

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

ROMANIA

INTEGRATED NUTRIENT POLLUTION CONTROL PROJECT

Consultancy services for the design and implementation of an agricultural demonstration program, including nutrient management plans and pastures rehabilitation

Loan No.4873-RO TF No.058040-RO

Project ID No. P093775

Contract no. 02/QCBS/2012

The Government of Romania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **“Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control”** Project. The overall development objective of the Project is to support the Government of Romania to meet the EU Nitrates Directive requirements by reducing nutrient discharges to water bodies, promoting behavioral change at the communal level and strengthening institutional and regulatory capacity.

The implementing agency of the Project, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (the Employer) intends to use part of the Project’s funds for financing the **Consultancy services for the design and implementation of an agricultural demonstration program, including nutrient management plans and pastures rehabilitation** in Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) in order to encourage local communities and farmers from all NVZs area to meet the requirements of the EU Nitrates Directive.

The Program (to be implemented under the present assignment) aims to encourage farmers to adopt environment-friendly agricultural practices in compliance with the updated **“Code of good agricultural practices for water protection against pollution with nitrates from agricultural sources”**, which is being revised within INPC project, in their management of crop and livestock enterprises.

In particular, the program would promote the adoption of nutrient management practices based on soils available nutrients and minimum additional inputs of nutrients in order to meet the crops needs for the forecasted yields. In addition to the nutrient management practices, the program would promote other conservative practices as livestock manure management, pastures management and grazing management, buffer strips, vegetative protection belts, etc. A training program for advisory staff, farmers and local authorities, built on the on-farm demonstration programs, would be funded by the project for disseminating results of improved practices. The Project would provide funds for recruitment of agencies skilled in nutrient management to provide advice and training and for meeting the additional costs incurred by farmers during the implementation of the on-farm demonstration programs (e.g. soil testing, seeds and saplings for vegetative barriers, nutrients test on plants and soil, electric fences for controlled grazing etc.)

The demonstration programs would be organized in the eleven NVZs/communas selected as Training & Demonstration Sites (TDS) and the training and information program will target the farmers and stakeholders from all neighboring NVZs, local and regional administration members, agricultural and environmental specialists.

The 11 TDS comunas designated in NVZ areas are:

Balta Alba – Buzau county; Miroslava – Iasi county; Craiesti – Mures county;
Bontida – Cluj county; Salacea – Bihor county; Garleni – Bacau county; Dumbrava
Rosie – Neamt county; Ghercesti – Dolj county; Peciu Nou – Timis county; Albestii
de Arges – Arges county; Mihaesti – Valcea county

The assignment will be implemented in two phases, as follows:

Phase 1 (three months): will consist of consultancy services to produce a detailed agricultural demonstration program, including nutrient management plans, pasture rehabilitation plans and other plans of the measures it deems necessary to reduce nutrient pollution and implement good agricultural practices at farm level.

Phase 2 (end of phase I - end of November 2013): will consist in the implementation, testing, supporting, monitoring of the agricultural demonstration program, and in conducting the training program for disseminating results of improved practices.

The assignment will be carried out by a consulting firm, or association of such firms having extensive expertise in nutrient management for cropping systems and agricultural training and extension. The consultant should have wide experience related to nutrient management science, technology and policy.

The Ministry of Environment and Forests now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the above mentioned consultancy services.

The Expressions of Interest must provide information indicating that the consultant is qualified to perform the above-mentioned services, respectively:

- general information: core business and years in business, address, contacts, number and country of registration; presentation of services provided, references;
- specific information on the consulting experience in the field of the assignment: specific experience in the field of nutrient management for cropping systems, crop growing techniques and technology, good agricultural practices for nutrient reduction, policies legislation (Nitrate Directive and Water Framework Directive), pedology, specific training, similar projects, experience in similar conditions;
- information regarding the availability of appropriate specialized staff for the assignment, number and general qualifications (including number of years of professional expertise) and specific experience of key staff (team leader, agriculture specialists with expertise in environmental and agricultural policies legislation, Nitrates Directive and Water Framework Directive, monitoring the areas vulnerable to nitrate pollution at water bodies level, manure management practices and techniques regarding the use of organic fertilizers, agricultural water management and sewage management in agricultural field, as well as pedologists and specialized trainers

Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications. The “association” may take the form of a Joint Venture or a sub consultancy. In case of a Joint Venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract in case of award is made to that JV group. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their “association” and the duties of the partners and sub consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of “in association with” and/or “in affiliation with” and etc. may not be considered for short listing. Keeping one expression of interest per firm as principle, a consultant firm may decide whether it wishes to participate as a sub consultant or as an individual consultant or as a partner in a joint venture. Please note that a firm shall submit only one Expression Of Interest in the same selection process either individually as a consultant or as a partner in a joint venture. No firm can be a sub consultant while submitting an EOI individually or as a partner of a joint venture in the same selection process. A firm, if acting in the capacity of sub consultant in any consultant or JV, may participate in more than one consultant, but only in the capacity of a sub consultant.”

The Consulting firm will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's [*Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers*](#), May 2004, for QCBS (Quality and Cost Based Selection).

Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours, from Monday to Friday - 09⁰⁰ to 16⁰⁰ hours.

Expressions of interest must be written in English language and shall be delivered to the address below by ***September 17, 2012, 15:00 hours, local time.***

Expressions of Interest received by e-mail are also accepted.

Ministry of Environment and Forestry

Integrated Nutrient Pollution Control Project Management Unit

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