

Terms of Reference

International Consultant– Veterinary Epidemiologist

Dushanbe, Tajikistan

Within the framework of Emergency Centre for Transboundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD), under the overall guidance of the FAO Chief Veterinary Officer, the technical supervision of the Animal Health Service, AGAH, the operational supervision of the Chief, Special Emergency Programmes Service, TCES, and in close consultation with the FAO Coordinator in the country, the incumbent will work in close collaboration with the national veterinary authorities and will undertake the following duties and responsibilities:

- advise the Government of Tajikistan on technical matters related to its national Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) control programme;
- provide technical assistance to review the current veterinary legislative framework and assure its alignment with the functions of the State Veterinary Department and its address of HPAI in particular;
- provide technical assistance in the implementation of surveillance activities within the country ensuring a smooth synchronism between the different components and sub-components of the surveillance system for avian influenza;
- provide technical assistance in the design and implementation of an Animal Health Disease Information System;
- participate in the development of national protocols and guidelines related to avian influenza with specific reference to disease detection, control and containment, human safety measures, culling, destruction, disinfection and compensation schemes.
- monitor the capacity of the laboratory facilities to receive and process samples for diagnosis of HPAI (including isolation and identification) and mechanisms for submitting isolates and other samples to international reference laboratories;
- promote and coordinate additional epidemiological investigations (if deemed necessary) and make available the collected information to guide and monitor control programmes;
- provide on-the-job training to project national staff, as required, and participate in national and regional workshops;
- provide technical advice and supervision to project national staff;
- coordinate the establishment of contracts and/or Letters of Agreement with national institutions and NGOs;

- provide technical specifications for the procurement of project inputs;
- advise national authorities in the preparation and development of a National Compensation Policy and Fund to be incorporated in their national legislation;
- coordinate FAO activities on avian influenza in the country within the Regional Network on Avian Influenza for Central Asian countries, as well as provide technical and advisory support for their implementation;
- advise and assist national staff to prepare work plans for the implementation of the activities within the Regional Network on Avian Influenza for Central Asian countries and coordinate their implementation;
- ensure project reporting as needed;
- any other duties.

Reporting:

At the end of the mission, the Consultant will prepare a report describing in detail, and for each point listed in the Terms of Reference, the activities undertaken, major results obtained, problems encountered, and progress towards achieving the specific objectives of the project.

Furthermore, the Consultant will assist the National Project Director in the preparation of quarterly progress reports, and on the draft final report containing a complete review of activities undertaken, major results obtained, problems encountered, and progress towards achieving the specific objectives of the project. A section on recommendations and lessons learned, presenting guiding principles for future interventions, will be included.

Qualifications: Veterinarian with post graduate degree in a relevant field from a recognized university with at least 10 years of proven experience in the management of transboundary animal diseases control programmes comprising both field and laboratory experience. Proven managerial and coordination skills including project identification and design. Experience acquired with control programmes for avian influenza is highly desirable. Ability to prioritize tasks, work without direct supervision and promptly deal with urgent problems as they arise. Working experience with international agencies is desirable. Fluency in English (level C) is required. Knowledge of Russian and/or Tajik languages will be an asset.

Duration: Six months

Entry-on-duty: As soon as possible

Location: Dushanbe, with travel throughout the country.

Please provide a completed FAO Personal History Form, found on the Internet site at: <http://www.fao.org/VA/adm11e.dot> to the following e-mail account:

VA-CONS-TAJ-ECTAD-09-TCES@fao.org

Attention: Ms Admira Mara, Operations Officer, Special Emergency Programmes Service, TCES, Food and Agriculture Organization, Via delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy.

Deadline for application: 4 October 2009