

**REFERENCE: EVALUATION - SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL
MECHANIZATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT IN MINYA AND FAYOUM
GOVERNORATES PROJECT – AID 10368**

CONTRACTING AUTHORITY: Italian Agency for Development Cooperation,
Cairo Office (AICS Cairo)

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR

**EVALUATION OF THE PROJECT “SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL
MECHANIZATION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT IN MINYA AND FAYOUM
GOVERNORATES”**

CIG: ZBD37C5C46

ARTICLE 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1. The “Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization System Improvement in Minya and Fayoum Governorates” project (SAMSIMIFA) aims to contribute to the economic growth of rural communities towards the sustainable development of the agriculture sector in two Egyptian Governorates, Minya and Fayoum.
- 1.2. In particular, the project will encourage the socio-economic and environmental sustainability of the main farming systems in the targeted areas, through the reinforcement of the existing extension and mechanization services, in order to optimize sustainable use of the natural resources (soil fertility, water management), to use more efficiently agricultural inputs, and to stabilize rural population.
- 1.3. The project will not target intensive farms but mostly extensive farming system and small-medium farmers in 14 districts in Minya and Fayoum, where Agriculture Research Center’s and Agriculture Engineering Research Institute’s Station and Agriculture Research Center’s Hiring Service Stations are established and operational, in order to improve their performance and increase sustainability of related farming systems.
- 1.4. In Minya the intervention will focus to introduce sustainable mechanization geared mainly on wheat, corn and sugarcane, while in Fayoum wheat, corn, and clover (as well as herbs and tomato) main cropping system will be targeted.
- 1.5. This approach will be coherent with the Egyptian “Strategy for Sustainable Agriculture Development towards 2030”, aiming to increase the efficiency of mechanization, agriculture inputs, improving conservative agriculture techniques to maximize soil

fertility, rationalization for recycling and use of agricultural byproducts (straw, maize stocks, etc.).

1.6. The project has 4 main results:

- 1.6.1. Participatory process for sustainable innovation adoption activated;
- 1.6.2. Knowledge management capacities of all beneficiaries enhanced;
- 1.6.3. Machineries and supplies acquired;
- 1.6.4. Hiring Service Stations' management and performances improved.

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSES

2.1. The Italian Agency for Development Cooperation in Cairo (AICS Cairo) intends to identify 1 consultant to carry out an evaluation of the SAMSIMIFA project to date.

ARTICLE 3. SERVICES

3.1. The AICS Cairo will select one consultant out of the pool of applicants.

3.2. The expert is bound by a declaration of impartiality and confidentiality to be signed before starting the contract. If any applicant believes there might be a situation of conflict of interests in relation to one or more applicants, the applicant must inform the contracting authority immediately. In addition, strict confidentiality is required from the expert involved in the implementation of this contract.

3.3. The aim of the evaluation is to measure progress of the project's activities to achieve the planned results, identify challenges and lessons learnt, and produce a series of recommendations to inform future interventions.

3.4. The consultant will be required to carry out a mission to Egypt of 7 days (including days of travel to/from Egypt), in order to meet with key Egyptian stakeholders in Cairo, and conduct field visits in the sites of the project in Minya and Fayoum Governorates.

3.5. Upon completion of the mission to be carried out in Egypt, the consultant will have a period of 4 days to produce the evaluation report; this activity shall be done remotely.

ARTICLE 4. LOGISTICS AND TIMING

4.1. Location: Cairo, and Fayoum and Minya Governorates (Egypt) for meetings with local stakeholders and field visits (see point 3.4 of this document), and remotely for the evaluation report (see point 3.5 of this document).

4.2. Tentative schedule: the evaluation shall take place during October/November 2022.

ARTICLE 5. ELIGIBILITY

AICS- Sede del Cairo

1081, Corniche El-Nil, Garden City, Cairo, Egypt

Tel. +2 02 27920873/4, Fax +2 02 27956904

E-mail: segreteria.ilcairo@aics.gov.it

www.ilcairo.aics.gov.it

- 5.1. Eligible consultants shall be natural persons (as individuals or associations) OR legal persons.
- 5.2. Eligible consultants will be excluded from participation in procurement procedures if:
 - a) they are bankrupt or being wound up, are having their affairs administered by the courts, have entered into an arrangement with creditors, have suspended business activities, are the subject of proceedings concerning those matters, or are in any analogous situation arising from a similar procedure provided for in national legislation or regulations;
 - b) they, or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them, have been convicted of an offence concerning their professional conduct by a judgment of a competent authority of a EU Member State which has the force of res judicata (i.e. against which no appeal is possible);
 - c) they have been guilty of grave professional misconduct proven by any means which the Contracting Authority can justify, including by decisions of the European Investment Bank and international organizations;
 - d) they are not in compliance with their obligations relating to the payment of social security contributions or the payment of taxes in accordance with the legal provisions of the country in which they are established or with those of the country of the Contracting Authority or those of the country where the contract is to be performed;
 - e) they, or persons having powers of representation, decision making or control over them, have been the subject of a judgment which has the force of res judicata for fraud, corruption, involvement in a criminal organization, money laundering or any other illegal activity, where such an illegal activity is detrimental to the EU's financial interests;
 - f) they are currently subject to an administrative penalty referred to in Article 103(1) of the Financial Regulation (for budget-funded programmes)/Article 99 of the Financial Regulation (for 10th EDF-funded programmes).
- 5.3. Eligible consultants shall not be in any of the exclusion situations listed in Article 38 of the Italian Legislative Decree no. 196/2003 (see Annex A).

ARTICLE 6. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- 6.1. Eligible consultants shall:
 - a) Have a relevant high school degree. Higher academic qualifications would be an advantage.
 - b) Have at least 15 years of professional experience in the field of agricultural mechanization and procurement.

- c) Have previous experience in mechanization projects in developing countries. Experience in Africa and/or the MENA region would be an advantage.
 - d) Have an average annual turnover in the last 3 years of at least Euro 25.000.
 - e) Have carried out over the past 5 years at least 3 contracts financed by international donors and/or implemented by international organizations.
 - f) Have carried out over the past 5 years at least 3 contracts in the field of technical evaluation and/or procurement.
- 6.2. The Contracting Authority reserves the right to invite only eligible consultants, which are considered to be meeting the qualification requirements for the services requested.

ARTICLE 7. MODALITIES FOR PRESENTATION

- 7.1. Interested consultants shall express their interest by submitting the following documents (no additional documents are requested at this stage):
- a) Dated and signed Legal Binding Statement (Annex A);
 - b) Dated and Signed Expression of Interest (Annex B);
 - c) Scanned copy of a valid identification number (for natural persons) or registration (for legal persons);
- 7.2. Dated and signed Curriculum Vitae in English language (Europass format is mandatory), including authorization to process personal data according to the EU regulation 2016/679.
- 7.3. Documents must be submitted in PDF format (not editable) by email, to the following email address: cairo@pec.aics.gov.it The subject of the email must bear the following reference: "SAMSIMIFA – Expression of Interest for the Project's Evaluation";
- 7.4. The deadline for the submission is October 2nd, 2022 (23:59 Cairo time) as evidenced by the date and time of receipt of the email as recorded in the system of the recipient.
- 7.5. It is encouraged to express the interest well before the deadline date, since heavy internet traffic or connection problems could lead to difficulties in submission. The Contracting Authority cannot be held responsible for any delay due to such difficulties.

ARTICLE 8. RULES FOR THE REGISTRATION IN THE LIST

- 8.1. The Contracting Authority will first evaluate the following:
- a) Compliance with the submission deadline. If the deadline has not been met, the Expression of Interest will automatically be rejected;
 - b) Eligibility as per Article 5 of this document;

- c) Qualification requirements as per Article 6 of this document.
- 8.2. Eligible applicants meeting all qualification requirements will then be inserted in a list following the order of submission. The list does not represent any classification and the related insertion does not imply any rights for the eligible consultants to be contracted.

ARTICLE 9. SELECTION PROCEDURE

- 9.1. Eligible applicants, meeting the relevant qualification requirements, will be invited to submit their offer along with an Integrity Agreement and the required statements as per EU PRAG. Successful applicants will be requested to provide the documents required for the registration as AICS economic operator (see <https://ilcairo.aics.gov.it/amministrazione-trasparente-registro-operatori-economici-il-cairo/>).

ARTICLE 10. PERSONAL DATA

- 10.1. If submitting your reply to the Expression of Interest involves the recording and processing of personal data (such as names, contact details and CVs), it will be processed solely for the purposes of the management and monitoring of the tender and of the contract by the data controller without prejudice to possible transmission to the bodies in charge of monitoring or inspection tasks in application of EU law. Details concerning processing of your personal data are available on the privacy statement at:
<https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/ExactExternalWiki/2.+Basic+rules>

ARTICLE 11. SAFEGUARD CLAUSE

- 11.1. AICS Office in Cairo reserves the right to revoke the announcement for any reasons, discretionally evaluated. The AICS Cairo office reserves the right not to proceed with the assignment due to the lack of candidates' adequate requirements or the availability of financial resources.

ARTICLE 12. RESPONSIBLE OF THE PROCEDURE

- 12.1. The Responsible for the Procedure is Ruggero Orlandi.

12.2. For any further information please contact AICS Cairo at the following email: cairo@pec.aics.gov.it using the following reference “SAMSIMIFA – Expression of Interest for the Project’s Evaluation”.