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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1.1. Partner country

Egypt.

1.2. Contracting authority

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS) – Cairo Office.

1.3. Background

The Italian cooperation in Egypt is actively supporting initiatives in agriculture and rural development. Within the sector, it has financed initiatives in aquaculture through bilateral financing as well as the Italian-Egyptian Debt Swap Programme.

The NEMO project “Cross-Border rural coastal communities’ development in Libya and neighbouring Countries” (2014-2017), funded by the Italian Cooperation, sought to improve socioeconomic conditions of rural coastal communities which are characterised by a higher sensitivity to climate change, emigration rates, social instability, difficulties in promotion and enhancement of their culture and productions. The project was focused on the needs of fishermen’s associations, involving the rural coastal communities of Sallum-Matrouh and Barrani (Egypt) to enhance their institutional, multifunctional and territorial roles; the coastal communities east of Misratha (Libya), to reduce the risk of unemployment and emigration, and the coastal communities in Medenine (Tunisia) and to promote sustainable socio-economic development process.

The Marine Aquaculture Development in Egypt project, financed by the debt-swap Programme and implemented by the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation with the technical support of CIEHAM Bari, has seen two phases. The first phase, MADE I, aimed at developing Mediterranean fishery and marine aquaculture in Egypt through synergic actions between the public and the private components and actors. The second phase MADE II intends to contribute to the development and consolidation of the marine aquaculture sector in Egypt as a mean to improve food security and strengthen Egypt’s self-sufficiency in fish consumption. Through a sustainable and responsible approach, focused on local economic and ecological needs, and based on supporting public and private companies operating in the aquaculture sector, the project aims at increasing the national production of high-quality species that can be also exported to European markets.

The Red Tilapia Hatchery in Bardawil project, also financed by the debt-swap Program, aims to establish a hatchery to produce Red Tilapia fingerlings ready for grow-out stage and acclimated to the seawater salinity. The hatchery will be located in the north of Sinai Desert to serve the expansion of fish farms in the area. It will be located on the Mediterranean sea shore, yet it will be supplied with fresh water from two underground wells.

Exports of fishing and aquaculture products towards the EU market has been an issue addressed within all the projects, in order to bring an added value to the Italian financing in the sector and increase the profits of the companies working in that sector. However, some criticalities still prevent many Egyptian companies from exporting fishing and aquaculture products to the EU.

2. OBJECTIVES & EXPECTED OUTPUTS

2.1. Overall objective

The Italian Cooperation Agency for Development Cooperation in Cairo aims intends to contract an external consultant to carry out a study on the value chains of fishing and aquaculture.

2.2. Purpose

The purpose of the assignment is to analyse the value chains of the fishing and aquaculture sectors, assess export potential towards EU countries, and develop an operative development plan. In specific, the study will focus on the following:

- Assessment of selected company(ies) for sanitary quality operative manuals/structure and checklists (Best practices and HACCP) along the fishery value chain: primary production (fishery and aquaculture), seed and feed, transport, landing sites and ports, airports, processing factories (internal laboratory), markets, and retails.
- Operative development plan for the Egyptian fishery value chain for exports and national market.
- Research of local less expensive ingredients for fish feed production to utilise in the feed industry, and creation of specific ingredients processing units for standardised aquaculture feed ingredients.
- Evaluate and propose an aquaculture "contract farming" scheme to create a sustainable commercial aquaculture sector.
- Proposal about a sustainable financial scheme to assist the aquaculture sector.
- Asses the possibility of tuna farming in the Egyptian national water.

2.3. Expected outputs to be achieved by the contractor

The expected output of this contract is as follows:

- Develop a short study according to the specifications at the point 2.2.

3. ASSUMPTIONS & RISKS

3.1. Assumptions underlying the project

- Local authorities are collaborative and facilitate the field visits in the targeted areas.
- The consultant is given access to the documentation necessary to carry out the study.
- The necessary approvals are granted to the consultant to perform the field visits.

3.2. Risks

- Risk of political instability in the Country and possible changes in the national and local Governments.
- Delays in obtaining the necessary approvals to be issues by local authorities for the activities to be implemented in the country.
- Delays due to unforeseen events and force major.

4. SCOPE OF THE WORK

4.1. General

- **Description of the assignment**

The consultant will carry out a field visit in Egypt for a duration of 6 consecutive days within one calendar month. The tentative agenda is as follows:

- Day 1: Arrival to Cairo (EG), overnight in Cairo,
- Day 2: Introduction meeting with the stakeholders and transfer,
- Day 3: Visit of the fishery production facility: port and vessel,
- Day 4: Visit to the Aquaculture farms: grow out, hatchery and feed mill,
- Day 5: Visit the processing unit(s) and fishery distribution chain: wholesale and retail markets, transport, border inspection post, fishery traders and export association(s) and return in Cairo, overnight in Cairo,
- Day 6: Wrap up meeting and departure.

- **Geographical area to be covered**

Egypt, for the field visit. Mainly the Mediterranean coast in Alexandria, Port Said and other location where is placed the main Egyptian fishery and aquaculture production facilities.

- **Target groups**

The target groups to be involved in the evaluation activities are the public and private stakeholders of the fishing and aquaculture value chain sectors.

4.2. Project management

- **Management structure**

The consultant will work under the supervision of the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – Cairo Office.

- **Facilities to be provided by the contracting authority and/or other parties**

In order to facilitate the work of the evaluator in Egypt, the Contracting Authority will:

- Provide an assignment letter for the request of the business visa to Egypt (the procedure to request the visa is responsibility of the consultant),
- Facilitate the field visits, as needed.

5. LOGISTICS AND TIMING

5.1. Location

For the field visit: Egypt.

5.2. Start date & period of implementation of tasks

The tentative execution period is December 2022, and the period of implementation of the contract will be 1 month from the date of signature of the contract.

5.3. Payment

100% subject to the approval of the Contracting Authority to the final version of the study.

The payment shall include:

- The remuneration to be paid to the consultant on the basis of the services provided;
- All the administrative costs of employing the consultant (such as accounting, contract management, etc.);
- Any kind of insurance (including medical);
- Transportation outside Egypt (i.e. cost of taxi or train ticket from/to house to/from international airport);
- Any taxation, excluding VAT;
- Any employment benefits,
- Cost for the visa;
- Accommodation and meals in Egypt;
- Economy flight to and from Cairo;
- Transportation within Egypt.

The quotation shall not include:

- VAT, if applicable.

6. REQUIREMENTS

6.1. Staff

N. 1 consultant.

6.2. Facilities to be provided by the contractor

Involved experts shall be adequately supported and equipped for the purpose of the assignment (i.e. the expert shall bring his/her laptop, any IT devices required, etc.).

7. REPORTS

7.1. Reporting requirements

The contractor will submit the study in English in soft copy format, to be sent to the email cairo@pec.aics.gov.it.

7.2. Submission and approval of reports

The contracting authority shall approve the draft and final reports, on the basis of contract's conditions.