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General information

a. Brief information on the project

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) funds the bilateral programme “**Towards Rural Inclusive Growth and Economic Resilience**” (hereafter **GIZ TRIGGER II**) in Tajikistan. The programme is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) since 2019 following TRIGGER I.

As part of TRIGGER II, GIZ implements one component of the European Union’s Financing Decision “Rural Development Programme II” (RDP II). RDP II aims to improve rural livelihoods by supporting the climate-resilient development of rural communities and promoting sustainable agriculture and management of natural resources. The programme has three components with specific objectives:

- 1. to boost added value of agricultural production (component 1) – implemented by GIZ, further referred to as the **Integrated Rural Development Project (IDRP)**
- 2. to improve management of natural resources (component 2) – implemented by NGOs
- 3. to promote sustainable and efficient use of water (component 3) - implemented by World Bank

The activities under the co-financing agreement are presented as Integrated Rural Development Project (IRDP). IRDP is funded from January 2021 to December 2024 with 9 Million EUR by BMZ and co-financed with 20,5 Million by the European Union.

IRDP aims to increase the income of value chain actors through a market-oriented value chain approach. At the core of the strategy are the support of community-based extension services

(village advisors and agronomists who advise farmers on good agricultural practices) and matchmaking between smallholder producer groups and lead companies that have business relationships with export markets.

IRDP will provide targeted technical assistance, including capacity-building and training measures, advisory service, financial support, and different financing instruments. Moreover, the programme takes over the function of a secretariat for RDP II and ensures the formal coordination among all three components of RDP II.

TRIGGER II/ IRDP is implementing project activities in the lowlands of **Sughd and Khatlon Region** as well as in the mountainous regions of **Rasht (upper Vakhsh basin) and the Zarafshan Valley**.

The project consists of five outputs which are interconnected:

Output 1 aims to strengthen the capacity of public actors involved in economic policy-making. A key instrument here is the improvement of fact-based exchange between the private sector and political institutions.

Output 2 aims to improve the resilience (productivity) of smallholder farmers. Here, the key lever is to strengthen the economic orientation of support structures at the meso level across districts. The project supports smallholder farmers in selected value chains (apricot, tomato, apple, cotton and potentially rice and potatoes).

Output 3 aims to improve Small and Medium Enterprise's (SME) export and marketing capacities that operate at downstream stages of selected value chains. Moreover, it seeks to promote sustainable and efficient use of water. A key instrument is the improvement of the relevant skills of stakeholders along selected agricultural value chains.

Output 4 aims to improve the range of support available to potential young entrepreneurs up to age 35, with a firm focus on female entrepreneurs.

Output 5 aims to enhance the enabling environment in the water sector in Tajikistan and the implementation of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) as an integral part of development planning and through a coordinated approach, with a focus on the Zarafshan and Vakhsh basins.

The **target groups** of the project are owners and employees of MSMEs, including small-holder farmers in rural areas. The **political partner** of the project is the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade (MoEDT). Additional implementing partners are the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Energy and Water Resources, regional administrations, local non-governmental organizations, and regional and local business associations. The project will also work with private sector actors such as professional extension service providers (e.g., agricultural extension cooperatives), importers and producers of agricultural inputs, commercial banks and microfinance institutions, processing companies (e.g., cotton combers, fruit and vegetable processors, flour and oil mills), construction companies, and MSME service providers. Previously, TRIGGER I and II had focused on promoting the agricultural value chains of apricots, cotton, tomatoes, and apples and will now enlarge its focus with new value chains, possible in the area of rice, onions, milk and potatoes. The geographical focus of the parallelly co-financed project is expected to be on the regions of Zarafshan, Vakhsh, and the capital region.

TRIGGER/IRDP sets out to promote cross cutting issues, such as **gender equality** and includes a **climate and resilience perspective** across all its components.

b. Context

Since 2019, the project had local subsidy and grant agreements with 5 **implementing partners** in Sughd Region, in Jirgital and Khatlon Region such as the Mountain Societies Development Support Programme (MSDSP), the Association Women and Society and the Public Organisation Cross Border Economic Relations. With the new EU co-finance, IRDP will scale up activities and approaches horizontally and vertically in Zarafshan valley (Panjakent, Ayni and Kuhistoni Mastchoh districts) as well as in upper Vakhsh Basin Area (Lakhsh, Tojikobod, Rasht and Nurobod districts) through an increasing number of supported value chains and food crops (incl. potato and rice) as well as producer groups, village advisers and farmers. Recently, new contracts with implementing partners such as national and international NGOs were signed. They will support village advisers in their capacity building and promote access to a financial facility and small-scale projects to acquire tools and equipment so that they can provide quality services to the project beneficiaries.

Gender is an important cross-cutting topic within TRIGGER/IRDP. The project's objective regarding gender is to "increase women's participation in economic activities". A **gender scoping study** was therefore presented in the inception phase. The study analysed and identified the approach how to increase women farmers' and workers' participation in economic activities and their control over household revenues. The gender status and responsibilities in selected agricultural value chains were analysed. Concrete measures and recommendations for each output were developed, many of which TRIGGER II also considered and has already shown positive results. For instance, the project promotes female village advisers and agronomists. In 2019, through the implementing partners, the project supported the development of the "Youth and Women School of Agronomists". The aim was to involve female agronomists in capacity building activities to provide fee-based agriculture advisory services in the future. This activity helped to increase the number of female entrepreneurs in the agriculture advisory sector to already 50%, TRIGGER/IRDP works with now. Moreover, the project implementing partners support female village advisers to establish and promote their businesses, and female smallholder farmers building their capacities that result in increased yield. Thus, the number of female project beneficiaries reaches now 50%.

Besides, the Global **GIZ Project on Promoting Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Services Enhancement in Agrarian Landscapes** implemented in Tajikistan and financed by the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment has been working with implementing partners such as the Public Organisation Innovations and Participation for Development (IPD) and Deutsche Welthungerhilfe who have supported female advisers and farmers in Ayni district and in the Rasht valley.

During the recent **2nd High-Level International Conference on International Decade for Action "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018-2028** in Dushanbe, a one-day forum was dedicated to women. The key message was "women rights are human rights, and the more invest in gender aspects development, the more we encourage equality, empowerment and possibility for women to fully develop their potential." A regional women network was presented at the forum in which also Tajikistan participates.

The **National Strategy for Enhancing the Role of Women in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030**, approved by a governmental decree on April 30, 2021, specifically targets rural women in the use of agricultural machinery to increase their income and in accessing financial services. Furthermore, the strategy underlines the importance of the professional development of female managers and specialists in the field of agriculture and water management and the employment of rural women in the processing of agricultural products.

Realizing the importance of enhancing the role of women in rural development and in order to find ways to ensure equal access to economic resources, TRIGGER/IRDP under the auspices of the **International Day of Rural Women in October 2021**, initiated a round table. The goal

of the event was to discuss problems of rural women, and assess the potential and possibilities of forming an effective network of experts among activists to promote the interests of rural women. At the roundtable, a need for establishing partnerships between government agencies, public associations and agricultural producers for promoting the interests of rural women has been identified. Moreover, the creation of an effective expert network to share knowledge and support strategies aimed at enhancing the role of rural women has been articulated.

TRIGGER/IRDP aims at strengthening the role of women specifically under the impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss on the agricultural sector of Tajikistan. Therefore, the project plans to establish a **women's network supporting more green and sustainable value chains**. One of the main recommendations for this network is e.g., capacity building on sustainable farming practices and conservation of local biodiversity.

Moreover, the gender scoping study concludes that in the framework of the EU co-financing requirement to increase the proportion of women beneficiaries, the project should strengthen its structures accordingly. The project should support a sufficiently large number of measures that are specifically aimed at women and improve the framework conditions for women along the five project outputs. A group of civil society partners who can competently support the gender-related project activities is further recommended. This includes local and national women's organisations as well.

Based on the recommendations and implemented activities within TRIGGER/IRDP and beyond including lessons learnt a consultancy is required to achieve a greater outreach towards project beneficiaries. The purpose of this consultancy is to support the project in building up a network of active and interested women to strengthen female empowerment and increasing women's participation in green and sustainable agriculture activities.

To achieve the objective of the consultancy, a tandem approach is applied, meaning that the international expert will be matched with a consultant from Tajikistan to jointly provide services. While the international expert will rather focus on the overall strategic development process, the consultant from Tajikistan will contribute more with local knowledge, experience and her network.

- c. GIZ shall hire the contractor for the anticipated contract term, from August 20th, 2022 to October 31th, 2022.
- d. The contractor shall provide the following work/service:

Task: Analysis and a strategic development process for setting up a network for women with focus on green and sustainable value chains – in a tandem with a local consultant and in coordination with GIZ project staff

1. Review of existing materials on sustainable agriculture, resilient agricultural value chain and, participation of women in agriculture, existing initiatives and networks in Tajikistan and the Central Asian region
2. Concept development and implementation of an analysis of women's participation in a network on green and sustainable value chains (Applied method: systemic interviews with project implementing partners and female farmers and entrepreneurs; systemic analysis of the outcome and building of assumptions on a potential network)
3. Development of the focus and design for a two days-workshop on strategy development with potential members of the network and preparation of a selected

capacity-building measure defined during the analysis. GIZ will provide the logistical organisation of the workshop.

4. Presentation of the assumptions to the interviewees and interested women in the network; gaining feedback during the workshop and identification of concrete steps with the participants to build and strengthen the network, implementation of the capacity-building measures and facilitation of the strategy workshop (preferably back-to back with the International Day of Rural Women in October 2022)
5. Elaboration of a final report including key findings from the review, analysis and strategy development process. recommendations of measures for further development and support of the network (Capacity Development intervention architecture proposal)

Deliverables and Responsibilities:

- Concept for analysis of women's participation in a network on green and sustainable value chains
- Workshop materials (concept, presentations, photo report)
- Final report including findings from the strategy process and recommendations of measures for further development and support of the women network

Tender requirements

1. Qualifications of proposed staff

1.1 Expert 1:

1.1.1 General qualifications

Education: university qualification in sustainable development, global change management or relevant subjects

Professional experience: more than 8 years' experience in establishing and/or supporting networks and/or associations, conducting awareness rising and capacity development activities, conducting research, sustainable development and gender sensitive projects; in-depth knowledge on green and/or agricultural topics

1.1.2 Experience in the region/knowledge : 10 years of experience working in post-soviet countries

1.1.3 Language skills: business fluency in English and Russian

2. Appropriateness of proposed concept

Please specify between one and five objective criteria which are to be used for an objective evaluation of the concept within the 'Assessment grid for the technical evaluation of tenders' and enter these in the second section of the grid. (2.1 – 2.5.).

2.1 Interpretation of objectives

The bidder need to describe if they have understood the requirements

2.2 Technical proposal

The bidder need to explain their profile and willingness to work in conjunction with requirements. How they are equipped to full the requirement such as past and current experiences, analysis of women’s participation in network, understanding of green and sustainable agriculture, location, awareness raising and communication, working with rural communities, designing of a workshop.

2.3 Proposed concept (implementation plan)

The bidder is required to consider the tasks to be performed with reference to the objectives of the services put out to tender. Following this, the bidder presents and justifies the strategy with which it intends to provide the services for which it is responsible.

2.4 Work and Time Schedule

The bidder need to mention time schedules of major task to be performed and format of reporting.

2.5 Coordination and communication

The bidder is required to explain its approach for coordination with GIZ project. The contractor manages costs and expenditures, accounting processes and invoicing in line with the requirements of GIZ.

Fee days	Number of experts	Number of days per expert	Comments
Pre-briefing and desk review of existing materials	1	2	
Analysis and a strategic development process for setting-up a network for women with focus on green and sustainable value chains – in a tandem with a local consultant and coordination with GIZ project staff	1	25	
Elaboration of a final report and debriefing	1	3	
Travel expenses	Number of experts	Number of days/nights per experts	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Per-diem allowance in country of assignment 	1	25	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overnight allowance in country of assignment 	1	24	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel costs (transportation) will be provided by GIZ office Tajikistan 	1	3	Rasht Valley, Sughd region Zeravshan Valley Dushanbe

Flights	Number of experts	Number of flights per experts	Comments
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International flights 	1	2	Tbilisi – Dushanbe-Tbilisi

*Calculate your financial bid exactly in line with the quantitative requirements of the specification of inputs above. There is no contractual right to use up the full days/travel or workshops or budgets. The number of days/travel/workshops and the budgets will be contractually agreed as **maximum amounts**. The regulations on pricing are contained in the price sheet.*

Note:

If restrictions are introduced to combat coronavirus/COVID-19 (restrictions on air travel and travel in general, entry restrictions, quarantine measures, etc.), GIZ and the contractor are obliged to make adjustments to their contractual services to reflect the changed circumstances on the basis of good faith; this may involve changes to the service delivery period, the services to be delivered and, if necessary, to the remuneration.

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