Call for expressions of interest (EOIs) – Team Leader and Team Member for the Mid-term Evaluation of the “Conservation Agriculture Scaling-Up (CASU)” project

Date of EOI: 30/12/15  Closing date of EOI: 11/01/16

The FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from qualified individuals to conduct the independent mid-term evaluation of the “Conservation Agriculture Scaling-Up (CASU)” project. The full TOR will be provided to those shortlisted for the assignment.

Background

The “Conservation Agriculture Scaling-Up (CASU)” is a four year project (2013 – 2017) funded by the European Union (EU) through the Tenth European Development Fund (EDF) at a total cost of €11m and is jointly implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) in 31 districts across 9 provinces in Zambia.

CASU is intended to scale up Conservation Agriculture activities countrywide in order to address declining crop production among small- and medium-scale farmers in Zambia. The overall objective of the project is to contribute to reduced hunger, improved food security, nutrition and income while promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

In particular, the project has 5 result areas namely:
Result 1: Conservation Agriculture expanded and consolidated
Result 2: Conservation Agriculture skills improved
Result 3: Conservation Agriculture farmer input and output supply chains improved
Result 4: Land management improved
Result 5: Gender Issues mainstreamed

At least 21,000 new or existing conservation agriculture lead farmers and at least 315,000 small-scale follower farmers are targeted under the project, of which at least 40% should be women.

In addition to these farmers, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock staff; Agro-dealers; financial institutions; research institutions, agro-entrepreneurs and other conservation agriculture stakeholders are among the direct and indirect beneficiaries of the project activities. CASU also seeks to strengthen partnership and networking between the Zambian government and cooperating partners, NGOs as well as the private sector in order to fully bring all key players on board.

Purpose and scope of the evaluation

This evaluation is the mid-term evaluation of the CASU project. This evaluation will be both a summative exercise, providing accountability on outputs and outcomes achieved to date, and also a formative exercise, providing valuable recommendations for the future implementation of the project.

The time frame covered by this mid-term evaluation is from the beginning of the project in 2013 to the start of the evaluation process in January 2016. The evaluation will review the theory of change of the
project, assess progress made towards the five result areas, and consider project management modalities, with a view to providing formative recommendations for the second half of the project. Case studies will be conducted through field visits in all three agro-ecological zones.

**Duration of the evaluation process**

The evaluation will take place from **February to May 2016**.

**Desired team profile**

The Evaluation Team will be comprised of 2 to 3 international and national experts, with an appropriate balance of relevant technical expertise and experience in evaluation. The evaluation experts must have a combination of solid experience in project/programme evaluation, and meet the following criteria:

**Requirements for lead external consultant (Team Leader):**
- Advanced degree in relevant disciplines (Agronomy, Economics, Sociology or related disciplines);
- Demonstrated experience as team leader of an evaluation;
- Understanding of Conservation Agriculture, sustainable agricultural and rural development;
- Demonstrated experience of working in Zambia and/or of conducting evaluations in the country;
- Understanding of gender and social inclusion issues and approaches.
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English.

**Skill set for national consultant(s) (Team member):**
- Experts in sustainable agricultural and rural development, gender, survey/data collection.
- Excellent writing and communication skills in English.

Individual Terms of reference will be developed for each team member.

The evaluation will be guided by FAO Office of Evaluation, OED. The Evaluation Team is responsible for conducting the evaluation and applying the methodology. The team will participate in briefing and debriefing meetings in Rome, discussions, field visits, and will contribute to the evaluation with written inputs.

The Evaluation Team is fully responsible for its independent report, which may not necessarily reflect the views of the Government or FAO. OED is responsible for ensuring conformity with standards for project/programme evaluation in FAO.

**Application process:**

Interested candidates should send their application by 11th January 2016, to the email address: **YuenChing.Ho@fao.org**, indicating whether they are applying for the Team Leader role or the Team Member role. Please specify ”**CASU Mid-Term Evaluation**” in the email subject line.

Applications should include a detailed Curriculum Vitae containing:
- Information on gender, age, current residence and nationality;
- Expected daily fee rate (exclusive of expenses); and,
- Availability between February and May 2016.

As standard practice in OED evaluations, the consultant should not have been involved in the design or implementation of FAO activities being assessed by the evaluation and will be required to sign a conflict of interest declaration.
The selected candidates will be requested to complete their online profile in the FAO iRecruitment platform: http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/. Successful candidates will be offered individual consultant contracts which will entitle them to an honorarium, daily subsistence allowance while on mission out of his or her home-base, and insurance while on mission. All travel will be organized by the Office of Evaluation.