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| **Project/Consultancy Title:** | FORSA II – Grape Juice Product Enhancement |
| **Project Location(s):** | Lebanon, travel to SME location in Kefraya |

**Background:**

Mercy Corps is a leading global organization powered by the belief that a better world is possible. In disaster, in hardship, in more than 40 countries around the world, we partner to put bold solutions into action — helping people triumph over adversity and build stronger communities from within. Now, and for the future.

Mercy Corps exists to alleviate suffering, poverty, and oppression by helping people build secure, productive, and just communities. The agency pursues its mission through emergency relief services, sustainable community development, partnering closely with civil society, and facilitating economic development. Mercy Corps has been present in the Middle East since the 1980s and currently has offices in Yemen, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq. Working in Lebanon since 1993, Mercy Corps has implemented community development programs focused on promoting economic development and increased opportunity for disadvantaged communities, while at the same time responding to emergencies as they occur in the country. In 2012, the program portfolio shifted in response to the massive refugee influx from Syria. Since then, Mercy Corps Lebanon has solidified its portfolio, integrating emergency response programming with longer-term development programming by focusing on the following key sectors: Child and Youth Protection, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Local Governance and Conflict Mitigation, Agriculture, Livelihoods and Economic Development, and Food Security.

**Project Description:**

With funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mercy Corps is implementing the FORSA II (Fostering Resilience by Strengthening Abilities) program in Lebanon to increase access to education and employment for vulnerable youth from the host and refugee communities, within the Bekaa and South governorates. The program was launched in December 2019 and will be rolled out until May 2023

To stimulate labor demand, Mercy Corps aims to support 30 small and medium-sized enterprises operating in the food production and health sectors, by facilitating the linkages to both domestic and international markets.

**Required tasks from the service provider:**

Mercy Corps is looking for consultants with experience in vineyards and grape processing sectors.

The objective of this consultancy is to provide technical assistance to one of the partnered SMEs in Kefraya area that is producing grape juice. The consultancy will tackle the enhancement of the product in terms of production, quality, product preservation, shelf-life estimation and extension, and any other related aspects of the product. The duration of the consultancy should not exceed 4 months.

The service providers/consultants are invited to submit a proposal including the profile/CV of the assigned personnel, the proposed activities, methodology and timeline needed along with the cost of the consultancy which will cover a span of 4 months. The proposal should include, but not limited to, the following activities:

* Perform a thorough assessment on the SME production facility, production activities and the product to assess their current situation
* Once the assessment is finalized, set an action plan with the help of the SME representatives
* Conduct the needed visits and capacity building sessions to increase the knowledge of the SME representatives in the field of grape bi-products processing activities
* Provide recommendations on the best agricultural practices to ensure the quality of the needed raw material
* Provide recommendations on how to maximize efficiency in terms of production while maintaining high quality products
* Provide recommendations on the optimal ways to preserve the product in order to increase its shelf life so that they will be able to target retail shops or even export their product

**The service provider must commit to:**

* Assist FORSA team in measurement of KPIs to allow for monitoring progress
* Abide by FORSA reporting mechanism to allow for continuous monitoring of activities by FORSA team
* Identify and communicate risks to FORSA team and call for intervention when required
* Work collaboratively with the FORSA program team to ensure that the technical assistance provided to SMEs supports the overall objectives of the program

**Qualifications:**

* Minimum of 5 years’ experience in the vineyards sector and grape bi-products processing specialist (such as wine, nonalcoholic red grape juice, grape concentrate)
* Experts in the organoleptic Characterization of juices, in terms of non-alcoholic grape juice by carrying out Hedonic Tests performance.
* Collaborative ability with Laboratory platform for needed experimental analysis performance.
* Great Knowledge in terms of project assistance for field (agricultural practices) and production (processing chain)
* High Knowledge in fermentation ceasing methods alternative to pasteurization process, in the aim of product quality and stability enhancement.
* Experience working with SMEs in rural areas
* Experience working with SMEs operating in the food processing sector
* Ability and willingness to travel to the field

**Selection Matrix:**

The applications will be assessed based on the following criteria:

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| Criteria | Weight |
| Profile and CV of the service provider with proven experience in the field of vineyards and grape bi-products processing | 25% |
| Previous experiences and success stories of similar projects | 10% |
| Provision of the technical proposal, methodology used | 25% |
| Proposed timeline of the consultancy | 10% |
| Cost of the consultancy | 30% |

**The Consultant will work closely with FORSA Program Manager, Senior Field Coordinator and Senior Project Officer**

**Payment:** Wire transfer in USD to a “fresh money” bank account, after the successful delivery of the service based on agreed milestones including an approved consultant deliverable report.

**Other Considerations:** Mercy Corps reserves the right to hire multiple firms under this scope of work, or none. FORSA will review applications on a rolling basis, so applicants are encouraged to submit applications at any time. Only those applications found most promising will be contacted by FORSA. Target response time will be two weeks from the date of submission.