



TERMS OF REFERENCE

EXTERNAL CONSULTANCY

PLANT PROTECTION EXPERT / ENTOMOLOGIST

Consultancy is funded under the:

Austrian Development Cooperation project

“Promoting integrated approaches to animal health and plant protection in Abkhazia”

Location:

Abkhazia/Georgia

1. BACKGROUND

Action Against Hunger (AAH) - Spain, as part of the Action Against Hunger International network, is a non-governmental, private, apolitical, non-confessional and non-profit organisation that fights hunger and its root causes worldwide. It has been operating in the South Caucasus region since 1994 and its current programmes focus on the following areas: Food Security, Livelihoods, Agriculture, Economic and Rural Development.

At this time, AHH is looking to contract a consultant to provide 2 short-term consultancies to support and inform its plant protection programming and pest management response that it is implementing in Abkhazia. The response aims to support efforts in Abkhazia to tackle problems associated with the *Brown Marmorated Stink Bug* (BMSB) *Halyomorpha halys* and other pests and diseases that over the past 3-4 years have had a significant negative impact on crop yields, and specifically the hazelnut and citrus yields. Through its work, AAH aims to increase the knowledge and expertise of farmers and key actors within the agricultural sector to more effectively manage and control invasive pest and diseases that affect rural livelihoods.

2. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

Action Against Hunger is seeking an expert consultant to help support the development of a monitoring system for assessing the prevalence, distribution and damage of BMSB and the Filbert Big Bug Mite (FBBM) and support the coordination of an integrated pest management (IPM) response.

3. CONSULTANCY TIMEFRAME

The plan is for the consultancy to be in two phases, with Phase 1 to be conducted in late May or early June 2019 and Phase 2 to be conducted in September or early October 2019.

4. TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Phase 1

The following tasks and responsibilities are expected to be accomplished over a 1-week consultancy period in late May or early June 2019:

1. Perform a short examination and analysis of orchards and hold meeting with farmers to develop a deeper understanding of current situation with regards to pests and diseases impacting the agricultural sector in Abkhazia.
2. Support AAH and key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive monitoring and mapping system for BMSB and other pests to establish degree of contamination of hazelnut crops.
3. Support AAH and key stakeholders to develop and design IPM demonstration plots using the 'attract and kill' and 'ghost net' approach among others.
4. Deliver a report on the above issues and the main findings, together with recommendations for areas of future intervention for pest management.

The following tasks and responsibilities are expected to be accomplished over a 1-week consultancy period in late May or early June 2019: September or early October 2019/

Phase 2

1. Assess the damage impact of BMSB/FBBM of nuts collected and analysed by AAH project team;
2. Support production of a map of incidence of BMSB/FBBM damage across Abkhazia;
3. Provide a comparative analysis of damage assessment and the prevalence and distribution of BMSB/FBBM in 2019;
4. Assess the efficacy of the IPM demonstration plots and provide recommendations for next year
5. Deliver a report on the above issues and the main findings, together with recommendations.

4. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

Submission of a final analytical reports reflecting the main findings together with recommendations

5. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

- ✓ Academic qualification in a relevant discipline (plant science, agriculture, entomology etc.);
- ✓ Demonstrable knowledge and expertise of working on integrated pest management, with specific reference to the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug and other hazelnut pests;
- ✓ Proven analytical and report writing skills
- ✓ Presentation and communication skills
- ✓ English language fluency
- ✓ Knowledge of Russian language an advantage

6. GENERAL CONDITIONS

Required start date:

Phase 1: Late May or early June 2019

Phase 2: September or early October 2019

Duration of work:

Phase 1: 6 days in country & 1-day home-based

Phase 2: 6 days in country & 1-day home-based

Location of work: Tbilisi & Abkhazia

Work Plan and Methodology: The work plan and methodology will be made together with Action Against Hunger prior to departure to Georgia

Fees: The total amount for consultancy fees to be negotiated based on the proposition and experience of the consultant.

Per diem: The amount of requested per diem should be included separately with the consultancy fee.

Payment: 100% of the fees to be paid on completion of each phase following the approval of the timesheet and submission of final report.

Travel: Travel to the mission and back will be paid for directly by Action Against Hunger and all internal travel cross in country will be arranged and paid for by Action Against Hunger.

Accommodation: Hotel or guesthouse accommodation in Tbilisi and Abkhazia will be arranged and covered by Action Against Hunger.

Report: The final document will be submitted in an electronic version in the English language.

Rights: The ownership of the final report document will belong to Action Against Hunger and the donor organisations exclusively. The document, or any publication related to it, will not be shared by the consultant to anybody prior to the delivery of the final document to the donor by Action Against Hunger.

Action Against Hunger may share the results of the report with the following groups:

- Donor(s)
- Key Stakeholders
- Various co-ordination bodies

Visa: Action Against Hunger will support the consultant in the visa application and make payment for the visa for Abkhazia.

Insurance: The consultant shall manage his/her own insurance and provide the details of coverage to Action Against Hunger before departure.

Translation: Action Against Hunger will provide spoken translation from Russian-English and English-Russian as required by the consultant.

Other: Any materials required to carry out the assigned consultancy (laptop, mobile phone etc.), must be provided by the consultant.

7. APPLICATION PROCESS

- Interested applicants should send their **CV** and a one-page **technical and financial proposal** outlining the consultancy methodology and approach.
- The letter should also include the **proposed gross daily rate for remuneration (in Euros)**. This daily rate should include the consultancy fee and per diem and both should be separately stated. *Please note that international and internal travel, accommodation and visa costs will be covered by Action Against Hunger*
- The letter should also state the earliest date that the applicant could begin the phase 1 consultancy.
- Applications to be sent to the Action Against Hunger email address: procurement@sc.acfspain.org with the subject either “**Plant Protection Expert/Entomologist**” no later than **14th May 2019**.