



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

## **CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

### **Evaluation of FAO projects to support improvement of irrigation systems in Afghanistan**

Contract duration: 45 days over 3 months

Vacancy No. IRC3748

Deadline for Applications: 06 December 2016

The FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from qualified individuals to join the team for the **Evaluation of FAO projects to support improvement of irrigation systems in Afghanistan**, scheduled from December 2016 until March 2017.

#### **Background**

The evaluation will focus on two projects that support implementation of FAO interventions in the water and irrigation sector in Afghanistan. The projects envisaged investing in agricultural infrastructure and support capacity building of national institutions in improving water management and efficiency in order to contribute towards the GoA goals to reduce poverty in Afghanistan.

#### **Objectives of the evaluation**

The evaluation has the following three main objectives:

- *Assess the appropriateness of the projects' design and approach;*
- *Assess the projects' achievements and contributions vis-à-vis their objectives;*
- *Assess the actual and potential impact of the projects and their contributions to identify issues and lessons from the implementation of the projects that can be used to support the design of new and/or continued interventions in the water and irrigation sector.*

#### **Methodology**

The evaluation will draw on focus group discussions with key stakeholders and informant interviews with persons involved in the management of the project. The key evaluation questions will guide the overall assessment. Sub-questions and specific methodological approaches will be further developed by the evaluation team in order to answer the main questions. The evaluation will adhere to the UNEG Norms & Standards<sup>1</sup> and be in line with OED Manual and methodological guidelines and practices.

To answer evaluation questions the analysis will be based on desk reviews of projects' documents and reports, previous evaluations, field visit reports/ GIS maps, photographs and images of irrigation networks and water management. It will also include interviews with key informants such as the Governing Body members, implementing partners and project team. Data collection will include the following tools to collect primary data and evidence:

- Desk-review of existing project documents, reports, evaluations and assessments;
- Field visits to provinces,

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uneval.org/document/detail/21>

- Semi-structured interviews and/or focus group discussions with key informants, stakeholders and beneficiaries, supported by check lists and/or interview protocols to be developed at the beginning of the evaluation mission; and
- Analysis of available national statistical data on irrigation and agricultural productivity, as well as photographs and images of irrigation networks and water management structure produced by project team and its national and international counterparts.
- GIS maps and records of land cover statistics, integrated imagery coverage, available from FAO and any other sources.

### **Composition and profile of the evaluation team**

The evaluation will be led by the appointed FAO-OED evaluation manager. The evaluation team will consist of an International evaluation team leader (principal) with strong evaluation background, an international consultant with specialization in water and irrigation systems and one national expert to provide relevant support in data collection, analysis and logistics for the field work. The evaluation team will have had no previous direct involvement in the formulation, implementation or backstopping of the project

### **Candidates should meet the following requirements:**

- Postgraduate degree (MSc or PhD) in relevant disciplines in fields related to water resources management and water supply schemes, notably as they relate to agricultural use;
- At least 12 years of relevant experience in water and irrigation sector, including experience in planning and operating development cooperation programmes/projects in developing countries;
- Excellent analysis, writing and verbal communication skills;
- Previous experience in conducting/taking part in evaluations.
- Familiarity with the use of available GIS and geospatial mapping data for data analysis and evaluation;
- Excellent knowledge of English; knowledge of Dari and Pashto Languages would be an asset.

### **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.

### **Duration of the evaluation process**

The evaluation will require most inputs from the technical experts during the period January-February 2017, with contributions to the final report to be delivered by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. A contract duration of up to 45 working days is envisaged for each expert. The evaluation team members will work from home and should expect to travel to Rome and Afghanistan as part of this assignment.

### **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)