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Swiss Confederation

Swiss Cooperation Office for the South Caucasus
Branch Azerbaijan
Embassy of Switzerland

Invitation to tender of February 17, 2010

Mandate Agreement for Project Implementation:

Rural Development Project in the Regions of Barda, Tartar and Agdam, Azerbaijan

Task description

a) The present invitation to pre-qualification (expression of interest) shall enable the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) to assess the suitability of the candidates to submit an offer for designing and implementing a new project in the regions of Barda, Tartar and Agdam, Azerbaijan. The thematic expertise and practical experience of the applicant in implementing rural economic development projects applying a market development approach (in the sense of "Making Markets Work for the Poor", M4P) will be an important assessment criteria.

b) The project shall focus on employment and income generation of the rural poor through the development of vegetable and crop production, as well as processing and marketing. Pursuing the general direction of interventions under SDC's Economic Development and Employment portfolio in the South Caucasus, the project shall apply the M4P approach with a view to foster pro-poor growth. Within the sub-sectors of vegetables and crops, the project shall intervene in a targeted manner to address the underlying causes of weak performance of the market systems for vegetable and crop products and facilitate the development of related value chains. The main scope of the project will be to facilitate and catalyze incentives, capacity development and improved interaction between private sector, government players and associations. At the same time, some capital investment in physical infrastructure or equipment is likely to be required to achieve project objectives. The project shall apply the following approaches:

- Enhancing capacity of local partners in market development using the "Making Markets Work for the Poor" approach (M4P);
- Interacting with local and national authorities to address governance issues and the regulatory framework regarding rural development in the (target) regions;
- Enhancing sustainability of project achievements through prevention of and awareness about relevant natural disasters (disaster risk reduction);
- Integrating the aspects of good governance, gender equality and disaster risk reduction (DRR) into project activities in order to enhance their effectiveness.

c) The project is conceived with a time horizon of approx. six years with two phases, i.e. a first phase of three years followed by a second phase (incl. phasing out with decreasing budget) of 2 – 3 years. Project implementation shall begin in October 2010 with a six-month inception period to conduct necessary research (market analysis, gender assessment, and establishment of baseline) and to elaborate the project document with log-frame and detailed budget.

Please find further information in the original Tender Publication in www.simap.ch (Publication Date 17.02.2010, Publication No. 457155).