

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices in the Near East

Team Leader

Background

The FAO Evaluation Service has been requested by the FAO Programme Committee to undertake an Evaluation of FAO's Regional and Sub-regional Offices in the Near East in the period 2009-2010. This will be the first-ever in-depth evaluation of the work of FAO's regional and sub-regional offices.

At present FAO has established five regional offices around the world (Santiago, Chile for Latin America and the Caribbean; Bangkok, Thailand for Asia and the Pacific; Accra, Ghana for Africa; Budapest, Hungary for Europe and Central Asia; and Cairo, Egypt for the Near East), ten sub-regional offices and one multidisciplinary team across the world.

The Regional Offices' overall objective stems from the objectives of FAO. Their main role is to ensure that priorities and needs of their member nations are reflected in FAO's programmes as well as to implement FAO's development strategies in the region by providing assistance mainly through various activities and projects, usually carried out in cooperation with governments and other agencies. The sub-regional offices are part of the respective regional offices and work closely with them. They are responsible for the overall planning and implementation of FAO activities in the sub-region under the guidance and support of the respective regional office.

The FAO Regional Office for the Near East (RNE) was established in Cairo, Egypt on 29 November 1947 and currently serves twenty Member nations¹. It is charged with the provision of technical assistance and policy advice to Governments in the region, as well as to collect, analyze and disseminate information on food and agriculture. RNE also plays an active role in promoting South - South Co-operation within the region, organizing workshops, seminars and networks at regional and/or sub-regional levels and serving as a secretariat for some intergovernmental regional bodies.

The Sub-regional Office for North Africa (SNE) was established in Tunis, Tunisia, on 8 August 1996, and serves Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. In June 2008, FAO and the Government of the United Arab Emirates signed an agreement to establish a new Sub-regional Office for the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) States and Yemen in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This office, once operative, will serve Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

The FAO Evaluation Service is seeking a **Team Leader** to conduct this evaluation. S/he will work in close collaboration with the Evaluation Officer responsible for this evaluation in the Evaluation Service as well as FAO staff concerned. S/he will lead a team of international and regional consultants evaluating the relevance, efficiency and effectiveness of the services delivered by these Offices.

¹ Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

Candidates should not have been holder of any assignment for FAO in the Near East in the last five years and will be required to sign the Declaration of Interest as per the UNEG Code of Conduct. The consultancy is planned for the period October 2009-June 2010.

The Evaluation will take place in three phases:

- **1st phase: Inception Phase** (tentatively 3/4 weeks – October/ December 2009)
 - Inception missions to FAO Headquarters and to the FAO Regional and Sub-regional offices in the Near East;
 - Prepare an inception report covering a detailed methodology and work plan for the evaluation;
- **2nd phase: Conduct of the evaluation** (tentatively 6 weeks – January/March 2010)
 - Conduct interviews at Headquarters, Regional and Sub-regional Offices, and in a sample of countries covered by the Near-East offices;
 - Provide an assessment based on all the available information from documents, desk reviews, surveys and interviews, in accordance with the inception report;
- **3rd phase: Report drafting and final consultation with stakeholders** (tentatively 4 weeks - April / June 2010)
 - Prepare a comprehensive evaluation report;
 - Present the report to stakeholders.

Essential qualifications

- At least 15 years experience and an established international reputation in policy development issues in relation to food security, agricultural and rural development, natural resources for food and agriculture and/or trade;
- Significant work experience in the Near East in the last ten years;
- Experience of complex evaluations;
- Knowledge of the UN system (especially FAO);
- Demonstrated experience in leading and managing a team;
- Excellent communication skills in English and Arabic (French would be desirable).

Application process

- Interested candidates should send their application by **Monday August 31, 2009**, to the e-mail Near-East-evaluation@fao.org. Please specify "Near East evaluation-team leader" in the email subject line.
- Applications should be composed of the candidate's FAO Personal History Form (available at http://www.fao.org/VA/vac_en.htm) and of a detailed Curriculum Vitae and should include:
 - Information on sex, age and nationality;
 - Expected daily fee rate: FAO pays seven days per week while on mission. Candidates will be required to provide evidence of rates for previous employment;
 - Availability between October 2009 and June 2010.

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted