

TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME FACILITY (TCPF)
Subregional (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, The
former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, UNMIK Kosovo)
Description of assistance to be rendered in the context of the TCPF

TCP Facility project code: TCP/RER/3206 TCP Facility SEU

Title of the assistance/component: **Technical Support for Human Resources Development of Agricultural Advisory Services**

Background and Justification:

The agricultural advisory services provided by extension services, universities, research institutes or private stakeholders in the countries of the West Balkan play a key role in bridging the existing gap between research, education and application of the knowledge in the field. However, staff of the advisory services often lacks specialized knowledge on standards for environmentally safe agriculture and rural development topics that are very relevant to access funding under EU accession preparing programs. In addition, there is an urgent need to upgrade skills of advisors in participatory methodologies and adult learning.

In 2006, FAO published a framework for the FAO field programme in the countries of the West Balkans. As a follow-up, a number of regional activities (e.g. stakeholder consultations, donor presentations, regional workshops, etc.) have been organized by FAO to support the region in priority setting for agricultural and rural development.

During the stakeholder consultation “Building Partnerships for Technology Generation, Assessment and Sharing in Agriculture amongst West Balkan Countries” organized jointly by FAO and the University of Skopje in Skopje, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia 27th – 29th June 2007, it was recognized by 35 government, research and education representatives of eight participating countries from the West Balkan that there is great need of improved communication, technology generation and sharing in the field of Agricultural Research and Extension Systems in the region. The upgrading of the advisory services was defined as a priority as a result of the stakeholder consultation and it was agreed upon that this improvement should be tackled in cooperation with other countries in the region as this ensures a more effective process and the sharing of know-how.

Objectives:

1. To assess the existing status of human resources development within the main advisory services (public, private, civil society).
2. To identify requirements for upgrading the training of advisory service staff.
3. To formulate a regional technical cooperation project on human resources development for extension/advisory services, agreed with major stakeholders of participating countries.

Expected outputs:

1. Report on the current state of human resource development in the national agricultural advisory services of the participating countries.
2. Identification of training requirements to upgrade the advisory systems.
3. Report on inter-country comparison, conclusions and recommendations.
4. Project document for a regional technical cooperation project on Human Resources Development of Advisory Services ready for submission to donor.

Lead Technical Unit (LTU): LTU: NRRR/REUT

Approximate budget: USD 115 000

Expected duration: eight months