



**Terms of Reference**

**EXTERNAL CONSULTANCY**

**PLANT PROTECTION EXPERT / ENTOMOLOGIST**

Consultancy is funded under the:

**Austrian Development Cooperation project**

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

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, AHH is looking to contract a consultant to provide a short-term consultancy to support and inform its plant protection and pest management response that it is implementing in Abkhazia under the programme “**Promoting integrated approaches to animal health and plant protection in Abkhazia**”. The response aims to support efforts to tackle problems associated with the **Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)**, **Filbert Big Bud Mite (FBBM)** 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.

## 2. GENERAL OBJECTIVE

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Under the project, AAH is making a damage assessment of the 2018 hazelnut harvest in Abkhazia and is seeking a Plant Protection Expert / Entomologist to analyse the results. The expert consultant should assess the data of damaged nuts that will have already been analysed by the AAH project team. These nuts have been collected from different hazelnut plantations with nuts collected from 200 orchards and tested for the impact of BMSB and others collected from 200 orchards and tested for the impact of FBBM. The damage should be compared against AAH's mapping of BMSB and FBBM prevalence and distribution earlier this year.

Following this assessment, 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 FBBM based on the result of damage assessment. The consultant will provide analysed data, elaborated statistical results and verified the economic threshold for both pests for chemical intervention. The expert is also requested to make an analysis of the effectiveness of the BMSB attract and kill and ghost net demonstration plots that AAH has been trailing in hazelnut plantations in Abkhazia and make recommendations for next year's plans.

The Plant Protection Expert/Entomologist consultancy is planned for **10 working days** (8 workings days in country and 2 working days home-based for report writing). The consultancy should take place in **early October 2018**.

## 3. TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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The following tasks and responsibilities are expected to be accomplished over the 10-day consultancy period:

- Assess the damage impact of BMSB and FBBM of nuts collected and analysed by AAH project team;
- Produce a map of incidence of damage across Abkhazia;
- Provide a comparative analysis of damage assessment and the prevalence and distribution of BMSB in 2018;
- Assess the efficacy of AAH's demonstration Attract and Kill and Ghost Net plots and provide recommendations for next year

- Conduct a round table meeting to present the damage assessment and analysis to AAH and key stakeholders
- Deliver a report on the above issues and the main findings, together with recommendations.

#### 4. EXPECTED OUTPUTS

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- Submission of a final analytical report and damage assessment map 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, Filbert Big Bud Mite and other hazelnut pests;
- ✓ 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:** Early October 2018

**Duration of work:** 10 working days (8 days in country and 2 days home based)

**Location of work:** Tbilisi & Abkhazia

**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 "**Plant Protection Expert/Entomologist**" no later than **16<sup>th</sup> September 2018**.