

Terms Of Reference (TOR)

Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) Consultant

BACKGROUND

Moldova heavily depends on agriculture, with nearly 74% of its territory designated as agricultural land. This sector constitutes 21% of formal employment and a significant 60% of informal employment. Agriculture is paramount for the rural population, as 70% consider it their primary livelihood source, and almost 99% of agricultural producers are classified as "smallholders." These smallholder and family farms contribute substantially, generating over 62% of the total agricultural produce. In the broader economic context, agriculture accounts for 12% of the gross domestic product (GDP) and a substantial 45% of total exports in 2021.

Notably, Moldova stands as the 21st-largest wine exporter globally, with wine being the country's fifth-largest export commodity, constituting 3% of Moldova's GDP. Despite its economic significance, agriculture in Moldova faces considerable challenges, particularly due to climate change. This sector, along with health, bears the brunt of climate change impacts. These effects extend to various areas, including food security, sanitation, disease development, increased living costs, and strain on energy sectors.

Complicating matters further, Moldova has been grappling with an ongoing drought since 2021, marking one of the most severe in the last five years. Droughts not only heighten the risk of wildfires but also have the potential to exacerbate flooding. The irregular occurrence of these events complicates both planning and response strategies, underscoring the critical need for proactive measures in this vulnerable agricultural landscape.

Acted, an organization with a history of working with Moldovan institutions to strengthen their response to refugee crises since March 2022, has identified several opportunities to assist Moldovan authorities in responding more efficiently to these multifaceted challenges. These opportunities encompass various domains, including disaster risk management planning, information management, evidence-based policy development, service mapping, and the alignment of policies with international best practices.

In 2023, Acted assumed a leadership role in the STRIVE consortium, officially named "Strengthening Local Actors' Preparedness to Respond to Man-Made and Natural Disasters through Inclusive and Valuable Engagement," operating in partnership with IMPACT Initiatives and Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF). Together, they initiated the implementation of a project, generously funded by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and co-funded and complemented by the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA). This multifaceted initiative aims to address the specific needs and challenges faced in the vulnerable Anenii Noi rayon, a region heavily reliant on agriculture.

Within the broader scope of disaster risk reduction, a significant focus of the project lies in enhancing the resilience of the agricultural sector, particularly smallholder farmers. By concentrating efforts on building the capacities of local authorities, civil society organizations, and communities, with a specific emphasis on these farmers, the project seeks to empower them in mitigating the impact of both natural disasters and those of human origin. This strategic approach underscores our commitment to supporting smallholder farmers and strengthening their ability to withstand and recover from disasters, thereby bolstering the overall disaster preparedness and response capabilities in the region.

Purpose of the Assignment

The action aims to enhance the resilience of local actors, particularly farmers in the Anenii Noi region, to climate-related challenges. The action will concentrate on providing comprehensive support to farmers in Anenii Noi. In this context ACTED is seeking an experienced individual consultant to bring technical expertise to implement the project and support the activities in the following areas

1. **Selection Criteria Development:** Development of robust selection criteria for identifying farmers who would benefit the most from the interventions. These criteria will ensure that the support is directed towards those who need it most, maximizing the positive impact on the local agricultural community.
2. **Needs Assessment and Market Survey Tools Development:** Design and develop tools for conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and market survey. These tools will be instrumental in evaluating the requirements of individual farmers, aiding in the selection process, and understanding the strength of the agriculture market. Additionally, they will help assess the availability and effectiveness of agriculture tools in the target area.
3. **Capacity Building:** Building the capacity of the ACTED team to facilitate effective monitoring and provide technical support to farmers. This includes imparting knowledge and skills necessary for understanding and addressing climate change risks in farming activities.
4. **Training Farmers:** Develop a customized training manual and conduct training sessions for farmers to deepen their awareness of climate change risks in agriculture. In addition, provide guidance on utilizing smart agriculture tools. Conclude the training with instructions for farmers to submit project proposals. The consultant is tasked with facilitating training on proposal development, ensuring farmers can articulate their needs effectively. Successful proposals will be eligible for financial grants, enhancing community engagement and sustainable practice

This consultancy is **Field Based** and requires regular travel to **Anenii Noi Raion**.

Duties/Tasks and Expected Output

Within the framework of the DRR Project of ACTED in Moldova, and under the direct supervision of the DRR Project Manager, the consultant shall support smallholder farmers in Anenii Noi by providing sound technical expertise and specialist knowledge throughout the program.

To achieve this, the consultant will undertake the following tasks:

- Perform a desk review of documents related to Agriculture and Climate Change policy in Moldova, including the national legal framework, policies, and other relevant projects implemented in the last year.
- Conduct a comprehensive review of the Area-Based Risk Assessment (ABRA) reports of the Anenii Noi region carried out by partners in the consortium project.
- Through secondary review, conduct assessment for local agriculture market dynamics. The assessment should create a detailed map of farmers in Anenii Noi, categorizing farming activities, land sizes, and identifying relevant support organizations. Further, it should give a comprehensive analysis of the local agriculture market dynamics, including where farmers source tools and inputs, where they sell their

products, income variations based on farming types and land sizes, and identify climate change and disaster risks related to each farming activity.

- Design and develop tools for conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and market survey and training the Acted team on how to use it and analyze the data.
- Design selection criteria to assess potential smallholders, taking into account their vulnerability to specific disaster risks and their susceptibility to broader socio-economic challenges.
- Develop and deliver tailor-made hazard perception training contextualized to address the specific shared risks faced by rural communities in Anenii Noi, reaching out to 75 farmers. At a broader level, the hazard perception training should provide an opportunity for smallholders to enhance their knowledge of risk management and its relationship to livelihoods and community development.
- Develop comprehensive business/proposal evaluation criteria to assess farmers' project proposals. The financial grant, up to 4650 Euros per farmer, aims to support innovative and sustainable initiatives. The consultant will guide farmers in aligning their proposals with the established criteria, ensuring clarity, feasibility, and impact. This strategic approach ensures a transparent and fair evaluation process, fostering a competitive environment that encourages farmers to submit high-quality proposals for consideration.
- Develop and deliver training to the ACTED team, enabling them to analyze the farmers proposals, and conduct follow-up advisory sessions for farmers effectively. This training will include a simulation day where the consultant accompanies the team during actual advisory follow-up sessions.
- Develop comprehensive training manuals covering hazard perception training, business proposal writing and evaluation. These manuals will empower Acted staff to conduct future sessions in Anenii Noi and other regions. The design should be adaptable and allows for use in diverse contexts, enabling seamless replication and modification for future iterations in various regions.
- Develop the relevant technical tools that the Acted team will use to carry out advisory follow-up and monitoring visits.

Total number of days for the assignment

The assessment is expected to take 40 working days. The assignment is anticipated to be implemented between November 2024 and January 2025. However, a detailed implementation plan is to be developed in consultation with the Project Manager upon acceptance of the bidding offer.

Timeline and deliverables

Task	Key Deliverables	Duration/ Day
Assessment for Local Agriculture Market Dynamics	Mapping: Create a detailed map of farmers in Anenii Noi, categorizing farming activities, land sizes, and identifying relevant support organizations.	3
	Market Assessment: Analyze the local agriculture market dynamics, including where farmers source tools and inputs, where they sell their products, income variations based on farming types and land sizes, and identify climate change and disaster risks	5
	Market assessment tools: Design and develop tools for conducting a comprehensive needs assessment and market survey and training the Acted team on how to use it and analyze the data.	1.5
	Selection Criteria: Design selection criteria to assess potential smallholder farmers that will be selected to benefit from the project, taking into account their vulnerability to specific disaster risks and their susceptibility to broader socio-economic challenges.	0.5
Training for Farmers	Training design: Develop a Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) training program tailored for smallholder farmers. Prepare the training manual to be used by Acted staff in later stages and create all the necessary tools for the training. This program will highlight the concept of tailor-made hazard perception training, involving a specialized program designed to address the specific risks and hazards faced by a particular group or community. The primary objective of this training is to enhance farmers' awareness and preparedness for the specific hazards they may encounter, thereby reducing vulnerability to these risks. Furthermore, the training aims to assist farmers in identifying the most suitable smart agriculture technologies that can be utilized to mitigate these risks, ensuring the sustainability of their farming activities.	5
	Training Delivery: Deliver one training to 75 smallholder farmers in CCA (1 trainings X 3 Groups X 3 Days)	9
Farmers Granting and Follow-Up Monitoring	Proposal: Develop a business proposal template to be used by farmers and establish criteria for evaluating business proposals submitted by farmers.	1
	Follow-Up Advisory Sessions: Develop and deliver training to the ACTED team, enabling them to analyze the farmers proposals, and conduct follow-up advisory sessions for farmers effectively. This training will include a simulation day where the consultant accompanies the team during actual advisory follow-up sessions.	3
	Field monitoring: Over a 10-day period, the Acted team will combine field visits and advisory sessions with farmers. The aim is to guide them through the appropriate advisory approach and provide support in technical discussions.	10
Final Report	Write the assignment final report	2

COORDINATION/CONSULTATION

- Regular contact, on weekly basis with DRR PM and the project team on the advancement of the assignment and copy the PM, the project's DPM and Senior officer on all correspondence made for the purpose of this assignment.
- Conduct a "close-out meeting" during the final ¼ of the contract, presenting a comprehensive summary of the final report and reviewing the status of all deliverables with the Project Manager.
- Assist in the communication and coordination with representatives of smallholder farmers, and relevant institutions and community members for the provision of the material and information needed to perform the above assignment.
- Address the feedback provided by the Project team, the project's evaluator and other groups affiliated with the project in a timely manner on all deliverables.
- Coordinate with ACTED Project's team to ensure effective implementation and management of the consultancy assignment activities.
- Perform other tasks as needed for this consultancy assignment.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

Education

- Post Graduate degree in Natural Resource Management/ Forestry/ Ecology/ Environmental Science/Agriculture/Climate Sciences/Climate Change, or in other fields closely related to the focus of the consultancy assignment.

Work Experience

Three to six years of relevant professional experience focused on one or more of the areas cited below:

- Climate change impacts on rainfed farming systems and experience in developing climate change adaptation strategies.
- Analyzing data, making inferences and ability to prepare reports. (A copy of a best report- pdf format max 250 MB prepared by the applicant needs to be annexed to the proposal)
- Designing and delivering trainings, especially in the field of agriculture and climate change and best agriculture practices.
- Natural Hazards/geohazards,
- Environmental science and management,
- Climate change and adaptation mechanisms,
- Ecosystem resilience and social preparedness.
- Professional knowledge about, and direct experience in, Natural Hazards Risk Assessment, Disaster Risk Reduction, climate adaptation and Ecosystem-based Adaptation and ecosystem-based management and Nature-Based Solutions, ideally on multi-hazards.
- Proven track record of successful climate change adaptation projects and training implementation
- Proven track record of climate change adaptation strategy development and policy integration
- Partial or complete knowledge in the following areas:
 - ✓ Crop management (proficiency in various agricultural practices, including crop cultivation, animal husbandry and soil management),
 - ✓ Sustainable agricultural practices (knowledge of sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural techniques to mitigate disaster risks),
 - ✓ Crop diversity (understanding crop diversification to reduce vulnerability to certain disasters (eg drought resistant crops),

Languages

Fluency (oral and written) in Romanian and Russian is required. English highly desirable.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS

- Doctorate degree in Climate Sciences/ Climate Change or related field.
- Advanced courses in Ecology/ Climate Change/Sustainable Development/ Remote Sensing & GIS/Weather advisories.
- Ability to work effectively in a team interacts persuasively with a range of stakeholders, and travel extensively.
- Strong organizational, analytical, and problem-solving skills.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent networking, partnership building and interpersonal skills.
- Good computer and other IT skills.
- Proven ability to work in a multicultural environment and as part of a team.
- Experience in working with various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities, is important.

BID requirements.

Consultant(s) who meet the above requirements should submit bids, which at minimum include the following:

- Suitability statement, including commitment to availability for the entire assignment.
- Cover letter highlighting the main relative experience.
- Statement of the proposed consultancy methodology including a detailed work plan.
- Detailed financial proposal, including daily costs.
- If submitting as-it a team of consultants, information on the team composition and level of effort of each team member – include updated curriculum vitae that clearly spell out qualifications and experience.
- Contacts of three organizations that have recently contracted the consultant to conduct relevant study.
- Samples of similar and/or related work done previously

The budget financial proposal must indicate all-inclusive costs for conducting the assignment. Please note that 'all-inclusive' refers to covering expenses such as travel to/from the mission, accommodation, and any applicable legal/visa fees (if applicable for expatriates)