

- i. Prepare a finance and accounting manual for the project. This will include accounting policies and reporting requirements for ADB and government, annual budgeting timeline and formats, accounting treatment of major transactions, internal control system, chart, and code of accounts to properly recognize assets, liabilities, income and expenditure and monthly, quarterly and annual reporting formats;
- ii. Assist the PIU and PFIs in processing fund advance, advance account replenishment, liquidation/reimbursement, and direct payments;
- iii. Advise on the procurement of suitable accounting software;
- iv. Set up the accounting system and chart and accounts to accommodate all categories of expenditure outlined in the Grant and Loan Agreements;
- v. Train PIU accounting staff in operations of the system, accounting policies, reporting requirements and internal controls;
- vi. Provide support to PFI PIUs in establishing their internal systems for financial management and reporting as required by ADB and government;
- vii. Monitor, on an annual basis, to ensure integrity of accounting information and operation of internal controls;
- viii. Take overall responsibility of the operation of the system, integrity of data and internal controls. Ensure that internal controls are operating as intended;
- ix. Liaise with ADB, banks, auditors and government institutions as required;
- x. Prepare financial reports as required by the government and ADB on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis for the overall project;
- xi. Be responsible for the preparation of Statements of Expenditure and Withdrawal Applications for submission to ADB; and

- xii. Assist MOA and PFIs to prepare project financial statements following International Public Sector Accounting Standard for cash-based accounting.

Required expertise and experience

The international Financial Management Specialist will hold a masters' degree in finance, management or public administration and hold professional membership of a recognized accounting body. S/he will have at least 15 years professional experience in government or the private sector and ideally have experience working on donor funded projects. The specialist must be able to demonstrate the necessary skills to establish project accounts to an international standard with the chart of accounts to be ratified by ADB and operated on an approved international accounting package with double entry bookkeeping. S/he should have experience in computerized accounting software programs

Environment Social Management Systems Specialist

Specific Objectives

- i. Assist/guide PFIs in screening and monitoring project subloans in accordance with the national regulations on social and environmental safeguards, and the approved Environmental and Social Management System, and ADB's Safeguard Policy Statement (SPS, 2009).
- ii. Carry out an assessment of the capacities of designated ESMS personnel in PFIs to ascertain their level of knowledge of ESMS and the extent to which it has already been adopted in the bank's procedures;
- iii. Based on the above, develop a training of trainers program (TOT) to build ESMS capacities of identified trainers;
- iv. Deliver the TOT activities (the national specialist will support the role-out of training for PFI staff in the respective branch network of the PFI that will be repeated on a six monthly basis throughout the project period);
- v. Provide technical assistance for integration of the environmental and social assessments in the operations of PFIs;
- vi. Collect information in the PFI related to environmental and social assessments done in the loan applications and monitor and evaluate the results of the ESMS training and adoption;

Required expertise and experience

The ESMS specialist must have at least bachelor's degrees in environmental science or social sciences or the equivalent from a recognized institution, with at least 10 years of experience working in the field of environmental and social management systems, for internationally funded financial intermediary projects. They are also required to have considerable experience with commercial financial institutions and their operations and be familiar with the laws and regulations of Kyrgyzstan related to environmental and social safeguards. The specialists will have had experience in ADB or World Bank-financed financial intermediary projects as environmental and social management systems. They will be guided by the government's laws and regulations on financial institutions, ADB's Safeguards Policy Statement (2009), and the project related documents as presented in the loan and grant agreements. Training skills would also be an advantage.

Loan Product Development Specialist

Specific objectives

- i. Review the existing loan products offered to private commercial enterprises in the horticultural/agricultural sector of the Kyrgyz Republic and prepare comprehensive report based on reviews;

- ii. Based on the range of products identified and on the potential demand for different loan products, recommend to PFIs loan products that could be used in its loan portfolio using project loan funds;
- iii. In close cooperation with PFIs, ISC Team members, develop alternative loan products to be offered to potential borrowers under the project;
- iv. Monitor the uptake of loans by horticultural value chain enterprises and determine if the demand for loan can be influenced by the conditions under which the loans are offered;
- v. Support the introduction and marketing of proposed loan products into the PFIs;

Required expertise and experience

The international specialist will hold a masters' degree in finance, management or public administration and also hold professional membership of a recognized banking institute. S/he will have at least 15 years professional experience in government or the private sector and ideally have experience working on internationally financed projects dealing with agricultural credit and small enterprise development. The specialist must be able to demonstrate the necessary skills in developing loan products for agribusiness suitable for introduction into commercial financial institutions.

How to apply

Please send an up-to-date CV, preferably in ADB format, to alessiai@landell-mills.com as soon as possible. We are considering applications on a rolling basis so would advise early CV submission. Please send any queries regarding these roles to the same email address.