REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

**Republic of Serbia**

**Serbia Agriculture Competitive Project (SCAP)**

Project ID No.: P167634

**Assignment Title:**

**Technical Assistance for the Development of a Sectoral Policy and Competitiveness Analysis of the Livestock Sector in Serbia No.: SER-SCAP-CQS-CS-25-112**

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.

**General Objective**

The overall objective of this assignment is to provide targeted technical assistance and a comprehensive analysis of the competitiveness of the livestock sector in Serbia, **which will serve as an input for the development of strategic policy directions and evidence-based planning within the framework of the Agricultural Strategy and the National Programs for Agriculture and Rural Development.** as a foundation for developing strategic directions that enhance market integration, production modernization, and long-term sector resilience. The assignment aims to identify practical measures and priority areas for intervention that can support the transformation of livestock production into a more productive, competitive, sustainable, and market-oriented segment of Serbian agriculture. Special emphasis will be placed on small and medium-scale producers (including women and youth), their access to services, and their inclusion in domestic and international value chains, in alignment with the objectives of the SCAP and national rural development priorities.

# Specific Objectives

To achieve this goal, the consultancy will pursue the following specific objectives:

* **Comprehensive Overview of the Livestock Sector**: To develop a clear understanding of the current structure, dynamics, and performance of the livestock sector in Serbia, including key production systems, geographical distribution, and the role of livestock in rural livelihoods and national agricultural output.
* **Competitiveness Assessment**: To evaluate the competitiveness of livestock production and processing in Serbia at national and international levels, focusing on production efficiency, adoption of climate-smart and sustainable technologies and practices, cost structures, productivity indicators, genetic improvements, and input optimization. The assessment will also examine value creation and differentiation, animal health and welfare, food safety standards, environmental impact (including emission reduction potential), and public sector service delivery in support of these areas. Furthermore, it will assess the compliance capacity of producers with EU and other international quality and safety standards, as well as the integration of financial services (including public subsidies and private financing instruments) and their role in enabling sectoral transformation and improved performance. The competitiveness assessment will be informed by internationally recognized models and benchmarking tools where applicable (e.g., InterPIG for the pork sector, and other sector-specific frameworks), using relevant performance indicators and comparative datasets to ensure robust, evidence-based analysis. The findings will be used to propose specific, evidence-based policy actions that can enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of the Serbian livestock sector.
* **Market Integration and Value Chain Mapping**: To assess the level of integration of Serbian livestock producers into domestic and export value chains, identifying bottlenecks in processing, logistics, standards compliance, and access to market information and services. The assessment will also consider the availability, timeliness, and quality of public and private support services - such as laboratories, technical assistance, certifications, and permits - related to animal health, food safety, and environmental compliance.
* **Review of Innovation and Sustainability Practices**: To examine the adoption of modern and more sustainable production techniques, animal health and welfare standards, environmental sustainability practices, and digital solutions within the sector, with a view to identifying gaps and opportunities for improvement.
* **Assessment of Public and Private Support Mechanisms**: To review the effectiveness and reach of existing support services, including advisory systems, veterinary services, financial instruments, and training programs available to livestock producers and processors. The assessment will also examine the effectiveness, efficiency, and allocation of budgetary support to the livestock sector, given its significant share in the MAFWM budget.
* **Strategic and Operational Recommendations**: To formulate a set of actionable recommendations for stakeholders—particularly the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Management—on how to support sector modernization, foster competitiveness, improve value chain performance, and enhance the resilience of small and medium-scale producers. These recommendations will serve as a foundation for potential development of a livestock sector strategy or incorporation into broader national policy and programming documents, depending on government priorities and alignment with ongoing strategic planning processes.

The assignment will deliver practical, evidence-based outputs that contribute to a more competitive, sustainable, and market-oriented livestock sector, while also supporting Serbia’s EU accession objectives and the implementation of SCAP interventions

**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. **Livestock Sector Analysis**: Conduct a comprehensive review of the historical development and current structure of the livestock sector in Serbia. This includes production systems, animal types and numbers, regional characteristics, and an overview of the institutional and regulatory framework governing the sector.
2. **Market and Value Chain Assessment**: Overview of the key livestock value chains in Serbia (milk, meat, and processed products), focusing on the general structure, key actors, and typical product flows. Using available secondary data and existing studies, the consultancy will identify major trends in production and trade, highlight common challenges related to quality standards and market access, and outline the role of domestic demand and export orientation in shaping sector dynamics.
3. **Identification of Serbia’s Comparative Advantages**: Assess Serbia’s competitive position in the livestock sector using selected quantitative indicators, such as revealed comparative advantage (RCA) in international trade and market concentration metrics (e.g., HHI), with reference to available data on production, trade flows, and market structure.
4. **Review of International Good Practices**: Identify and summarize selected international experiences and successful practices relevant to the sustainable development of the livestock sector, particularly those that offer practical and transferable solutions which may be applicable or beneficial in the Serbian context.
5. **Strategic Development Recommendations**: Formulate strategic recommendations for strengthening the sector. These may include policy adjustments, institutional improvements, investment incentives, access to finance, digitalization, education, and advisory services to support sustainable growth.
6. **Action Plan Development**: Design a detailed action plan with clearly defined interventions, responsible actors, indicative timelines, and monitoring indicators to support implementation of proposed strategies.
7. **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework**: Propose an indicative monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system to track the effectiveness and impact of the recommended measures, aligned with SCAP’s broader results framework.

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

To be considered for the consultancy on the Technical Assistance for the Livestock Sector in Serbia, the the qualified consulting company or a joint venture (Consultant) must meet the the **following mandatory minimum qualifications:**

* The Consultant must have the experience with carrying out complex assignments that require organizational, personnel, and administrative capacity, including appropriate infrastructure and resource availability.
* The Consultant must have the experience in managing and implementing projects financed by international donors (e.g. World Bank, EU, UN agencies, bilateral donors, or related).
* The Consultant must have at least 12 years of experience in the fields of agriculture and rural development, climate change, circular economy, disaster and risk management, or technical assistance to national and local governments.
* The Consultant must have implemented at least three projects that included functional analysis, sector assessments, or development of strategic recommendations in the field of public policy.
* The Consultant must have experience in participatory, consultative, and multisectoral approaches in policy and strategy development.
* Experience in implementing similar assignments in Serbia and/or the Western Balkans over the last 10 years, is an asset.
* Experience with livestock sector policy development, competitiveness analysis, or rural development strategies is an asset.
* Experience in application of internationally recognized tools and methodologies for policy analysis, institutional assessment, and strategic planning, is an asset.
* Prior engagement in World Bank-financed assignments, is an asset.
* Experience in working with public sector institutions relevant to agriculture and rural development is an asset.
* Experience in stakeholder facilitation and institutional coordination in multisectoral projects, is an asset.
* Experience in integrating environmental, climate-smart, or sustainability dimensions into agricultural and rural policy assessments, 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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