

Call for Expression of Interest CARE International in Myanmar



Date: 22nd December 2014

Terms of Reference: International Advisor – SHF Rubber Productivity

Location of assignment: Yangon/Mawlamyine
Duration of assignment: Estimated 40 Days
Responsible to: Project Development Advisor

1. Background

The *Strengthening Competitiveness of Smallholder Rubber Farmers Program* (SCSRFP) is designed to contribute to achievement of the Agriculture and Food Security domain of the Swiss Cooperation Strategy in Myanmar 2013-2017. This program will support small-holder farmers secure access to land, increase productivity, and increase their income through improved market actions. To be implemented over three phases, the program will directly benefit at least 12,000 rubber smallholder families, and reach approximately 60,000 men, women and children across 4 townships in southern Mon State and adjacent areas of Tanintharyi and Kayin State. The program is underpinned by principles of conflict-sensitivity and gender equality programming.

CARE International in Myanmar has been selected as the proposed implementing partner. CARE has been working in Mon State for nearly 15 years, and brings expertise in value chain development, facilitation of land tenure, gendered technical approaches and long standing support to vulnerable poor communities. Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and CARE have collaborated to generate preliminary analysis of the rubber value chain and market.

2. Purpose of the consultancy

The primary purpose of the current project phase is to build effective foundations for the SCSRFP through further analysis and investigation of proposed programs; as well as fostering understanding, ownership and collaboration amongst potential program partners and stakeholders. This role focuses on **improving the productivity of Rubber Smallholder Farmers (SHFs)** and is part of a series of investigations leading to the development of a long term strategy for the SCSRFP.

The Consultant will conduct research to understand how SHFs in the project target area (Mainly Mon State at present) can be supported to improve their productivity and the quality of on-farm processing. It will be necessary to assess to what extent their needs are being met by the current range of market players and identify opportunities to strengthen areas where there are notable shortcomings. The consultancy will also recommend a range of performance indicators, baselines and possible targets that will demonstrate progress towards SHF productivity and on-farm processing quality improvement, within the framework of a M4P approach.

3. Overview

Myanmar is located in a vibrant rubber producing region that accounts for most of the natural rubber production internationally. SHFs in the region continue to be the main producers of raw rubber, and in areas where they succeed the government has had a strong role in implementing national policies and institutional structures to support smallholder rubber cultivators. There is sufficient evidence that in ASEAN countries that support smallholder rubber production it remains a viable sector and an effective strategy to move households and communities out of poverty.

Care/SDC have done initial research into the rubber sector to improve the understanding of the status and trend of SHFs productivity, engagement with the market, and land access in Mon State and Northern Taninthayi. The findings and recommendations have been captured in a value chain and land tenure report and identified four program outcomes including (i) Improved security of land tenure and sustainable land-use; (ii) Improved productivity amongst rubber small-holders; (iii) Improved market actions along the rubber value-chain emphasizing small-holder returns; and (iv) Improved capacities and collaboration between stakeholders (small-holders, private sector, government, ceasefire groups and civil society) along the rubber value-chain.

This consultancy aims to produce recommendations to improve planter returns through improved yields and through improved quality of on-farm processing, where rubber plantations are in their immature phase, production phase and when in need of rehabilitation.

The work done to date provides valuable insight into the operation of the rubber market system in Myanmar and a starting point for further investigation. Essentially, the quality of Myanmar rubber production does not meet current international standards, resulting in its reputation as a low quality rubber producer. There are complex inter related reasons for this. Many of the reasons are the result of a long period of underinvestment and limited government support for the sector.

Based on the above, Care Myanmar is seeking to hire a Consultant to develop a comprehensive proposal on improving the productivity of rubber SHFs as an element of the SCSRFP. The program will build upon previous SDC/Care Myanmar consultations held since 2013 where research and networks were established, as well as further consultations which the consultant will hold with the stakeholders. In addition, the program will be based on extant research in Agriculture/SME development in Myanmar and other relevant initiatives, including identified international best practices.

The consultant will work together with the SCSRFP National Advisor (Rubber) and will be supervised by the SCSRFP PDA. The input will be formulated in accordance with the M4P format and it will include a budget, and a suggestion of relevant implementing partners and activities, amongst others.

4. Key Responsibilities and Deliverables

The Consultant will work under the direct supervision of the PDA and be guided by the following suggested tasks:

4.1 Desk Review and analysis of existing secondary documents for the purpose of preparing a needs analysis and assessment of BDS provision. (Care Myanmar to assist with identification of documents):

- The Care/SDC Value Chain and Land Tenure Reports;
- National Strategic Plan (2000-2030) for Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation reports and other relevant government documents relating to Myanmar's agriculture development;
- Review of relevant policies, strategies and frameworks pertaining to Agriculture development specifically the Myanmar Rubber sector, as well as ASEAN experiences.

4.2 Consultations with key partners and relevant stakeholders (contacts and meetings to be provided and facilitated by Care Myanmar):

- Relevant Care staff;
- Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (and its branches in Mon State);
- Myanmar Fertilizers, Seeds and Pesticides Entrepreneurs Association;
- Donors/development Partners including – SDC, ILO and other UN bodies;
- World Bank;
- Civil Society Organizations;
- Mon State DICD and ARCPC; and
- Relevant national Ministries dealing with Agriculture and Industry development.

4.3 Mission to project target townships to conduct necessary onsite investigations which will help shape the feasibility of recommended solutions.

4.4 Based on insights from the research and in conjunction with the PDA, the consultant will generate a detailed stakeholder analysis to clarify the functions played by different market players and to map the relationship between them. This will assist in determining which stakeholders are the priorities for intervention and what form might this intervention take. The stakeholder analysis will be an integral component of the recommendations to strengthen the market system.

4.5 Participate in a workgroup (virtual or in Myanmar) with the PDA and other technical specialists to develop a program framework for Phase 1 of the SCSRFP.

The Deliverables are:

1. Situation Analysis of the provision and use of technical services and availability and quality of inputs and the impact on productivity and quality of rubber production in the target areas;
2. Report on Strengthening the market system to meet the technical needs of Rubber SHFs, with recommended performance indicators and associated baselines and targets for incorporation in the SCSRFP M&E; and
3. Rubber productivity improvement recommendations as part of the comprehensive long term SCSRFP Strategy.

5. Selection

Education:

- Relevant professional qualifications and/or degree in agriculture, economics or related.

Experience:

- 7 years of experience in agriculture development preferably working with poor smallholder farmers in a plantation environment;
- Experience in applying a ‘making markets work for the poor (M4P) framework’ or similar market systems development approach as an analytical framework and to design interventions to provide market based solutions in the agriculture sector;
- Work with civil society organizations, program development, donor relations and with diverse stakeholders is a requirement; and
- Work experience in ASEAN region is desirable.

Language:

- Fluency in written and spoken English.

6. Applying

Email a brief statement addressing the Selection Criteria along with your current CV with minimum two referee contacts and proposed budget to the address below not later than **5th January 2015**. Please indicate “**International Advisor – SHF Rubber Productivity**” as the subject for the application.

Human Resources Manager
CARE International in Myanmar
No.17A, Pyi Htaung Su Street,
Sayarsan Road, Sayarsan North West Ward,
Bahan Township, Yangon
Email: MMR.Recruitment@careint.org

CARE is an equal opportunity employer committed to a diverse workforce. Women, ethnic minorities and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply.

CARE is committed to protecting the right of children. CARE reserves the right to conduct screening procedures to ensure a child safe environment.