

## DRAFT

# Terms of Reference for Strengthening the Monitoring Capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) of Republic of North Macedonia

## International Individual Consultant

### 1. Background

The Government of the Republic of North Macedonia is undertaking efforts to modernize its agriculture sector in order to realize the economic and social benefits for future development and prosperity. The Government has requested the World Bank support for an Agriculture Modernization Project (AMP), which was approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors on January 30, 2020 and became effective on June 18, 2021.

The project responds to the World Bank Country Partnership Framework 2019-2023 for North Macedonia objective, to improve connectivity and access to markets. The project is also in line with IBRD engagement goals, one of which is to contribute to a more productive rural economy with the potential to increase incomes for underserved groups that face greater barriers to achieving sustainable livelihoods, such as women, young people, and minority groups.

In addition, the AMP is also in line with The National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development for the period 2021-2027, which is the main long-term strategic document based on which the implementation of goals, policies and measures for the rural and the agricultural development in the country. The strategy is adopted in accordance with Article 6 of the Law on Agriculture and Rural Development for long-term planning of the national agricultural policy in order to achieve the legally defined sectoral development goals. The strategy provides three main strategic goals, namely: (i) improving the competitiveness and income sustainability of agricultural holdings, (ii) applying environmental practices in production that lead to mitigating and adapting to climate change, and (iii) ensuring sustainable rural development. For the first time, the monitoring and evaluation of the strategy will be the subject of a comprehensive system that includes a set of indicators and targets, monitoring and reporting procedures and evaluation of achievements.

The AMP's objective is to improve the competitiveness of the North Macedonia's agriculture sector and strengthen public institutions in the framework of the country's accession process to the European Union (EU). The project is structured around three complementary components as follows:

- i. Component 1: Agriculture Sector Competitiveness with its sub-component 1.1 Access to Training and Advisory Services, and sub-component 1.2 Agriculture and Food Distribution Systems;
- ii. Component 2: Institutional Capacity for EU Accession with its sub-component 2.1 Evidence-Based Policy-Making, sub-component 2.2 IPARD Implementation Capacity, and sub-component 2.3; and Safe disposal of animal by-products; and
- iii. Component 3: Project Management.

The sub-component 2.1. will support two key activities: (a) the establishment of a M&E system for agricultural and rural development policy design and implementation and (b) an information system for management of state-owned agricultural land. Technical assistance, goods, training and study tours will be supported to strengthen the MAFWE capacity for effective M&E and evidence-based policy making.

### 2. Objective of the assignment

The objectives of the technical services required under this assignment are as follows:

- To assess the current status (status quo) of the monitoring and evaluation system for agricultural and rural development policy, and
- To provide an Action Plan for implementing new monitoring and evaluation system for agricultural and rural development, consistent with the CAP post – 2020 requirements.

### 3. Scope of Services

The scope of the services to be provided by the International Consultant for Strengthening the Monitoring Capacity of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy (MAFWE) of Republic of North Macedonia will be as follows:

- Review the status quo (institutional base, data use, tools, development efforts, set of Context, Output and Result Indicators currently available) for M&E in agriculture and rural development in North Macedonia;
- Assess strengths, weaknesses, including information gaps on Context, Output, Result Indicators and data which can be used for the estimation of Impact Indicators and provide recommendations and guidance on its improvement, in view of the CAP 2023-2027 requirements;
- Assess the capacity and performance of the current system of agricultural and rural development policy M&E to facilitate regular policy formation and agricultural/rural development budget design;
- Draft an action plan for: i) the development of missing M&E indicators (vis-à-vis the PMEF indicators list) by responsible bodies within MAFWE; and ii) the design and operation of a procedure that links M&E to regular policy formation within MAFWE. The action plan will include specific actions within a defined time-horizon and will specify entities (i.e. MAFWE Departments and Institutions such as AFSARD, NEA, etc., as well as other public bodies such as the State Statistical Office) responsible for their implementation;
- Supervise and support the development of manuals and protocols for data collection;
- Design pilot tests and surveys on data collection and the application of methodologies for the estimation of the selected M&E indicators;
- Supervise, perform quality control and support the implementation of the action plan for the development of the M&E system and its integration into the regular policy formation within MAFWE;
- Collaborate with the International Consultant for the establishment of an Integrated Data Platform for agriculture and rural development in North Macedonia, to facilitate and ensure synergy between project actions on strengthening monitoring capacity and those on the development of the integrated data platform.

### 4. Institutional Arrangements

The International Consultant will work under the authority of the MAFWE and will be under supervision and will report to Project Management Team (PMT) and more specifically, the Project Director, Project Coordinator and the relevant to this task, Component Leader. He/ she shall be responsible for giving information (inputs) and advice as requested.

### 5. Duration of the assignment

It is expected that this consulting assignment would be implemented within 12 months with indicative commencement *July 2022* and completion *July 2023*. The Consultant will work under a *lump sum* arrangement. The estimated staff time required is estimated at approximately 120 person-days of which about 40 are expected to be spent in Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia.

## 6. Deliverables and Reporting Requirements

The Consultant is expected to debrief on a regular basis the Project Director and Project Coordinator, on the progress of implementation of various tasks comprising the assignment. In addition, the Consultant shall prepare the following deliverables/outputs:

Deliverable	Consultant's Contribution Delivery date	Consultant's estimated level of effort in man days	Estimated Client's Acceptance date
Review of M&E framework and assessment of strengths, weaknesses and information gaps on Indicators	<i>by the end of Month 2</i>	20	7 working days after submission
Assessment of existing links between M&E and policy formation/budget design	<i>by the end of Month 3</i>	10	7 working days after submission
Specification of action plan for generation of missing indicators (vis-à-vis the PMEF indicators list) and linking M&E to policy formation within MAFWE	<i>by the end of Month 4</i>	10	7 working days after submission
Preparation of guidelines for data collection procedures and application of methodologies for the estimation of M&E indicators	<i>by the end of Month 6</i>	40	14 working days after submission
Monthly progress reports on supervision and quality control of implementation of the approved M&E action plan and its integration	<i>from Months 7 to 12</i>	40	3 working days after submission of monthly progress reports

## 7. Qualifications

Potential candidate shall possess the following minimum qualifications, skills and experience:

### *Education and Skills:*

- University Degree in agriculture, economics, geography or any area relevant to the assignment;
- Postgraduate Degree on one or more of the above is highly desirable.
- Written and spoken fluency in English
- Computer literacy

### *General professional experience:*

- Minimum 10 years of working experience from the graduation
- Proven knowledge of EU rural development, agricultural, and pre-accession policies and procedures.

### *Specific professional experience:*

- At least 5 years of demonstrated working experience in the application of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF), including data collection methods, estimation of indicators and its utilization for policy formulation;
- At least 4 years of demonstrated working experience in the supervision of work on agricultural and rural development policy M&E;
- Ability to lead and manage project teams, knowledge of project planning techniques and tools;
- Working experience with public sector bodies dealing with agriculture and rural development, including local authorities, is desirable.