



**Agricultural Credit Programme**  
**Short Term Technical Assistance (STTA) Consultant**

**BACKGROUND**

**The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Ghana Program.** The Millennium Development Authority (MiDA) is charged with managing the Ghana Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Compact signed August 1, 2006 between the Government of Ghana and the Government of the United States of America. The goal of the MCA Ghana Program is to accelerate the reduction of poverty through economic growth led by the transformation of agricultural practices in 23 Districts of Ghana and the promotion of a commercial orientation to the cropping, post-harvest storage, transportation, processing and marketing of high-value cash and staple food crops.

Specifically, the MCA Ghana Program seeks to achieve the identified goal by deploying the following projects:

- *The Transportation Project*
- *The Rural Development Project*
- *Agriculture Transformation Programme (ATP)*
  1. Commercialisation of Agriculture Project (CAP)
  2. Agricultural Financial Services & Bank Capacity Building Project (AFS&BCBP)

**Agricultural Financial Services & Bank Capacity Building (AFS&BCB).** This sub-project comprises two parts: the Agricultural Credit Activity and the Agricultural Financial Services Activity, both aimed at improving access to agricultural credit and financial services to farmers and operators in the agricultural value-chain in the 23 designated districts. The **Agricultural Credit Activity** provides an Agricultural Credit Program fund totalling \$35 million as an on-lending facility available through accredited financial institutions to eligible borrowers engaged in the agricultural value chain. To ensure successful operation of the fund, several interventions are being deployed to improve the capacity of the financial sector to deliver the funds to eligible borrowers. These include a training programme for loan officers to improve their skills in agricultural credit appraisal and monitoring, design and deployment of innovative products, and grant funding to develop loan field offices.

The **Financial Services Activity** will provide modern electronic financial services delivery infrastructure at the national/central bank level to enrich the payment systems by making it more efficient and capable of reaching the un-banked and under-banked including the rural poor engaged in agricultural activities. In the same vein, the activity will also seek under the Ghana Rural Bank Computerization & Interconnectivity Project (GRBCIP), to automate all the outlets

on rural and community banks across the country and interconnect them into a Wide Area Network (WAN), linking nearly 600 locations and creating a network/platform for the delivery of products that could enrich the rural economy. The Financial Services Activity is expected to assist the efforts of Bank of Ghana to reduce the over 60 percent of the money supply outside the commercial banking system and to put those resources to more productive uses, especially in the rural economy.

**Institutional Arrangements for Implementation:** The total resources allocated under the Ghana Compact for both Agricultural Credit and Financial Services Activities will amount to approximately US\$82.4 million. This will be disbursed through several sub-activities with the collaboration of two major government-affiliated agencies: Bank of Ghana (Agricultural Credit and Payment Systems Improvement under the Financial Services Activities) and ARB Apex Bank (the GRBCIP). MiDA has signed an Implementing Entity Agreements (IEAs) with Bank of Ghana (BoG) and with ARB Apex Bank (Apex Bank) in furtherance of these activities. In addition, MiDA has engaged an Agricultural Credit Program Consultancy (ACPC) firm to provide additional technical support for the implementation of the Agricultural Credit Program and a Project Management Support Consultant (PMSC) for the rural bank computerisation sub-activity.

The Agricultural Credit and Financial Services Activities are the responsibility of the Agricultural Financial Services & Bank Capacity Building Manager (AFSBCBM), who reports to the Chief Operating Officer. Currently, the AFSBCBM has a dedicated support Consultant within MiDA whose primary responsibility is assisting in the Ghana Rural Bank Computerization Programme.

**This statement of work is aimed at recruiting a Short Term Technical Assistance Expert with specific expertise in Agricultural Credit to assist the AFSCBM in the implementation of various Agricultural Credit Services Activities under the Ghana Compact.**

## **TASKS**

**The services required of the professional MCC STTA for the Agricultural Credit Program in Ghana will include but not be limited to the following tasks.** The STTA will in the initial instance, focus on critical activities to expedite the flow of credit disbursement including the provision of specific assistance in the following:

- **Assessment of the Feasibility of Proposed Innovative Agric Credit Products:** The ACPC is responsible for the development of implementable ‘innovative’ agric credit products which would expedite the flow of credit to Compact beneficiaries. The Consultant shall be responsible for reviewing the report with a view to ascertaining its applicability within the project environment.
- **Review of Funding Arrangements with AGRA:** MiDA has agreed in principle to support, with up to \$2 million of ACP funds, arrangements with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to finance agric value-chain activities. The Consultant shall evaluate the proposed arrangements and recommend ways of ensuring its expeditious implementation.

- **ACP Portfolio Review:** The ACPC and BoG are responsible for designing a Management Information Systems (MIS) on the back of a robust data base from which regular reports are to be generated. ACPC's design of an MIS is behind schedule but due to be tested in May 09. The Consultant shall test the adequacy of the MIS system and undertake an initial audit of the portfolio with a view to ensuring the integrity of the ACP.
- **Implementation Plan for Financial Non-Governmental Organizations (FNGOs):** Eligible PFIs may be Commercial Banks, Savings & Loans Companies, Rural and Community Banks and FNGOs. FNGOs were included in view of the obvious gaps in the distribution of financial institutions in the country with obvious gaps in the more deprived areas. The ACPC is responsible for accrediting and managing the FNGO component. They are yet to accredit these FNGOs and train them to be used as channels for disbursing credit. The Consultant shall review the work of the ACPC on the FNGO component and make recommendations to MiDA to enable the expeditious deployment of the FNGOs in disbursement of ACP funds.

## **DELIVERABLES**

The expected products for this consultancy will be four reports listed below:

- Report On The Feasibility of Proposed Innovative Agric Credit Products
  - Draft end of Week 3
  - Final end of week 7
- Report On The Review of Funding Arrangements with AGRA
  - Draft end of week 3
  - Final end of week 5
- Report On A Review of the ACP Portfolio
  - Draft end of week 6
  - Final end of week 8
- Report On The Implementation of the Financial Non-Governmental Organizations (FNGOs) Component
  - Draft end of week 4
  - Final end of week 7

All deliverables shall be submitted in both printed and electronic form in English and in a format acceptable to MCC. Electronic versions will be prepared in Microsoft Office or a compatible software application.

## **LOCATION AND DURATION OF WORK**

The total duration of the consultancy is estimated at 60 working days or 480 hours. The consultant is expected to be able to perform the tasks at offices in Accra, Ghana, to travel to field locations in Ghana, to meet with various stakeholders in Ghana, and to attend meetings at the MCC Offices in Washington D.C.

## **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The qualifications of Consultant suited for this assignment include the following:

1. A minimum of a first degree in Agriculture, Economics, Banking or Finance.
2. At least 10 years experience in consulting, implementing or managing projects in areas relevant to the proposed assignment.
3. Familiarity with the Ghana context (or similar developing countries especially in Africa), programs and financial systems development.
4. Strong presentation, interpersonal and writing skills;
5. Excellent English oral and written communication skills.
6. Skilled in performing project analysis and appraisal, with an ability to identify the essential risks and issues (including environmental and social) of concern to a funding entity.
7. Ability to identify implementation risks and appropriate mitigation measures.
8. Ability to work as part of multi-disciplinary project teams.
9. Ability to brief high-level U.S. and foreign government officials on critical technical matters.
10. Ability to coordinate with various authorities responsible for MCC Compact development as well as other donors, where relevant.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

Please email your resume/CV, with adequate information to determine your qualifications relative to the evaluation factors listed above, to [recruitment@mcc.gov](mailto:recruitment@mcc.gov) and include "Ag Credit Programme in Ghana" in the subject line.

This announcement closes May 25, 2009.

The MCC is an equal opportunity employer.