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ON-DEMAND SERVICES FOR THE GOVERNMENTS OF GEORGIA, ARMENIA AND AZERBAIJAN IN THE AREAS OF AGRICULTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BACKGROUND

SDC technical cooperation in the South Caucasus aims at enhancing rural economic development and social cohesion through fostering inclusive growth. The inclusive growth agenda gained increased importance in all three countries in the region during the past years.

The rural populations in all three countries depend heavily on agriculture for income generation and employment. However, as a result of inadequate policies and lack of investments during the past 20 years, efficiency and productivity of the sector did not progress much, which contributed to the persistence of rural poverty and rising disparities between urban and rural regions.

PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The overall objective of the project is to facilitate the provision of policy development and capacity building services to the governments of Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan in support of their reform agendas in the areas of agricultural and regional development.

This project provides a handy mechanism to respond to strategic and emerging reform needs and priorities in the areas of agricultural and regional development.

The thematic areas to cover include:

- Supporting governments and their institutions in developing policies in favour of rural development, local governance and agriculture through research/studies, think tanks and advocacy;
- Assisting governments in enhancing their effectiveness and efficiency in making well informed decisions by improving e.g. methodologies of data collection and processing, developing institutional capacities for an effec-

FACTS

Country: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia

Duration: 1 Aug '13-31 July '16

Total Budget: CHF 900'000

tive implementation and monitoring of various programs in support of the reform agendas;

- Conducting research to support the development of local governance systems and agricultural value chains with all its core elements, rules and support functions.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

This project provides an efficient and effective mechanism to respond to strategic and emerging reform needs and priorities of the government in policy development through respective studies and capacity building measures.

This will be ensured through the on-demand provision of a combination of national/international advisory services and capacity development interventions to the relevant government institutions of the three countries, such as ministries of agriculture, regional development and economic development. The project will assist in analysing and assessing the existing situation, facilitate the elaboration of strategy documents and policy suggestions and enhance institutional capacities for effective implementation and monitoring of reforms. When needed, the project will also assist government institutions in carrying out trainings, seminars or workshops, preparing manuals or institutionalizing the relevant procedures. Besides, the project will facilitate the policy dialogue with the governments and enhance the analytical capacities of the SCO. Special attention will be given to gender and governance related issues in the areas of rural and agricultural development. Where it makes sense, consultants will be asked to provide gender disaggregated data and gender analysis of the interventions.

Conducting research to support the development of local governance systems and agricultural value chains with all its core elements, rules and support functions.

PROJECT RESULTS

The project aims to enhance the capacities of the national institutions of the three countries for the effective elaboration, implementation and monitoring of reform policies in the areas of agricultural and regional development.

Through elaborating closely with the governments in conducting the studies, the ownership of the findings, conclusions and recommendations will be enhanced and thus the likelihood of their application increased. Thus this project will be a complementary and cost-effective tool for the ongoing SDC supported programme interventions with the respective ministries and government institutions.

Relevance

The self-implemented project will contribute to the achievement of the goal of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy 2013-2016 for the South Caucasus related to inclusive growth in the domain "Economic Development and Employment", with a particular focus on the framework conditions for the agricultural sector.

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