

**TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME FACILITY (TCPF)**  
Republic of Serbia

**TCP Facility project code:** TCP/YUG/3202

**Component No:** 1

**Title of the assistance/component:** Technical Assistance to the Ministry of Agriculture of Serbia regarding the review, preparation and quality control of independent sector reviews within the IPARD programming.

**Background:**

An overriding political goal of the current government of Serbia is EU accession. Serbia hopes to apply for EU accession in 2010, and the earliest it could become an accession country eligible for IPA (instrument for pre-accession) aid is 2011.

The rural development component of the IPA (the IPARD or instrument for pre-accession aid for rural development) is subject to a targeted programme agreed to by the Ministry of Agriculture and the European Commission. The primary purpose of the IPARD is to assist Serbia in meeting EU standards for accession (the *acquis communautaire*).

The justification and the background information for IPARD programming is provided by a series of agricultural subsector studies, the purpose of which is to point to key issues for investment in the subsectors to assist Serbia in meeting EU accession standards. Thus, the sector studies should suggest a programme of assistance in the area of rural development in order to meet the EU *acquis communautaire*.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia has requested the assistance of FAO in supporting it in the review and preparation of the independent sector reviews for various subsectors in agriculture within the framework of the IPARD programming.

**Objectives:**

The overall objective of the assistance is to support the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management of Serbia in the review and preparation of the independent sector reviews for various subsectors in agriculture within the framework of the IPARD programming.

The immediate objectives will be:

- 1) review existing sector reviews and material available and screen it against the criteria set up for sector reviews within the IPARD programming;
- 2) support the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management in the preparation of standardized Terms of Reference for the preparation of sector reviews funded either by other donors or by the EC Framework Agreement in Serbia;
- 3) advise and support the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management in the coordination of the sector reviews as well as in a quality review of the resulting studies.

**Expected outputs:**

- identification of gaps of existing material and sector reviews;
- preparation of Terms of Reference for conducting sector reviews by other partners e.g. meat, dairy, fruits and vegetables;
- sector reviews prepared according to the IPARD criteria of acceptable quality.

Lead Technical Unit: **TCA/REUT**

Approximate budget: **USD 100 000**

Expected duration: **five months**