REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

(CONSULTING SERVICES)

**ROMANIA**

**Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project**

**Loan No.: 9505-RO**

**Assignment Title:** Consultancy services for Diagnostic Analysis on the Sustainability of Romanian Agriculture

**Reference No**. (as per Procurement Plan): 04/QCBS/2025

The Government of Romania has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project (RAPID Project)**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services (“the Services”) include the development of a comprehensive diagnostic analysis on the intricate relationship between environment and agriculture in Romania, in close collaboration with the Directorate of Land Improvements and Land Fund (DLILF) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of Romania. The assignment involves legislative review, impact assessments, case studies, and development of methodologies and recommendations on environmental performance monitoring and climate adaptation in agriculture. The duration of the contract implementation is estimated around 16 months.

The Consultant is expected to commence performance of the services starting with a contract kick-off meeting organized within two weeks after contract signing. The consulting services will result in three deliverables: (i) a synthesis report on environmental and institutional frameworks; (ii) a diagnostic analysis with field-based case studies; and (iii) a recommendations report, including best practices and system improvements.

The detailed Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the assignment are published on the web site of the Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests at the following link:

<https://mmediu.ro/informatii-de-interes-public/achizitii-publice/anunturi/>

The Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests - Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project, now invites eligible consulting entities (“Consultants”), **which will be restricted at research institutes, universities and academies**, to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

 **I. General qualifications - 20 points**

The Consultants shall provide information on: core business and years in relevant contracts or projects in sustainable agriculture, climate impact assessment, or environmental policy / legislation analysis. The Consultants should demonstrate, for the last 7 years, general experience at national and local level. References will be provided.

**II. Specific experience - 80 points**

The Consultants should have specific recent (within the last 5 years) experience in relevant fields:

1. Agriculture practices impact assessment methodologies on the environment and climate change, as well on the climate change impact on farming,
2. Best farming practices to be adopted by farmers for the reduction of environmental impact and GHG emissions,
3. Agricultural adaptation strategies related to climate change,
4. Agri-environmental indicators monitoring and reporting systems.

Experience with World Bank, EU, or internationally funded projects in Eastern Europe or similar contexts is desirable.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to Section III, paragraphs 3.14, 3.16, 3.17 and 3.21 to 3.24 of the World Bank’s “Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers” November 2020 (“Procurement Regulations”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest and Eligibility.

Consultants may associate with others to enhance their qualifications, but should indicate clearly whether the association is in the form of a joint venture and/or a sub-consultancy. In the case of a joint venture, all the partners in the joint venture shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected. Interested Consultants should clearly indicate in their Expression of interest the structure of their “association” and the duties and responsibilities of each of the partners and sub-consultants. Please note that any entity shall submit only one Expression of Interest in the same selection process, either individually as a single consultant or as a partner in a joint venture***.***

The Consultant should provide:

* A description of their relevant general and specific experience;
* Details of the Consultant’s legal status;
* In case of a joint venture, a draft of a JV Agreement for the members of the “association” or a letter of intent to form a joint venture, signed by all members through their legal representatives. All the partners in the JV will be evaluated jointly. The JV Agreement should state that all its members shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.
* Declaration of no conflict of interests as attached to the present request for expressions of interests. In case of a joint venture, all members of the “association” will fill in a Declaration of no conflict of interests.

**A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost-based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Procurement Regulations.**

In case of a Joint-Venture (JV), all the partners in the JV will be evaluated jointly and they shall be jointly and severally liable for the entire contract, if selected.

Supporting documents should be provided (recommendation letters, copies of contracts, reception letters/approval documents issued by the Contracting Authorities for the deliverables / services / final reports etc.).

No CVs should be provided at this stage of the selection procedure, as the Key Experts requested in the Terms of Reference will not be evaluated at the shortlisting stage.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours from Monday to Thursday 8:30 to 17:00 hours and Friday 08:30 to 14:30 hours.

Expressions of interest, along with supporting documents, must be submitted in a written form, in English language, (by e-mail, in person, or by mail) to the address below,

by **20th of August 2025, 17:00.**

**Ministry of Environment, Waters and Forests – Rural Pollution Prevention and Reduction Project**

Attn:

**Mr. Mihai CONSTANTINESCU, Director of the PMU**

**Ms. Cătălina CRIVEANU, Procurement Manager**

**46-48, Calea Plevnei, Sector 1, Building E, 1st Floor, Room 11**

City: **Bucharest, ZIP Code: 010233,** Country: **Romania**

Phone: **+40 723 654 600; +40 756 036 082; +40 0723 654 360.**

E-mail: ump.achizitii@mmediu.ro

**DECLARATION OF NO CONFLICT INTEREST**

**I, [Undersigned’s Name], representing [Consultant's Company Name], I declare on my own responsibility, under penalty of perjury, that the participation in assignment no. 01/QCBS/2024 is not creating any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest, as it is established through:**

- the provisions of the World Bank’s *"Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers"*, November 2020, setting forth the World Bank’s policy on procurement;

- World Bank’s policy requirement that firms (Consultants, contractors, or suppliers) or individuals involved in Bank IPF procurement shall not have a conflict of interest;

- the requirement that a firm (Consultants, contractors, or suppliers) shall be considered to have a conflict of interest if the Consultant:

1. is providing Goods, Works, or Non-consulting Services resulting from, or directly related to, Consulting Services that it provided for the preparation or implementation of a project, or where such services were provided by an affiliate that directly or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with that firm. This provision does not apply to the various firms, which together are performing the contractor’s obligations under a turnkey or design and built contract;
2. including its personnel, has a close business or family relationship with a professional staff of the Borrower, or of the project implementing agency, or of a recipient of a part of the Bank’s financing, or any other party representing or acting on behalf of the Borrower who:
3. is directly or indirectly involved in the preparation of the Procurement Documents or contract specifications, and/or the evaluation process of such contract;
4. would be involved in the execution or supervision of such contract, unless the conflict stemming from such relationship has been resolved in a manner acceptable to the Bank throughout the procurement process and execution of the contract; or
5. does not comply with any other conflict of interest situation as specified in the SPDs relevant to the specific procurement process.

By signing this declaration, I confirm that the information provided is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I am committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity and impartiality in my professional duties.

**Name:**

**Title:**

**Company:**

**Date:**

**Signature:**