

## **Millennium Challenge Corporation Reducing Poverty Through Growth**

### **Constraints to Agricultural Finance in Moldova – Consulting Services**

The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) is a U.S. Government corporation whose mission is to provide assistance that will support poverty reduction through economic growth in developing countries that demonstrate a commitment to just and democratic governance, economic freedom, and investments in their citizenry. For more information on the MCC, please visit [www.mcc.gov](http://www.mcc.gov).

The MCC is seeking to obtain consulting services from a consultant to undertake an assessment of the constraints to agricultural finance in Moldova.

Millennium Challenge Account – Moldova (“MCA-Moldova”) has submitted an investment proposal to MCC for which two components are being considered: *Road Rehabilitation* and *Transition to High Value Added Agriculture (“THVA”)*. Under the THVA component, support is being requested for three activities:

- Rehabilitation of 26 central irrigation systems (“CIS”) which are either non-operational or are only partially operational as a result of not having been adequately maintained.
- A financial facility to support agricultural producers to purchase irrigation equipment and to finance post-harvest/value chain infrastructure.
- Technical assistance to support producers to convert to high-value agriculture (“HVA”).

Examples of the assignment could include: **Phase One** the Consultant will undertake an assessment of the constraints to agricultural finance in Moldova. Assuming the conclusion that access to finance is a constraint which will impede the transition to high-value agriculture, the Consultant will provide recommendations thereto as to optimal arrangements for the financing facility. In **Phase Two** (if and as required) the Consultant will provide implementation assistance in structuring the finance facility.

### **Phase One: Analysis and Recommendations (approximately 25 Days)**

**Task 1 - Assessment of Constraints to Agricultural Finance in Moldova (20 working days)** - The consultant will perform an assessment of constraints to agricultural finance in Moldova with the objective of

*Desktop Review* (5 working days) – The consultant will utilize five days reviewing documents, performing internet research, and meeting with the MCC Moldova Transaction Team and other international financial institutions for the purpose of gaining a background understanding of: (i) the composition and structure of the financial sector in Moldova, (ii) the constraints to agricultural credit (with specific regard to smaller, medium and long-term loans for capital expenditure), (iii) the

amounts and terms and conditions of other donor-funded financing programs, and (iv) MCC Financial and Private Sector due diligence requirements .

The output of this phase will be a brief paper and work plan agreed to with MCC and MCA-Moldova of issues to be explored in greater detail on-site, as well as a detailed list of requested meetings, and topics/questions for each meeting, to be used by MCA Moldova in arranging meetings during the On-Site Assessment.

On-Site Assessment (15 working days) – The consultant will travel to Moldova to perform an on-site assessment of the issues agreed to with MCC and MCA-Moldova.

**Task 2 – Report and Recommendations (approximately 5 working days)** – Upon completion of the On-Site Assessment, the consultant will prepare reports and recommendations thereto.

Draft Report (3 working days) – The consultant will provide a draft report to MCC within five working days of completion of the On-Site Assessment addressing the issues stipulated above (constraints, availability and terms of credit, availability and terms of credit through donor funded programs, collateral and pledge costs and burdens, and anticipated requirements and demand for agricultural credit) and will provide options and recommendations for the optimal financing facility arrangements and associated technical support for those arrangements.

Final Report (2 days) – The consultant will provide a final report to MCC within five working days of receiving comments on the draft report containing the assessment and recommendations as described above.

## **Phase Two: Support to develop/design of the implementation mechanism (approximately 25 Days as Required)**

**Task 3 – Implementation Support (approximately 25 working days)** – Upon completion of the Final Report, the consultant will provide implementation mechanism support as required to finalize the financing facility arrangements. Such support may include (but not be limited to) review and comment on policies and procedures manuals for the financing facility, estimations of funding requirements and likely drawdown, and review and comments on Terms of Reference for follow on facility management or technical support (if any). This may entail travel to Moldova for up to a two week period.

### **Requirement**

- Background in finance and banking
- Minimum of ten years of experience in developing and implementing financing programs in developing and transitional countries.
- Strong ability to perform financial sector assessments and to draw conclusions and recommendations as will inform project design.

Designated Consultants may be requested to mobilize on short notice and will be expected to deliver high-quality finished products in a timely manner. Evidence of ability to work collaboratively with counterparts and constructively within teams is required.

Applicants should be fluent in English. Not restricted to U.S. citizenship. Compensation will be based on qualifications and experience. This advertisement is for individuals not firms or firms representing individuals.

Please email your resume, with adequate information, including country experience, to determine your qualifications relative to the requirement factors listed above, to [recruitment@mcc.gov](mailto:recruitment@mcc.gov) and include "Ag Credit" in the subject line.

This ad is open until September 19, 2008.

The MCC is an equal opportunity employer.