REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

**Republic of Serbia**

**Serbia Agriculture Competitive Project (SCAP)**

Project ID No.: P167634

**Assignment Title:**

**Final Evaluation of SCAP Project No.: SER-SCAP-CQS-CS-24-122**

The Republic of Serbia has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Serbia Agriculture Competitive Project (SCAP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

**Scope of Services**

The consultant will be responsible for conducting an independent final evaluation of the SCAP project, focusing on its efficacy, efficiency, relevance, impact, and sustainability. The analysis will be data-driven and based on project records, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) reports, key performance indicators, stakeholder consultations, and additional qualitative and quantitative analyses. The evaluation will assess SCAP’s contribution to agricultural support mechanisms, institutional strengthening, and long-term policy improvements.

The scope of services includes the following tasks:

1. **Review of Project Documentation and Data Collection**
   1. Analyze key project documents, including the SCAP results framework, progress reports, financial reports, and M&E data.
   2. Identify relevant performance indicators and data sources to assess project achievements. The consultancy should propose additional impact indicators where necessary.
   3. Engage with project stakeholders (if required) to collect qualitative insights on project implementation and outcomes.
   4. Review Aide Memoires from supervision missions and analytical studies related to SCAP.
2. **Assessment of Relevance**
   1. Evaluate the degree of alignment between SCAP and public policies, sectoral priorities, institutional frameworks, and local development plans.
   2. Assess the strategic fit of SCAP interventions within Serbia’s agricultural policy landscape and its contribution to national agricultural development.
3. **Assessment of Efficacy**
   1. Evaluate how well SCAP met its intended objectives and delivered expected results based on project indicators and final targets outlined in the results framework.
   2. Analyze the effectiveness of project interventions in improving agricultural support mechanisms, financial services, and beneficiary access to markets.
   3. Assess the coherence between project design, implementation strategies, and actual outcomes.
4. **Analysis of Efficiency**
   1. Examine the extent to which project outputs and outcomes were achieved, considering resource allocation, financial management, and operational effectiveness.
   2. Assess whether project activities were completed within the planned budget and timeframe.
   3. Identify key operational, financial, and institutional factors that influenced the efficiency of implementation.
   4. Conduct a cost-benefit analysis, estimating the economic and financial indicators of SCAP’s return on investment.
5. **Evaluation of Impact**
   1. Evaluate changes in impact indicators among final beneficiaries by comparing baseline and final conditions as a result of SCAP interventions.
   2. Assess the project’s contribution to strengthening Serbia’s agricultural support system and financial instruments.
   3. Identify direct and indirect benefits of SCAP, including institutional strengthening, enhanced market access, and financial sustainability.
   4. Evaluate any unintended positive or negative consequences resulting from project activities.
6. **Evaluation of Sustainability**
   1. Assess the degree of institutionalization of project-supported activities at the level of final beneficiaries, private sector entities, and public institutions at both national and local levels.
   2. Evaluate the likelihood of long-term sustainability of SCAP’s financial instruments, business models, and institutional support mechanisms.
7. **Additional Aspects**

Analyze compliance with Environmental and Social Standards , ensuring SCAP’s alignment with the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF).Assess the effectiveness of monitoring and evaluation (M&E), communication strategies, and information management processes.

* 1. Evaluate the degree of adoption and utilization of SCAP-generated knowledge and best practices among relevant stakeholders.

1. **Preparation of the Final Evaluation Report The final evaluation report should be structured as follows:**
   1. Executive Summary – Key findings and recommendations.
   2. Introduction – Context, purpose, and objectives of the evaluation.
   3. Methodology – Description of evaluation methods, data sources, and analytical approach.
   4. Results – Findings based on relevance, efficacy, efficiency, impact, and sustainability.
   5. Lessons Learned – Key insights from SCAP implementation.
   6. Recommendations – Actionable recommendations for future agricultural policies and programs.
   7. Annexes – Supporting documents, data tables, stakeholder consultations.
   8. Bibliography – List of references and sources used.
2. **Ensuring Independent and Transparent Evaluation**
   1. The consultant is expected to adopt a methodological approach that ensures independence, transparency, objectivity, and alignment with international best practices for project evaluation.
   2. Stakeholder engagement will be conducted in an impartial and structured manner to ensure diverse perspectives are considered.
   3. The evaluation will incorporate qualitative and quantitative evidence to support its findings and recommendations.

**Required Consultant’s (company) qualifications**

To be considered for the consultancy on the Final Evaluation of the Serbia Competitive Agriculture Project (SCAP), the Consultant/Firm must meet the following qualifications:

* Minimum15 years of experience in conducting independent analytical assessments, policy evaluations, and impact studies in the agricultural sector, economic development, or related fields in Serbia.
* Experience in analyzing project performance, including but not limited to assessing efficacy, efficiency, and outcomes/impact of donor-funded programs or economic development projects in Serbia.
* Experience in institutional capacity-building initiatives, particularly those focused on governance, financial mechanisms, public sector efficiency, or related (minimum 2 projects in Serbia).
* Experience in developing methodologies and frameworks for impact assessments, cost-benefit analyses, or financial evaluations of large-scale programs in the public sector in Serbia.
* Experience in developing national policy documents in Serbia.
* Experience in facilitating stakeholder engagement processes, including consultations with government agencies, donor organizations, private sector actors, and civil society representatives.
* Experience in conducting field surveys and on-the-spot interviews with agricultural beneficiaries across multiple regions in Serbia, minimum 180 beneficiaries.
* Experience in training and coordinating multiple field teams for data collection, including interviews and visual verification.
* Experience in using digital tools for field data collection and online submission in line with predefined methodologies.
* Experience in conducting education and training in the field of agriculture and project management, is an asset.
* Experience in evaluating rural development, economic competitiveness, or sector-specific investment programs, including but not limited to agriculture, is an asset.

The Consultant shall propose a multidisciplinary team of experts with relevant qualifications and experience to successfully implement the assignment. All experts must be independent and free from any conflict of interest. Key Experts will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

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| General Experience of the Firm | 40 points |
| Specific Experience of the Firm Related to the Assignment | 60 points |
| **TOTAL:** | **100 POINTS** |

The detailed Terms of Reference for the above referenced assignment is posted on the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management (MAFWM): <https://www.minpolj.gov.rs/category/javni-pozivi-u-2025-godini/>.

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with Consultant`s Qualifications Based Selection (CQS) as set out in the **World Bank’s Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers – Procurement in Investment Project Financing Goods, World, Non-Consulting and Consulting Services, July 2016, revised November 2017, August 2018** (“the Regulations”). The Consultant that obtains the highest score during evaluation of expressions of interest will be invited to submit technical and financial proposals.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraphs 3.14, 3.16 and 3.17 of the Regulations setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

The Central Fiduciary Unit of the Ministry of Finance now invites eligible Consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

Expressions of interest in English language must be delivered in a written form to the e-mail below by **August 14, 2025, 12:00 hrs, noon**, local time.

When submitting Expressions of interest please indicate assignment and reference number for which you are applying.

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| **Contact:** | **E–mail:** | **Address:** |
| To: | [djordje.perisic@mfin.gov.rs](mailto:djordje.perisic@mfin.gov.rs)  Mr. Đorđe Perišić  Procurement Specialist | Ministry of Finance  Central Fiduciary Unit  53 Balkanska St  11000 Belgrade, Serbia  Tel: +381 11 765-25-65 |
| Cc: | [ljiljana.dzuver@mfin.gov.rs](mailto:ljiljana.dzuver@mfin.gov.rs)  [milan.stevanovic@scap.rs](mailto:milan.stevanovic@scap.rs) |