



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT N°: IRC4901

Issued on: 18 October 2017

Deadline For Application: 01 November 2017

ROSTER: RURAL FINANCE CONSULTANTS

TYPE OF CONTRACT: International Consultant or PSA

JOB TITLE: Rural Finance Specialist

DUTY STATION: Rome or FAO decentralized office

ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT: SOCIAL POLICIES AND RURAL INSTITUTIONS DIVISION,
ESP

DURATION: Up to 11 months on a WAE basis

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.

Organizational Setting

The Social Policies Rural Institutions Division (ESP) coordinates FAO's work on various social dimensions including on rural institutions, services, social protection, gender equality, decent rural employment and the right to food. Within ESP, the Rural Institutions, Services and Empowerment (RISE) Team works to promote inclusive rural institutions and effective service systems to create an enabling environment for rural people to actively participate and seize opportunities to improve their livelihoods in a sustainable manner. The Team supports countries in applying territorial approaches in policy making and development planning; promoting pluralistic rural services and financial systems; strengthening producer organizations and improving the rural poor's access to productive resources and rural services, including rural financial services and investment capital.

The Team's work on **Rural Finance** aims to support 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, through addressing the supply and demand side constraints and capacity needs. The team 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, it 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.

FAO International Consultants and Call purpose

The Organization frequently engages experts to work on short-term projects as international consultants. The functions of a consultant are results-oriented and normally involve analysing complex issues, directing seminars or training courses, preparing documents for conferences and meetings, or writing reports on matters within their area of expertise. An international consultant is engaged by the Organization to provide expertise, skills or knowledge for the performance of a specific task or piece of work, which would be short-term by nature. The assignment may involve full-time or part-time functions similar to those of staff members. The assignment can be from 1 month up to 11 months on a When-Actually-Employed (WAE) basis. The possibility of extension is subject to satisfactory performance and depending on the resources and needs of the Organization.

The purpose of this Call is to attract qualified candidates for consultancies in the area of Rural Finance to populate the divisional roster for this profile. Individuals who satisfactorily meet or exceed the requirements of the Call will be included in the divisional Roster of Rural Finance Specialists. Candidates who are registered in the Roster will be considered for future contracts when relevant opportunities arise.

Reporting Lines

The consultant will report to the RISE Team Leader or the Rural Finance Officer.

Technical Focus

Rural and agricultural financial systems and tools; Institutional systems and inclusive rural and agricultural development policies and strategies; financial inclusion and innovation in providing services to rural communities and farmers.

The incumbent is expected to support the implementation of the Rural Finance programme 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. The work focuses on rural and agricultural financial systems and tools; and financial inclusion and innovation in providing services to rural communities and farmers within the context of inclusive rural and agricultural development policies and strategies.

Tasks and responsibilities

- Researches and analyzes technical, social, economic and institutional related information, data and/or related policy issues to support the delivery of programme projects, products and services.
- Produces a variety of technical information, data and reports as well as input for technical documents and web pages.
- Provides technical support/analysis to various assessments, studies and initiatives and provides technical backstopping to field projects.
- Collaborates in the development of improved/updated tools, systems, processes, and databases.
- Participates on multi-disciplinary teams, and/or collaborates with other departments and agencies on work groups and committees and promotes best practices.
- Collaborates in providing technical backstopping to and ensuring the quality / effectiveness and the delivery of capacity development activities, including preparation of related information, learning materials, on-line tools.
- Promotes knowledge sharing and best practices at international meetings and conferences.

CANDIDATES WILL BE ASSESSED AGAINST THE FOLLOWING

Minimum Requirements

- Advanced university degree in Agriculture/Agricultural Economics, Economics, Finance/Rural Finance, Agribusiness, Social Sciences or related field.
- At least three years of work experience relevant to rural finance and investment, agricultural economics, agricultural and rural development or related fields.
- Working knowledge of English, French or Spanish and limited knowledge of one of the other two or Arabic, Chinese, or Russian.

FAO Core Competencies

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

Technical/Functional Skills

- Work experience in rural finance, preferably in the context of agricultural and rural development in developing countries.
- Extent and relevance of experience in rural finance and investment, financial inclusion, agricultural insurance, inclusive rural development or related fields.
- Good conceptual and analytical skills, and demonstrated ability to write technical and policy briefs and reports.
- Work experience in more than one location or area of work is an asset.
- Familiarity with FAO's mandate, objectives and procedures is desirable.

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

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 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
- 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/>

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

