



**Terms of Reference**

**EXTERNAL CONSULTANCIES**

- 1. PLANT PROTECTION EXPERT / ENTOMOLOGIST**
- 2. TOXICOLOGIST**

Consultancies are funded under the:

**Austrian Development Cooperation project**

**“Promoting integrated approaches to animal health and plant protection in Abkhazia”**

and

**United Nations Development Agency project**

**“Increasing resilience of farmers through support to integrated pest management”**

Location:

**Abkhazia/Georgia**

## 1. BACKGROUND

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Action Against Hunger (AAH) - Spain, as part of the Action Against Hunger International network, is a non-governmental, private, apolitical, non-confessional and non-profit organisation that fights hunger and its root causes worldwide. It has been operating in the South Caucasus region since 1994 and its current programmes focus on the following areas: Food Security, Livelihoods, Agriculture, Economic and Rural Development.

At this time, AAH is looking to contract two consultants to provide short-term consultancies to support and inform its plant protection programming and pest management response that it is implementing in Abkhazia. The response aims to support efforts in Abkhazia to tackle problems associated with the **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB) *Halyomorpha halys*** and other pests and diseases that over the past 2-3 years have had a significant negative impact on crop yields, and specifically the hazelnut and citrus yields. Through its work, AAH aims to increase the knowledge and expertise of farmers and key actors within the agricultural sector to more effectively manage and control invasive pest and diseases that affect rural livelihoods.

## 2. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

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AAH is seeking two expert consultants to help support the coordination of an integrated pest management (IPM) response, raising awareness among the public (and specifically farmers) on BMSB and other pest and diseases, training agricultural practitioners on management and control methods and supporting key stakeholders in their efforts to combat agricultural pests and diseases.

The Plant Protection Expert/Entomologist will be required to provide technical support and advice to Action Against Hunger and key stakeholders on the most effective ways by which to address the problems related to the BMSB and other pests, facilitate the establishment of a monitoring system for assessing the prevalence and distribution of the BMSB, help establish IPM demonstration plots and support the production of awareness raising materials. The Toxicologist will provide information and advice to AAH and key stakeholders on the toxicological properties and efficacy of different pesticides for control of BMSB and other pests and, also, give advice and recommendations on all safety aspects and environmental considerations.

The Plant Protection Expert/Entomologist consultancy is planned for a two-week period and the Toxicologist for a one-week period. Both consultancies should be conducted in May/early June 2018.

## 3. TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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### **Consultant 1: Plant Protection Expert/Entomologist**

The following tasks and responsibilities are expected to be accomplished over the 2-week consultancy period:

1. Perform an examination and analysis of orchards and hold meeting with farmers to develop a deeper understanding of pests and diseases impacting upon agricultural sector in Abkhazia.
2. Provide information on integrated approaches to monitoring, managing and controlling hazelnut pests/diseases, with a focus on the:
  - Brown Marmorated Stink Bug
  - Filbert Big Bud Mite

- Nut Weevil
  - Hazelnut and Walnut Twig Borer
  - Hazelnut Longhorn Beetle
  - Ambrosia Beetle
3. Provide information on the biology and development processes of the following diseases: Powdery Mildew, Grey Mold and Alternaria spot.
  4. Support the process of designing of an informational booklet for farmers on the above topics.
  5. Support AAH and key stakeholders to develop a comprehensive monitoring system for BMSB and other pests to establish degree of contamination of hazelnut crops.
  6. Support AAH and key stakeholders to develop and design IPM demonstration plots using the 'attract and kill' approach.
  7. Engage in round table discussions with key stakeholders to discuss all aspects of IPM approaches, application of progressive agrotechnical methods and recommendations on possible biological methods of crop protection and latest developments worldwide.
  8. Deliver a comprehensive report of the main findings, together with recommendations for areas of future intervention for pest management.

### **Consultant 2: Toxicologist**

The following tasks and responsibilities are expected to be accomplished over the 1-week consultancy period:

1. Provide information and advice to AAH and key stakeholders on the toxicological properties and efficacy of different pesticides for control of BMSB and other pests.
2. Provide advice and recommendations on all safety aspects for transport, handling, storage, usage and disposal of pesticides against BMSB and other pests
3. Provide advice and recommendations on timing and frequency of spraying of crops with pesticides for best results while considering environmental safety.
4. Introduce protocols for spraying of pesticides to relevant departments of d.f. authorities utilising safety and risk reduction measures.
5. Provide training modules for training of spraying teams established in relevant departments of Abkhazian d.f. authorities and for individual farmers.
6. Deliver a comprehensive report of the main findings, together with recommendations for areas of future intervention for pest management.

#### 4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

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For both consultancies:

1. Training materials and handouts for ToT programs (in English)
2. A presentation on the initial findings and recommendations
3. Submission of a final analytical report reflecting the main findings together with recommendations

#### 5. QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

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- ✓ Academic qualification in a relevant discipline (plant science, agriculture, entomology etc.);
- ✓ Demonstrable knowledge and expertise of working on integrated pest management, with specific reference to the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug and other hazelnut pests;
- ✓ (For the Toxicologist) Demonstrable knowledge of toxicological properties and efficacy of different pesticides for control of BMSB and other pests, including all necessary safety measures and environmental considerations.
- ✓ Proven analytical and report writing skills
- ✓ Presentation and communication skills
- ✓ English language fluency
- ✓ Knowledge of Russian language an advantage

#### 6. GENERAL CONDITIONS

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**Required start date:** Within May 2018

**Duration of work:**

**Consultant 1: Plant Protection Expert/Entomologist: 12 days in country and 2 days home-based** (for report writing)

**Consultant 2: Toxicologist: 5 days in country and 2 days home-based** (for report writing)

**Location of work:** Tbilisi, Sukhumi & home based

**Work Plan and Methodology:** The work plan and methodology will be made together with Action Against Hunger prior to departure to Georgia

**Fees:** The total amount for consultancy fees to be negotiated based on the proposition and experience of the consultant.

**Per diem:** The amount of requested per diem should be included separately with the consultancy fee.

**Payment:** 100% of the fees to be paid on completion and approval of the timesheet, submission of final report and delivery of presentation to Action Against Hunger and stakeholders.

**Travel:** Travel to the mission and back will be paid for directly by Action Against Hunger and all internal travel cross in country will be arranged and paid for by Action Against Hunger.

**Accommodation:** Hotel or guesthouse accommodation in Tbilisi and Abkhazia will be arranged and covered by Action Against Hunger.

**Report:** The final document will be submitted in an electronic version in the English language.

**Rights:** The ownership of the final report document will belong to Action Against Hunger and the donor organisations exclusively. The document, or any publication related to it, will not be shared by the consultant to anybody prior to the delivery of the final document to the donor by Action Against Hunger.

Action Against Hunger may share the results of the report with the following groups:

- Donor(s)
- Key Stakeholders
- Various co-ordination bodies

**Visa:** Action Against Hunger will support the consultant in the visa application and make payment for the visa for Abkhazia.

**Insurance:** The consultant shall manage his/her own insurance and provide the details of coverage to Action Against Hunger before departure.

**Translation:** Action Against Hunger will provide spoken translation from Russian-English and English-Russian as required by the consultant.

**Other:** Any materials required to carry out the assigned consultancy (laptop, mobile phone etc.), must be provided by the consultant.

## **6. APPLICATION PROCESS**

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- Interested applicants should send their **CV** and a one-page **technical and financial proposal** outlining the consultancy methodology and approach.
- The letter should also include the **proposed gross daily rate for remuneration (in Euros)**. This daily rate should include the consultancy fee and per diem and both should be separately stated. *Please note that international and internal travel, accommodation and visa costs will be covered by Action Against Hunger*
- The letter should also state the earliest date that the applicant could begin the consultancy.
- Applications to be sent to the Action Against Hunger email address: [acfjobs@sc.acfspain.org](mailto:acfjobs@sc.acfspain.org) with the subject either “**Plant Protection Expert/Entomologist**” or “**Toxicologist**” no later than **27<sup>th</sup> April 2017**.