

Terms of Reference

Republic of North Macedonia Agriculture Modernization Project (P168014) for International Consultant for the Definition of Data Variables to be Included in the Integrated Data Platform

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 objective of the consulting services required under this assignment is to define the data variables which need to be included in the integrated Data Platform.

3. Scope of Services

Specific functions and responsibilities of the International Consultant for the Definition of Data Variables to be included in the Integrated Data Platform of the Project will be as follows:

- Identification of data variables (including definition of variables and timeline of data collected) currently collected on agriculture and rural development in the country; map data variables collected according to the institution(s) which are responsible for this task (e.g. MAFWE Departments and Institutions such as AFSARD, NEA, FVA, etc., as well as other public bodies such as the State Statistical Office); identification of the software environment(s) utilized for every data variable currently collected and stored;
- Specification of a set of data variables/time series, which can be used for evidence-based decision making and included in the integrated data platform for agriculture and rural development (including environment and climate) in North Macedonia. This specification should take into account the CAP 2023-2027 Performance Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (PMEF) indicators, as well as other data variables (e.g., data on agricultural products prices, volumes, FADN data, data on agricultural land, etc.) which can benefit evidence-based policy design and decision making. The specification will take into consideration any relevant legal issues and confidentiality constraints which according to national and EU legislation and Regulations, could affect/constraint the public disclosure and availability of specific data variables through their inclusion in the integrated data platform;
- Identification and specification of gaps between data (variables/time series associated with agriculture and rural development policy) currently collected and processed in North Macedonia, and additional data that should be included in the integrated data platform;
- Assignment of each data variable selected to be included in the integrated data platform for agriculture and rural development, to a specific institution which will be responsible for its collection, processing and inclusion in the platform; institutions assigned with this task will include MAFWE Departments and affiliated bodies such as AFSARD, NEA, FVA etc., as well as other public bodies such as the State Statistical Office;
- Development of an action plan for: i) the development of missing data by responsible bodies within and outside MAFWE; and ii) the supervision and support of the development of manuals and protocols for data collection on the missing data variables. 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, FVA other Ministries, etc., as well as other public bodies such as the State Statistical Office) responsible for their implementation;
- Design pilot tests and surveys on data collection and the application of methodologies for the estimation of the missing data variables;
- Provide input and support the MAFWE during preparation of the technical specification for development of the integrated platform;

- Supervise, perform quality control and support the implementation of the action plan for the development of missing data variables;
- Collaborate with the International Consultant for strengthening monitoring capacity 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. Engagement

It is expected that this consultancy would be implemented over 10 months from xx (immediately after effectiveness) to xxx (10 months after expected contracting). The duration of the assignment is of approximately 60 person-days of which at least 20 are expected to be spent in North Macedonia.

6. Deliverables

Deliverables expected to be produced by the consultant are as follows:

No.	Deliverable	Output type	Timeline for submission by the Consultant	Timeline for approval by the Client
1.	Review of data collection status quo (variables and institutions collecting them)	Report	to be produced by the end of Month 1	10 days after submission
2.	Identification of data variables/time series to be included in the data platform and used for evidence-based policy making	Report	to be produced by the end of Month 2	10 days after submission
3.	Identification of data gaps and assignment of each data variable selected for inclusion in the platform to specific institutions	Report	to be produced by the end of Month 3	10 days after submission
4.	Development of an action plan for: i) the development of missing data by responsible bodies within and outside MAFWE; and ii) the supervision and support of the development of manuals and protocols for data collection on the missing data variables	Action plan	to be produced by the end of Month 4	10 days after submission
5.	Design pilot tests and surveys on data collection and the application of methodologies for the estimation of the missing data variables	Report	to be produced by the end of Month 6.	10 days after submission
6.	Supervision, performance of quality control and provision of support on the implementation of the action plan for the development of the missing data variables	Report	to be produced during Months 6 to 10.	10 days after submission

7. Qualifications

- University Degree in agricultural economics, agriculture or economics.
- At least 3 years of demonstrated working experience in EU agricultural and rural development policy analysis, including working experience in the application of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF) and data collection methods.
- Demonstrated experience on working collaboration with public sector bodies dealing with agriculture and rural development, including local authorities, is desirable.
- Written and spoken fluency in English is essential.
- Computer literacy is essential.