



**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

## **CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

Job Title: National Agricultural Expert

Contract duration: 80 days WAE (until 31 December 2016) with *possible extension*

**Vacancy No. IRC3490**

**Deadline for Applications: 24 July 2016**

Duty station: Yerevan, Armenia

### **Tasks and responsibilities:**

Under the overall supervision of the FAO Representative in Armenia (REU), under the technical supervision of Agricultural Officer (REU) and the managerial supervision of ENPARD Project Manager, in close coordination with the project Lead Technical Officer (REU), the Assistant FAO Representative in Armenia, the National Expert will perform works in close collaboration with project beneficiaries, stakeholders, partners and other project staff of ENPARD Armenia.

### **Key Functions**

- a. Coordinate and provide technical support to National Experts on Plant Protection for conducting a comprehensive assessment of the state of the Plant Protection sector in the country (which will be the basis for the development of a National Programme for Plant Protection) and to elaboration of IPM handbook;
- b. Coordinate and provide technical support to National Experts on Soil Management for conducting a comprehensive assessment of the potential effects of climate change on soil degradation and fertility in Republic of Armenia;
- c. Coordinate and provide technical support to National Expert on Plant Genetic Resources for development of a draft National Programme on Conservation and Sustainable Use of Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture;
- d. Support the project in improving the governance of national policies on seed production;
- e. Review and finalize all technical reports, documents prepared by relevant National Experts;
- f. Be responsible for the timely and quality preparation of the mentioned reports and documents;
- g. Organize and participate in the regular team meetings;
- h. Compile all the reports/technical documents and, based on them prepare the final reports. Those will be the final of both assessments and the draft National Programme for Plant Genetic Resources;
- i. Provide support to relevant International Consultants and FAO officers engaged in assignments in the country; prepare briefing kits and background materials;
- j. Participate in meetings, visits, interviews and working sessions for consultants with relevant resource people in government as well as nongovernmental organizations;
- k. Participate in and present the results of both assessments to concerned stakeholders; include the comments and proposals in the final report;
- l. Any other related duties upon request.

1. *The draft outline of the assessment report on Plant Protection should be as follows:*

- I. Introduction
- II. Current situation of agriculture in RA
- III. Analysis of plant protection situation in RA (strengths and weaknesses)
  - a) Legal framework regulating the plant protection situation in the country
  - b) National policies and strategies governing the plant protection in the country
  - c) Institutional structure:
    - Relevant institutions, services and existing problems in the field of plant protection
    - Education and Scientific Potential
    - Human and Technical Potential
    - Extension services: public and private (including agricultural input suppliers and service providers)
    - Training of plant protection specialists
    - Finances (system and sources)
    - Infrastructure (laboratories, etc.)
  - d) Main biological threats to crops (diseases, insects and weeds)
  - e) Integrated pest management (IPM) against biological threats to crops in the country (history, development, adoption, current state, potential and perspectives, etc.)
  - f) Monitoring and forecasting systems
  - g) Issues related to plant protection products; registration, import, sale, transfer and application
- IV. Conclusions and recommendations (justification on the need for development, adoption and promotion of Plant Protection National Programme)

2. *The draft outline of the assessment report on the Effects of Climate Change on Soil Degradation and Fertility should be as follows:*

- I. Climate change in Armenia
- II. Agroecological zones of Armenia
- III. Distribution of soil types in Armenia
- IV. Climate change uncertainties in Armenia
- V. Soil fertility and climate change resilience
- VI. Soil degradation and erosion
- VII. Effect of currently used soil management techniques and practices on soil erosion and degradation, as well as on the physical properties of soil
- VIII. State of situation of integrated soil and nutrition management in Armenia
  - soil humus content
  - available nutrients
  - (NPK) content
  - soil PH
  - soil bulk density
  - soil structure
- IX. Soil management systems, practices and techniques in different regions and effects of those systems and soil cultivation methods on soil structure, soil-water balance and yield; the advantages and disadvantages of each system and method
- X. Crop rotation systems currently applied by farmers in different regions and different climatic zones of Armenia and their effects on soil degradation and fertility
- XI. Conservation Agriculture (CA) adoption in Armenia
- XII. Conclusions and recommendations on:
  - reduction of impacts of climate change on soil erosion and degradation
  - effective and improved soil management methods and practices
  - advanced rotation systems
  - most progressive and effective sustainable land cultivation techniques for different climatic zones, regions and soil types for reduction of soil erosion and degradation and ensuring high efficiency and high productivity of the land.

3. For elaboration of draft National Programme on Plant Genetic Resources (PGR) the National Agricultural Expert in close collaboration with the National Expert on PGR will:

- I. Describe the structure and content of the National Plant Genetic Resources for food and agriculture (PGRFA) Programme;
- II. Draft (both in Armenian and English languages) the National PGRFA Programme including the action plan;
- III. Support the National Working group for elaboration of National Programme on PGR in its functions and activities;
- IV. Encourage as many national stakeholders as possible to participate in the project's activities, especially in drafting the National PGRFA Programme;
- V. Coordinate with national representatives involved in other relevant international and regional initiatives;
- VI. Present the draft National PGRFA Programme to concerned stakeholders during national workshop; include the comments and proposals from those workshops in the final report.

**Candidates should meet the following requirements:**

**Minimum Requirements**

- Advanced university degree in the field of agriculture, agronomy, soils, agricultural economics or a related field.
- Proven consultancy experience in similar projects preferably with international organizations/projects; at least 10 years of professional experience in the field of Agriculture at national and/or international level; good knowledge of modern Crop Production and Protection Techniques.
- Fluency in Armenian and English; good knowledge of Russian is an asset.

**Selection criteria**

*Candidates will be assessed against the following:*

Extent and relevance of experience and expertise listed above.

**Additional Information**

FAO seeks gender, geographical and linguistic diversity in its staff and international consultants in order to best serve FAO Members in all regions.

All candidates should adhere to FAO values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency.

**How to apply**

All applications are to be made through FAO's [iRecruitment](#) system. Click on the link below to access [iRecruitment](#), complete your online profile and apply for this Call for Expression of Interest.

<http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/>

In order for your application to be properly evaluated, please ensure that all sections of your iRecruitment account are completed. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

If you need help, or have queries, please contact: [iRecruitment@fao.org](mailto:iRecruitment@fao.org)