

Call for Agricultural Technical expertise
Terms of Reference for Agriculture Engineers Technical Assistance

Project name: Multi-span Greenhouses For Food Security and Livelihoods
Name of Organization: The Lebanese Association for Development – Al Majmoua
Locations: All Lebanon
Duration: 11 th of August 2023 until 6 th of August 2024

About Al Majmoua:

The Lebanese Association for Development – Al Majmoua, an independent, apolitical, not for profit Lebanese Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), has been one of the leading Microfinance Institutions in Lebanon, since 1994. Al Majmoua's core business is to provide "micro" loans to individuals who have limited or no access to formal lending channels.

Our goal is to improve the quality of life of the most disadvantaged, regardless of their religion, nationality, gender or political affiliation by providing them with the appropriate financial and non-financial tools to make their way out of poverty.

Al Majmoua views development in a holistic approach. Micro-credit alone may not be sufficient to sustain a small business. Non-financial services, particularly Business Development Services, play a complementary role in improving the quality of life of the most vulnerable, especially women entrepreneurs. Al Majmoua provides business management and financial education trainings, vocational trainings, individual diagnosis, marketing support, networking, exchange of experience, and awareness sessions including women economic rights, self-confidence, communication skills, household budget management.

Al Majmoua is active across Lebanon, including the Palestinian Camps, through a network of 15 offices. The branches allow Al Majmoua to be present in the communities it serve and remain tuned to the particular needs of the micro-entrepreneurs. Al Majmoua's team is made of 240 highly motivated, skilled, dedicated full-time staff. Loan officers and Field Trainer and coaches are recruited from the local community since social networks and an extensive knowledge of respective areas of operation are essential in our work.

Information about the Multi-span Greenhouses for Food Security and Livelihoods Project

Agriculture, including horticulture is seen as a critical sector for employment creation and poverty reduction in Lebanon; hence has been a focus sector for many programmes. An estimated 20-25 percent of the country's working population is involved in agricultural-related activities on a full time or part time basis. However, the agriculture sector has been hard-hit by the combined effects of the crises. The economic crisis and the subsequent lira devaluation have taken a drastic toll on food security and agricultural livelihoods in Lebanon.

Beyond grants for the most vulnerable farmers to purchase basic inputs (fertilizers, seeds, etc.) and subsidies to purchase greenhouses, farmers need more sustainable financial support if they are to make investments that would increase their productivity and income. In the past, suppliers of greenhouses and other inputs used to allow farmers to pay in instalments; but since suppliers now also have no credit with banks, they have stopped the practice. Suppliers are still selling the greenhouses, but require that farmers pay cash up front, which most farmers cannot do.

The Lebanon Agriculture and Rural Empowerment (ARE) activity, funded by USAID and implemented by Chemonics International, supports Lebanese rural and peri-urban communities to obtain technical and financial resources to facilitate increased productivity, sales, and exports, improved business income, while also ensuring livelihood sustainability. ARE designed an expansion exclusively supporting at least 100 existing greenhouse vegetable growers to purchase and install multi-span greenhouses on their farms across Lebanon. To support the greenhouse supply intervention, the project is seeking agriculture engineers with technical expertise in multi-span greenhouses.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Agricultural Engineer will implement the following tasks:

1. 2 field visits to the farms who have applied to the project:
 - a first visit to assess the eligibility of the farm to benefit from the multi-span project and a confirmation of the specifications in the quotation received from the supplier
 - a second visit after the installation of the multi-span greenhouse by the selected supplier to confirm that the agreed upon specifications in the approved quotation have been respected
2. Support in developing the Multi-span first visit assessment template and the verification report filled in at the time of the second visit
3. Fill in the Multi-span first visit assessment template to be filled out with the applicant farms
4. Complete all forms (field visit report) and daily attendance sheets assuring all signatures.
5. Write about 5 success stories/case studies and document using Al Majmoua success Stories form

Ensure to strictly follow Al Majmoua code of conduct, PSEA and child protection policy.

Deliverables

1. Prepare and fill in the Multi-span assessment template during the first field visit
2. Prepare and fill the verification report template during the second field visit
3. Agree with the farms on the dates of the field visits
4. Deliver to Al Majmoua a weekly agenda of the field visits and coordinate with Al Majmoua team about all field visits
5. Deliver the Multi-span assessment and verification reports including signed by participants and the engineer, including pictures
6. 5 success stories form (Including pictures and signature from the participant)

Request for Proposal Details

As submitting your proposal please consider the following:

1. Provide your CV
2. Provide a technical proposal including all the following points:
 - The total number of visits you are able to complete
 - The Geographical areas you are able to cover to do the visits
 - Ability to call the farmers to coordinate the field visits at a time that is suitable for them
 - Your Fiscal number if available
 - A copy of your registration at the syndicate of Engineers if available
 - Confirmation of the daily visit rate per farm with all the mentioned deliverables. Al Majmoua will pay a fee of USD 50 per visit (all inclusive)
 - Understanding that Al Majmoua will deduct 7.5% from the consultancy fees to settle the Ministry of Finance's consultancy tax if the consultant is not able to provide a fiscal number. Priority in selection will be for engineers that can provide a fiscal number.
 - Understanding that Al Majmoua will not cover the Fees of Financial Service Provider or Fresh Bank account Transfer.
 - Understanding that Al Majmoua is not able to confirm ahead of time the number of farms that the agriculture engineer will be handling as it will depend on the geographical areas that the agriculture engineer is able to cover and the location of the farms that will apply to the project.

Please fill the table below taking all points above in consideration and send back to us by the 15th of September mid-day at the following email address: procurement@almajmoua.org

No.	Description	Please insert your answers below
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1	Geographical areas coverage by the agriculture engineer for conducting field visits	
2	Availability of the agriculture engineer starting 18 th of September	
3	Availability of the agriculture engineer to conduct field visits in the coming 6 months	

Evaluation Matrix:

Criteria	Weighting %
1- CVs (education and background)	30%
2- Relevant experience especially with multi-span greenhouses	40%
3- Availability & Timeline	20%
4- Area coverage	10%