



Terms of Reference

Consultancy services in climate-smart agriculture¹

Background on ACTED

ACTED is a French humanitarian NGO, founded in 1993, which supports vulnerable populations affected by humanitarian crises worldwide. ACTED provides continued support to vulnerable communities by ensuring the sustainability of post-crisis interventions and engaging long-term challenges facing our target populations, in order to break the poverty cycle, foster development and reduce vulnerability to disasters. Our interventions seek to cover the multiple aspects of humanitarian and development crises through a multidisciplinary approach which is both global and local, and adapted to each context. Our 3,300 staff are committed to responding to emergencies worldwide, to supporting recovery and rehabilitation, and towards sustainable development.

Our teams in the field implement 453 projects in 37 countries² covering the following sectors: emergency relief, food security, access to health, education and training, economic development, microfinance, advocacy, institutional support, regional dialogue, and cultural promotion.

Based on considerable experience addressing the needs and situations of vulnerable communities, ACTED contributes to reaching the Millennium Development Goals through a wide range of partnerships, innovative initiatives, and campaigns.

Country profile

- ACTED Capital Office: Amman, Jordan
- ACTED National Staff: 151 staff (December 2019)
- ACTED International Staff: 25 staff (December 2019)
- Area Offices: Mafraq, Host Communities (Mafraq, Irbid, Jerash, Ajloun); Za'atari Refugee Camp, Azraq Refugee Camp, King Abdullah Park Camp

ACTED has been operating in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region and Jordan since 2003. Since 2011 ACTED's focus in Jordan has been on responding to the Syrian crisis and the influx of refugees entering the country.

ACTED is currently a leading agency in Jordan in the shift away from emergency response towards longer-term self-reliance, putting a particular emphasis on trainings and capacity-building within the agricultural sector. Between June 2015 and February 2016, ACTED worked closely with 11 CBOs in northern Jordan to provide training to rural women in agricultural techniques and food security. Since September 2018, ACTED has been working with agricultural cooperatives in Mafraq and Irbid Governorates, along with Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanians, to create livelihood opportunities in the agricultural sector through

¹ Relates to Objective 1, Output 1.1, Activity 1 (BL CSM) and Objective 2, Output 2.2, Activity 1 (BL GCS)

² At the time of writing – January 2020



training and small grants, funded by the US government Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM). The present project is a continuation of that project.

Project Background

The project **“Providing sustainable work opportunities to refugees and vulnerable Jordanians in the agricultural sector in Jordan”** aims at contributing to the provision of inclusive and sustainable income-generating opportunities in conflict-affected communities in Jordan. This will be realized by enhancing the participation of 525 Syrian refugees and 495 vulnerable Jordanians in the labor force, providing increased income for 5,100 individuals (based on an average of 5 individuals per household) and capacity-building to 9 cooperatives in Balqa, Mafraq and Irbid Governorates, in close collaboration with the International Labor Organization (ILO). In addition, ACTED will provide technical support to key agricultural umbrella bodies, such as the Jordanian Cooperative Corporation (JCC) and the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) to further sustain the project activities.

Since the onset of the Syria Crisis, Jordan has faced a 25% decrease in agricultural exports and a 35% decrease in agricultural imports. However, there has been a significant increase in the demand of some agricultural goods across local markets.³ Moreover, 65- 75% of Jordan’s water is utilized for agricultural purposes.⁴ It is estimated that rainfall in Jordan will decrease by 15% in the coming decade and the temperature will increase by up to 4 degrees Celsius.⁵ This will culminate in drastic climate change effects that have the potential to considerably reduce agricultural and food production, resulting in the decline of economic livelihoods for vulnerable populations. Therefore, innovative and climate-smart solutions with increased participation of women and youth are needed to boost productivity and revenues of the agricultural market. Trainings and additional investment in climate-proofing agricultural practices and decent work are essential to mitigate the fall-out of inevitable effects of climate change.

This project is an extension and expansion of the PRM funded project implemented by ACTED in 2018 and 2019, which targeted 8 agricultural cooperatives and 800 beneficiaries in Mafraq and Irbid Governorates. In the previously mentioned intervention, ACTED **adapted the My.COOP⁶ ILO training package to the Jordanian context and added a new module on climate smart agriculture in Jordan. ACTED further added training modules in the Farmer Field School⁷ (FFS) methodology related to climate-smart agriculture standards.**

800 beneficiaries benefited from ACTED’s previous intervention, and started their own micro businesses within different agricultural value chains. From among those beneficiaries, ACTED will select 134 microbusinesses, representing 500 beneficiaries, depending on their growth potential, inclusion of climate-smart agricultural techniques and potentiality of microbusiness registration, to join the current project.

³ Jordan Response Plan 2018-2020

⁴ Jordan Country Commercial Guide - U.S. Commercial Service - 2017

⁵ UN WOMEN: Rural Women and Climate Change: 2018

⁶ My.COOP is a training package and programme on the management of agricultural cooperatives, developed through a partnership of several organizations including the ILO, the FAO, the International Training Centre of the ILO, Agriterra, the Royal Tropical Institute and the Wageningen University and Research Centre

⁷ Farmer Field School (FFS) is an approach based on people-centred learning. Participatory methods to create an environment conducive to learning: the participants can exchange knowledge and experience in a risk-free setting. Practical field exercises using direct observation, discussion and decision making encourage learning-by-doing. FAO and other development organizations have been promoting FFS to address a broad range of problems and technical domains in over 90 countries.

More than 50% of the supported microbusiness are working in small farming activities, and showed high interest in applying affordable climate smart techniques, and willingness to learn.

Further to this, ACTED will introduce climate smart agricultural techniques to two new cooperative partners in Balqa Governorate.

Consultancy Objective

The selected consultant objectives are to raise the awareness of cooperatives and individuals participating in the project concerning the importance, benefits, and techniques of climate smart agriculture and permaculture, to encourage adoption of such practices and to contribute to improving farmers' agri-practices and productivity.

Tasks/Work assignment

Component 1: Training of cooperatives:

- Deliver 4 days of training to the 2 selected Cooperatives in Balqa Governorate on climate-smart agriculture techniques adapted to the Jordanian context with emphasis on the following techniques:
 - o Permaculture principles (including storing energy, producing zero waste and zero chemicals, and renewing resources, health of soil and plants)
 - o Hydroponics (including wick systems, deep water culture, nutrient film technique, drip systems etc.)
 - o Setting up wicking beds
 - o Setting up reed beds
 - o Water harvesting swales on contours

- Share experience and best practices of Jordan in applying climate-smart agriculture techniques.

Component 2: Training of individual beneficiaries:

- Conduct 30 days of technical trainings in field for the individual beneficiaries: provide consultancy, advice and guidance on climate-smart agriculture techniques (including soil management, crop management, pest management, and water conservation), to individual beneficiaries in Mafraq and Irbid Governorates during their implementation of agri-businesses focusing on the following techniques:
 - o Permaculture principles (including storing energy, producing zero waste and zero chemicals, and renewing resources, health of soil and plants)
 - o Hydroponics (including wick systems, deep water culture, nutrient film technique, drip systems etc.)
 - o Setting up wicking beds
 - o Setting up reed beds
 - o Water harvesting swales on contours

- Share experience and best practices of Jordan in applying climate-smart agriculture techniques.

Deliverables

Component 1: Climate-smart agriculture training for Cooperatives:

1. Submit training agenda and material based on the ILO-My.COOP methodology adapted to the Jordanian context (shall be delivered in English and Arabic)
Completed by: March 15, 2020
2. Deliver a 4-day training to the Cooperatives including technical advice, practical elements, and support to the participants (shall be delivered in Arabic only)
Completed by: April 9, 2020
3. A detailed **Training Report**, including training schedule, pre-post assessments with analysis (conducted in coordination with ACTED Assessments, Monitoring and Evaluation (AME) Unit), outcomes, and recommendations (shall be delivered in English and Arabic)
Completed by: May 1, 2020

Component 2: Climate-smart agriculture training for individual beneficiaries:

1. Submit training agenda and material (shall be delivered in English and Arabic)
Completed by: March 15, 2020
2. Conduct 30 days of on field training sessions to the individual farmers in Irbid and Mafraq (shall be delivered in Arabic)
Completed date: July 30, 2020
3. A detailed **Training Report**, including training schedule, pre-post assessments with analysis (conducted in coordination with ACTED Assessments, Monitoring and Evaluation (AME) Unit), outcomes, and recommendations (shall be delivered in English and Arabic) *Completed by: August 15, 2020*

Specific conditions

- Accommodation and transportation will not be provided by ACTED. All costs shall be included in the offer. The costs must be broken down by categories.
- ACTED security guidelines must be strictly followed throughout the consultancy;
- International consultants shall subscribe to medical and repatriation insurance. Therefore, the copy of insurance certificate has to be submitted along with their offer.
- National consultants shall subscribe to a civil and professional insurance. Therefore, the copy of the insurance certificate has to be submitted along with their offer.

Qualifications

The agricultural consultant will have expertise in climate-smart agriculture and permaculture techniques. In particular he or she will have:

- Advanced university degree in agricultural engineering or any related field;
 - A minimum of 10 years' experience in climate-smart agriculture (compulsory), permaculture techniques, and in managing/critiquing agribusiness development projects (preferably), working with international NGOs, collaborating with local government authorities, the private sector, agricultural cooperatives and CBOs;
 - Excellent written and spoken communication skills in both English and Arabic.
 - A good understanding of the context in which the consultancy will take place, including a good knowledge of Jordanian national and local level legislation and policy as it applies to the project;
 - An ability to work with those of different religious, ethnic and tribal backgrounds;
- Gender sensitiveness