



Issued on: 14 August 2017

Deadline For Application: 28 August 2017

**JOB TITLE: Senior Rural and Agricultural Finance Consultant**

**TYPE OF CONTRACT: International Consultant**

**DUTY STATION: Rome, Italy**

**ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division, ESP**

**DURATION: 6 months with the possibility of extension**

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

**Qualified female applicants and qualified nationals of non-and under-represented member countries are encouraged to apply.**

**Persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply.**

**All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.**

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### Organizational Setting

The Social Policies and Rural Institutions Division (ESP) coordinates FAO's work on social protection; gender equality; decent rural employment; rural institutions and people's empowerment; and the right to food. It is responsible for working with member countries and other partners to reduce rural poverty through strengthening social protection systems; diversifying rural employment opportunities; reducing gender gaps and other social inequalities in agriculture; strengthening producer organizations; and improving the rural poor's access to productive resources and rural services, including rural financial services and investment capital.

Within the ESP Division, and as a technical operating unit under the Rural Institutions, Services, Empowerment (RISE) team, the activities of the **Rural Finance Team** aim to address the supply and demand side constraints that limit the development of robust, sustainable and inclusive rural and agricultural financial systems for smallholder agricultural households and micro-, small- and medium-sized agribusiness enterprises globally.

The rural finance teams takes a holistic, financial systems level approach and through its evidence-based portfolio of policy research and support; technical assistance to field projects; capacity building and training; and its position as a neutral facilitator of knowledge exchange and cooperation between countries and development partners, the team promotes the development of enabling policy and regulatory frameworks; meso-level support institutions and risk-sharing mechanisms; and institution-level capacity building to improve and expand the provision of rural financial services for the rural poor, with a particular emphasis on women, youth and other traditionally excluded groups.

The team is currently undertaking a call for interest with a view to hiring an experienced consultant specialized in rural and agricultural finance to support the implementation of its global programme of work that includes the (i) provision of technical support to the FAO field programme; (ii) production of policy research, operational guidelines and other knowledge products; and (iii) the development and delivery of capacity building interventions at the global, regional and country-levels.

### Reporting Lines

The Senior Rural and Agricultural Finance Consultant reports to the Senior Policy Officer; Rural Institutions, Services and Empowerment (RISE) Team

### Technical Focus Areas

Deep knowledge of rural and agricultural financial systems. Ability to apply financial knowledge and investment understanding within agriculture and agribusiness institutional systems and inclusive rural development policies and strategies. Specific technical areas of expertise include:

- Financial inclusion and innovation
- Demand-driven and customer centric financial product design and outreach strategies
- Value Chain Finance business models, products and applications
- Innovative risk management and risk-sharing strategies
- Agricultural Insurance
- Public private partnerships

- Investment promotion
- ICTs for rural financial service provision

### **Tasks and responsibilities**

The consultant will provide senior level support throughout the identification, development and implementation of the global normative and field activities of the Rural Finance Team. In particular, the consultant will:

- Design and conduct normative work, implying research; field data collection, validation, and analysis; and publishing knowledge products to support the development of technical standards; operational guidelines; policy advice; and tools, innovative approaches and strategies to promote the development of rural financial systems in target countries
- Lead the response to FAO Member Country's requests for assistance by providing technical support throughout the project cycle of field projects and programmes with rural and agricultural finance components
- Develop technical, analytical, monitoring and reporting frameworks, and related methodologies, tools, systems and databases related to rural and agricultural finance, to support the identification, planning, implementation and monitoring of programmes of work, field projects, products and services
- Provide technical contribution to and ensure the quality and effectiveness of capacity development, knowledge sharing and training activities within member countries, implying the design, development and delivery of knowledge products through a variety of channels
- Provide technical expertise and leadership in the promotion of international cooperation in the area of rural and agricultural finance; advocate best practices and global innovations; participate in policy dialogue and provide technical expertise at international meetings, conferences and other venues of knowledge exchange
- Participate in and/or lead multi-disciplinary teams; interdepartmental technical committees and working groups; project task forces; and/or provide specialized rural finance-related expertise to internal and external technical networks; international policy and standard setting bodies.
- Participate and/or lead resource mobilization activities in accordance with the FAO Corporate strategy.

### **CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING**

#### **Minimum Requirements**

- Advanced university degree in Agricultural/Agribusiness Finance; Rural Finance; Agricultural Economics; Applied Economics or other relevant field with a specialization in rural and agricultural finance;
- 7 years of relevant experience in one or more of the following areas: agricultural and agribusiness finance; value chain finance; agricultural and rural investment; agricultural insurance; which includes relevant working experience in developing countries on all aspects of project cycle management (identification, design, implementation, evaluation etc.) with experience in the UN and/or FAO project cycle and implementation modalities.
- Working knowledge of English is essential. Knowledge of an additional UN language, (preferably French) is considered an asset.

#### **Technical/Functional Skills**

- Extent and relevance of experience in analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of policy support programmes, technical interventions and field projects related to rural and agricultural finance and investment in line with the mandate of FAO.
- Demonstrated experience and theoretical and practical knowledge of inclusive rural and agricultural financial services including bank and non-bank financial services such as insurance, savings, investment funds, smallholder financial services, and small and medium enterprise finance
- Demonstrated experience and knowledge on the subject of agricultural insurance is considered a key asset
- Work experience in more than one location or area of work, particularly in field positions is desirable
- Extent of experience of technical writing and presentations and in addressing senior level professional meetings
- Experience in organizing international meetings, providing policy advice, delivering seminars and training courses in the general area of rural and agricultural finance

### **FAO Core Competencies**

- Results Focus
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Building Effective Relationships
- Knowledge Sharing and Continuous Improvement

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Please note that all candidates should adhere to *FAO Values of Commitment to FAO, Respect for All and Integrity and Transparency*.

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### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- All applications will be reviewed and qualified applicants will be contacted for interviews.
- FAO does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process (application, interview meeting, processing).
- Incomplete applications will not be considered. If you need help, or have queries, please contact: [iRecruitment@fao.org](mailto:iRecruitment@fao.org)
- Applications received after the closing date will not be accepted.
- Only language proficiency certificates from UN accredited external providers and/or FAO language official examinations (LPE, ILE, LRT) will be accepted as proof of the level of knowledge of languages indicated in the online applications.
- For other issues, visit the FAO employment website: <http://www.fao.org/employment/home/en/>

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### **HOW TO APPLY**

To apply, visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/> and complete your online profile. Only applications received through iRecruitment will be considered.

Candidates are requested to attach a letter of motivation to the online profile.

Vacancies will be removed from iRecruitment at 23:59 Central European Time (CET) on the deadline for applications date. We encourage applicants to submit the application well before the deadline date.

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

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