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| Logo Guvern | **MINISTERUL AGRICULTURII ȘI INDUSTRIERI ALIMENTARE AL REPUBLICII MOLDOVA** | **MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD INDUSTRY OF THE**  **REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA** |  | |
| UNITATEA CONSOLIDATĂ PENTRU IMPLEMENTAREA PROGRAMELOR IFAD  THE CONSOLIDATED PROGRAMMES IMPLEMENTATION UNIT (CPIU IFAD) | |  |

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| TRTP/IFAD VIII | |
| PP 2023 | C12 |
| Ref. AWPB Nr. | 1.2.2.2 |
| Component | 1 |
| Category | 1 |
| Loan/Grant | IFAD Loan |

**Terms of Reference:**

**Selection of** **consultant in agriculture and policy**

**to strengthen technical capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry**

**Abbreviations:**

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| TRTP | Talent Retention for Rural Transformation |
| CPIU IFAD | IFAD Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit |
| ToR | Terms of Reference |

1. **Client**

The Client is IFAD Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit.

The Beneficiary is the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry of Moldova.

1. **Country background**

Moldova is a small lower middle-income country highly dependent on agriculture, which is the main source of livelihood in rural areas where live approximately 75% of the population.

Agriculture is an important employment sector in rural areas, where other jobs are not sufficiently developed. Currently around one third of the population works abroad and the labor migration has left the country with the aging population.

Despite the fact that in the past decade Moldova has made a considerable progress in socio-economic and welfare development, it is still one of the poorest countries in Europe and there still remain some segments of the population who still face significant disadvantages, including smallholders, women and youth.

A proactive approach, driven by the state institutions, donor community and agricultural producers and associations is needed to raise the competitiveness and outputs of the Moldovan agriculture sector in order to increase the level of incomes and quality of life in rural areas, especially among youth, women and smallholders, and therefore to prevent outmigration.

1. **Background on project**

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| Project | Talent Retention for Rural Transformation (TRTP) |
| Project launch | 13/01/2021 |
| Project end | 30/09/2027 |
| Project objectives | * Reduction in poverty and outmigration from rural areas through the enhancement of smallholder resilience to climate change and economic risk and ensuring access to markets. |
| Project target area and groups | * TRTP has a national coverage and is implemented in the areas controlled by the Government of Moldova (GoM) except the entities registered in Chisinau and Balti. * Target Group: commercially-oriented smallholder farmers and youth entrepreneur’s cultivating up to 10 hectares, especially women farmers. |
| Implementation agency | IFAD Consolidated Programme Implementation Unit |
| Project components | Component 1. Resilient Economic Transformation:   * 1. Enhancing Climate Resilience   2. Agribusiness Development   Component 2. Entrepreneurship Finance:   * 1. Affordable credit for youth and women   2. Rural Finance sector development |

1. **Background on the assignment**

The challenges related to the agri-food complex will continue unabated, driven by the frequency of climate change, loss of biodiversity, environmental pollution, and most recently for Moldova, the war in the neighboring country and its social and economic consequences. The frequency of these phenomena significantly affects the food systems of the Republic of Moldova, thus causing tensions, economic and social shocks. Agricultural producers are increasingly strengthening their efforts for resilience to climate change, adapted to and measures to maintain production systems at economically acceptable yields.

Thus, there is an increasing need to make food systems healthier, sustainable, equitable and resilient in order to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals [[1]](#footnote-1).

In order to help the Moldovan agricultural producers to face these challenges, the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry shall be strengthened in terms of policy improvement that would facilitate enhancement of the competitiveness of the Moldovan agricultural sector.

Therefore, in this mission TRTP will support the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry by providing an expert who will contribute to elaboration of the *National Agricultural and Rural Development Programme 2023-2026*, as well as assistance in the development of food systems at the national level, the aim being to integrate and systematize the tools related to food systems in a single center (MAFI) to increase development capacities.

1. **Overall objectives**

The overall goal of the Talent Retention for Rural Transformation (TRTP) Project is reduction in poverty and outmigration from rural areas through the enhancement of smallholder resilience to climate change.

The development objective of the Project is to enable the rural poor (especially youth, women and smallholders) to increase their production capacity, resilience to economic, environmental and climate-related risks and access to markets.

**6. Objectives of the assignment**

The TRTP project will strengthen the capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry (MAFI), providing it with specialized policy development assistance, namely: in elaboration of the *National Agricultural and Rural Development Programme 2023-2026* and the *Food Security Programme 2023-2026*, as well as assistance in the development of food systems at national level, with the aim of integrating and systematizing food systems tools in a single place/center (MAFI) for capacity building.

**7. Scope of work**

CPIU IFAD will contract an **agriculture economy and policy expert (consultant)** who will support the MAFI, as final beneficiary.

The main tasks of the consultant will include, but not limited to the following activities:

* support in elaboration of sectoral policy documents;
* identification and shaping directions and objectives in achieving sustainable and resilient systems.
* providing support for the preparation, planning, implementation, monitoring and reporting of meetings related to agricultural systems at national and international levels,
* support to the organization of broad dialogue on themes, areas and expertise at national level,
* identifying national and international experts and involving them in the discussion of topics related to farming systems;

The concrete activities and analysis to be conducted will be agreed with the Beneficiary based on the reasonable level of effort.

If required by the Beneficiary, the Consultant shall prepare and deliver presentations with findings and recommendations to the target audience indicated by the Beneficiary.

**8. Capacity building and transfer of knowledge**

The Specialist shall strive to build organizational knowledge and exchange lessons with colleagues through formal and informal mechanisms set by management.

**9. Reports and schedule of deliverables**

**Technical reports**

The Consultant will provide to Beneficiary (MAFI) the agreed policy papers/reports and signed by Beneficiary copies to the CPIU IFAD.

**Monthly reports**

The Consultant will provide monthly activity reports, signed by the person designated by the Beneficiary, to CPIU IFAD for the purposes of disbursement to the Consultant. These reports will include a brief description of the performed activities indicating the number of man-days spent to implement those activities.

**10. Consultant’s qualifications and experience**

The key criteria for shortlisting are the following:

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| **Criterion** | **Weight** |
| 1. General qualifications: | |
| * A minimum of a bachelor degree in economics, finance, agriculture or a related field | 10 |
| * Participation in specialized international training courses on policy analysis and development with respect to agriculture is an advantage | 5 |
| 2. Specific previous experience in the field for vacant position: | |
| * At least 5 years of hands-on experience in economic and policy analysis in agricultural sector | 25 |
| * At least 3 years of hands-on experience in policy paper development, preferably in agricultural sector | 10 |
| * At least one project experience in interacting with national and local stakeholders concerned with agriculture and preferably including government and administration, private sector, civil society and international development partner agencies; | 10 |
| 3. Language skills: Fluency in Romanian and English; good in Russian | 5 |
| 4. Computer management skills especially office productivity tools | 5 |
| 5. Competencies (through Interview for candidates that score at least 49 points on the above criteria): | |
| * Highest standards of professionalism and integrity | 10 |
| * Excellent problem solving and analytical skills using creativity and innovation | 10 |
| * Excellent communication (especially written communications; group facilitation skills), networking and coordination skills with various stakeholders | 5 |
| * Excellent planning and organizational abilities and attention to detail | 5 |
| TOTAL | 100 |

A consultant will be selected in accordance with the ICS procurement method set out in IFAD’ project procurement handbook that can be accessed via the IFAD website at https://www.ifad.org/documents. The top ranked consultant will be invited in due course to submit a technical and financial proposal that will be evaluated and negotiated. The passing score for shortlisting is 70%.

**11. Location and period of execution**

The Consultant will be based in Chisinau, Republic of Moldova, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Industry office. The assignment might require trips outside Chisinau or abroad.

The consultant will be hired full-time (40 working hours per week) for the 12 months period of 2023-2024. Upon successful collaboration with the Beneficiary, the contract period might be extended, at the request of Beneficiary.

**12. Project coordination**

The Consultant will coordinate the technical part of his/her assignment, including the concrete goals and planned activities with the person designated by the Beneficiary.

**13. Services and facilities to be provided**

It is not expected that the CPIU IFAD will provide to the Consultant any facilities related to implementation of this contract.

It is expected that the Beneficiary will provide to the Consultant the office space equipped with printer and internet connection, computer and other equipment necessary to perform the activities.

It is expected that the Beneficiary will provide to the Consultants access to information necessary to perform Consultant’s activities.

In case any local/international trips are needed to perform the activities and are agreed with the Beneficiary, the Beneficiary will provide to the Consultant transportation or will reimburse the cost of this transportation.

**14. Services and facilities to be provided by the consultant**

The Consultant will provide to the Beneficiary the services described in this ToR.

**15. Additional information**

The CPIU IFAD is entitled to cancel the tender at any stage of the competition due to the impossibility of financial coverage or due to unconformity of the tenderers to the requirements specified in the tender documents or other justified reason.

1. https://statistica.gov.md/ro/obiectivele-de-dezvoltare-durabila-183.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)