**Republic of Albania**

**Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE (*Draft*)**

**for**

**Consulting Services**

**for**

**Technical Assistance on preparation of feasibility studies, environmental and social requirements to supply and installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels in 25 Drainage Stations and need to upgrade the internal electricity network**

**Reference no. AL-MARD-429087-CS-CQS**

June \_\_\_\_ 2024

# BACKGROUND

The Government of Albania (GoA) has received financing in the total amount of US$ 70 million equivalents from the World Bank towards the cost of the Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project (CRAD).

The Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD) is the implementing agency of the CRAD Project. MARD intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this Loan to Consultancy Services for “Technical assistance on preparation of feasibility studies, environmental and social requirements to supply and installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels in 25 Drainage Stations and need to upgrade the internal electricity network”.

## **The Agriculture Sector of Albania**

**Agriculture is a key sector in the Albanian economy, contributing 19 percent to GDP and 36 percent to total employment in 2020[[1]](#footnote-2)**. Forty-one percent of the population live in rural areas of which the majority is engaged in agriculture. The wider agri-food system, including food-related services, processing and manufacturing, is directly or indirectly the source for almost half of the economy-wide jobs[[2]](#footnote-3) Between the 1990s and the early 2000s, Albania went on a path of rapid transition towards reduced contribution of primary agriculture to GDP and employment, but this progress has slowed significantly since the mid-2000s. Public expenditures for agriculture have been low compared to other sectors and regional peers. Between 2010 and 2017, agriculture spending represented 1.9 percent of total government spending and grew only by about one third of the growth in total public spending. Total budgetary transfers to agriculture averaged 0.27 percent of national GDP between 2010 and 2017, compared to 1.27 percent of GDP in North Macedonia, 0.72 percent of GDP in the EU-28, and 0.51 percent of GDP in Bosnia and Herzegovina. 3. Forty-one percent of the population live in rural areas of which the majority is engaged in agriculture. The wider agri-food system, including food-related services, processing and manufacturing, is directly or indirectly the source for almost half of the economy-wide jobs.

**Agriculture production, in particular production of selected fruits and vegetables, has become increasingly competitive in the last decade because of increased cultivation area (including greenhouses), increased yields and improved technologies**. The number of collection points and aggregators for trade, especially for the export of fruits and vegetables, has increased. Despite limitations in food safety management, Albania has achieved a considerable increase in agri-food exports as a proportion of total exports (14 percent in 2020[[3]](#footnote-4)). The main exported food categories are edible vegetables; meat preparations; oilseeds; vegetables, fruits, and nut preparations; and edible fruits and nuts. The EU is Albania’s most important trade partner for both exports and imports of agri-food commodities (67 percent of total agri-food exports and 62 percent of imports during 2019)[[4]](#footnote-5). Despite these developments, Albania remains a net importer of agri-food products**.**

**Established agri-food businesses that have the capability to absorb greater quantities of products are often insufficiently supplied with the required quantity and quality of products by smallholder farmers.** Fragmented production (350,000 small farms with an average size of one hectare), low productivity (the lowest in the Western Balkan region), and low compliance of production with quality standards and certification are all limiting factors. Without a strong supply, agri-food businesses are unable to compete effectively. Exports mainly concentrate around a small number of products in a few markets and for a limited time of the year (March-May), while the processing industry is facing strong competition from imports. To enhance access to domestic markets and improve exports competitiveness, it is crucial to leverage private sector investments into green and effective value chain development and build productive partnerships between producers and agri-businesses.

**Local food systems and short supply chains that connect farmers and small-scale food producers in rural areas with buyers or consumers through direct marketing have yet to be developed** to achieve a wide range of economic, social and environmental benefits, which can be also attractive to young farmers, rural youth and women. Short supply chains are more beneficial if they increase regional added value by contributing to stimulating local economic development cycles by linking agriculture with other sectors, e.g., agritourism and rural tourism, development of local markets and local fairs, and integrating them into local development initiatives. The Albanian government in its Strategy for Agriculture, Rural Development and Fisheries (SARDF) 2021-2027 foresees the building of trading platforms for agricultural products, which aim not only at trading agricultural products in optimal conditions, but at the same time to also strengthening the farmers’ position in the value chain.

## **Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project (CRAD)**

The World Bank Group, through a loan of 64.6 Million euro, is supporting the Government of Albania to implement the Climate Resilience and Agriculture Development Project (CRAD) with the purpose to to increase competitiveness and climate resilience of priority agri-food value chains.

The CRAD has three main components:

* **Component 1: Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Access to Markets.** This component aims at supporting resilient and climate smart agriculture, productivity and quality improvements and improving market access through investments to shorten value chains, strengthen resilience of food supply, introduce digital technology and develop a modern and reliable irrigation delivery services and drainage network for high-value agricultural production.
* **Component 2: Enhancing Compliance with Food Safety and Quality Standards.** Activities under this component aim at addressing weak compliance and control mechanisms related to food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary standards which currently impede competitiveness and create market access inequalities both in the local and export markets.
* **Component 3: Strengthening Evidence-based Analysis Capacity of MARD and Municipalities.** This component aims at establishing a sustainable and effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) system for agricultural and rural development policy in Albania. Support will be provided to build the monitoring capacity of the MARD and municipalities to increase their ability to measure and analyze agricultural policy impacts to support evidence-based policymaking.

**Regarding the Component 1: Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Access to Markets**

This component aims at supporting the development of resilient and climate smart agriculture, productivity and quality improvements, and improving market access through investments to shorten value chains, strengthen resilience of food supply, introduce digital technology, and develop a modern and reliable irrigation delivery services and drainage network for high-value agricultural production. The General Directorate of Policies for Agriculture and Rural Development of the MARD is responsible for leading the implementation of the component. Participating Municipalities will collaborate and actively engage in the implementation of project activities planned under this component. Collaboration and coordination will also be sought with development partners that are engaged in implementing projects that contribute to the objective of this component.

**Sub-Component 1.2 Modernizing Selected Irrigation and Drainage Schemes for High-value Agricultural Production**

The objective of this sub-component is to modernize Selected Irrigation and Drainage Schemes for High-value Agricultural Production. The General Directorate for Policies of Agriculture and Rural Development of the MARD is the implementing entity. It will collaborate with other relevant sectors and instructions of the MARD responsible for irrigation and drainage.

**Modernization of drainage systems.** The objective of this activity is to modernize the drainage system by enhancing energy efficiency, reducing operations and maintenance costs, and enhancing agricultural productivity and farm income. The project will support three major tasks: (i) support consultancy to upgrade and modernize the drainage system, (ii) the purchase and installation of more efficient and flexible pumps in the two drainage pumping stations, namely drainage pumping station no. 2 (in Seman), and drainage pumping station no. 3 (in Darëzez), (iii) consultancy for the design and installation of SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system in the modernized drainage pumping stations with the option to be expanded in the future to other stations, and installation of monitoring sensors in the remaining 25 drainage pumping stations to remotely measure water level, energy use from each pump, working hours, etc.; (iii) purchase and installation of SPV in all the 27 drainage pumping stations.. Drainage Boards under the MARD are responsible for the ownership and management of the drainage systems. A detailed assessment shows that for all 27 drainage stations, the potential installed capacity of Photovoltaic (PV) panels is 2000 kwh and the annual electricity production is estimated to be 2,740 thousand kwh. In 2021, the electricity consumed by the 27 drainage stations was 9,750 thousand kwh and the cost was 174 million ALL. The electricity produced by the Photovoltaic (PV) panels is estimated to be 40 million Lek without VAT and cover 28 percent of the total consumption.

# GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE TASK

The objective of the task is to prepare feasibility studies, environmental and social requirements for the supply and installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels in 25 drainage stations and the improvement of the internal electricity network in these drainage stations, according to the list below.

# SCOPE OF WORK

At this stage, the consultant will carry out inspection at all 25 drainage stations throughout the country to familiarize with the technical condition, engineering infrastructure and possible free surfaces to be use for the placement of Photovoltaic (PV) panels (horizontal and vertical), will provide a report with detailed design (including layout details and preliminary costs) on the situation in these drainage stations, as well as carry out assessments of the environmental impact that the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels will might have.

The consultant will organize local field visits to inspect each drainage station, will cooperate with the staf (operators) of the drainage stations in order to familiarize themselves with each drainage station structural condition, specifications and technical requirements. The tasks that will be performed within this activity include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Inspect all 25 drainage stations to assess their technical condition, engineering infrastructure, and potential surfaces for PV panel installation throughout the country (no more than two days in each drainage station);
2. Collaborate with drainage station staff to evaluate each station's structural condition, technical requirements feasibility and suitability of each horizontal and vertical surface proposed for the placement of Photovoltaic (PV) panels in each of 25 drainage stations. Taking into account that the electricity produced by the Photovoltaic (PV) panels in total for all drainage stations is calculated to cover up to 28 percent of the total consumption, the possible surfaces for use in all stations should not exceed the appropriate surface for the production of this amount of electricity. The corresponding report (including design and photos) will be prepared for these findings ;
3. Evaluation of the technical-constructive condition when necessary (the bearing capacity of the terraces and side walls of the buildings) of the facilities proposed for the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels. The relevant report (including design and photos) will be prepared for these findings;
4. Evaluation of the infrastructure of the engineering network, especially the existing electrical one and its adaptation to the intervention for the placement of Photovoltaic (PV) panels in each drainage station. The relevant report (including design and photos) will be prepared for these findings;
5. Drafting of technical specifications for Photovoltaic (PV) panels for all 25 drainage stations based on law no. 7/2017 "On Renewable Energy Sources", including the necessary preventive measures for installation works for each drainage station;
6. Carrying out the assessment of the environmental impact that the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels will have on the 25 drainage stations. A corresponding report will be prepared for these findings.

The above documentation submitted by the consultant must be complete and clear as an integral part of the tender documents for the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels at all 25 drainage stations.

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| **Summary Table for Drainage Stations (DS)** | |
|  |  |
| **Directorate of Irrigation and Drainage** | **Name of Drainage Stations (Location)** |
| **Lezha** | **9 DS** |
| Shkodra | 2 DS |
|  | Velipojë |
|  | Ças |
| Lezha | 5 DS |
|  | Balldren |
|  | Tale |
|  | Ishull Shëngjin |
|  | Grykë Zezë |
|  | Gocaj |
| Kurbin | 2 DS |
|  | Shllinza |
|  | Droje |
| **Fier** | **11 DS** |
| Fier | 3 DS |
|  | Hoxharë Nr 1 |
|  | Sheqi |
|  | Marinz Nr 2 |
| Lushnja | 3 DS |
|  | Karavasta |
|  | Tërbuf |
|  | Divjakë |
| Vlora | 3 DS |
|  | Akernis |
|  | Orikum |
|  | Goricë |
| Saranda | 2 DS |
|  | Çukë |
|  | Butrint |
| **Durres** | **3 DS** |
| Durres | 1 DS |
|  | Hamallaj |
| Kavaja | 2 DS |
|  | Greth |
|  | Synej |
| **Korça** | **2 DS** |
| Pogradec | 1 DS |
|  | Tushemisht |
| Berat | 1 DS |
|  | Konezbalt |

# TEAM COMPOSITION & QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS OF THE EXPERTS

**Qualifications of the firm**

The consultant should be a firm or group firms / consultants with the qualifications minimum as the following:

* The consultant should be a reputable consulting firm/group of consultants with demonstrable knowledge and experience of at least 5 years in the preparation of studies in the feasibility, requirements environmental and design engineering for similar projects, possibly related to building or reconstructions, electrical installations and solar panel installation;
* Similar contracts realized during the last 5 (five) years in feasibility studies, requirements environmental and design engineering for similar projects, possibly related to building reconstructions/electrical installations and Photovoltaic (PV) panels installation;
* Previous experience with World Bank projects will be an advantage.

Applicants will be evaluated to determine a shortlist that includes the most qualified firms. The criteria that will be used for the short selection will be as follows:

- Core business and years of experience – 30 points

- Experience in similar assignments – 60 points

- Availability of qualified company staff to perform the task – 10 points

CVs of key experts will not be assessed during the shortlisting process.

The shortlisting criteria are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Evaluated Grid | Points |
| Core business and years of experience | 30 |
| Experience in similar assignments | 60 |
| Firms’ organization and staffing | 10 |
| Total | 100 |

### **Key experts**

The consultant will provide approximately 10.5 people/month key staff. Given the extensive volume of field work, the consulting firm or JV should be able to mobilize at least 3 independent teams/groups consisting of one civil engineer and one electrical engineer (1+1) each team/group, who can continue the work in parallel, ensuring a timely realization of the service, as well as quality for the products of different teams/groups. The composition of the required teams constitutes the minimum number of staff to be mobilized, but the consultant may need to mobilize more personnel to deliver the required results within the given time frame.

The team of consultants will consist of the following minimum team of experts:

* Project Manager/ Team Leader Civil Engineer/ Electrical Engineer with at least (15) fifteen years of experience (1.5 man/month)
* University degree in disciplines related to the Faculty of Civil Engineering/ Electrical Engineering;
* Minimum 10 years of continuous professional experience in the design of commercial, social-cultural and industrial facilities.
* Civil Engineer (2 or 3) with at least (10) ten years of experience (2 or 3 engineers x 1.5 man/month).
* University degree in disciplines related to the Faculty of Civil Engineering;
* Minimum of 7 years of continuous professional experience in the design of commercial, social-cultural and industrial facilities.
* Electrical Engineer (2 or 3 such) with at least (10) ten years of experience (2 or 3 engineers x 1.5 man/month).
* University degree in disciplines related to the Faculty of Electrical Engineering;
* Minimum of 7 years of continuous professional experience in the design of commercial, social-cultural and industrial facilities, as well as the design of the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels.
* Environmental, Social, Health and Safety Specialist with at least (10) ten years of experience (1.5 people/month)
  + Bachelor's degree in environmental engineering, environmental science , environmental management or a related science;
  + Minimum 7 years of work experience in environmental assessment;
  + Familiarity with WB environmental protection policies and the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) is an advantage.

# REPORTS

The consultant will submit the following reports:

1. **The condition assessment report and the suitability** of each surface proposed for the placement of Photovoltaic (PV) panels in each of the 25 drainage stations, according to the definitions in letter (b) above;
2. **The evaluation report of the technical condition** (the bearing capacity of the terraces and side walls of the buildings) of the facilities proposed for the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels, according to the definitions in letter (c) above;
3. **Te report of the state of the electrical network** , according to the definitions in letter (d) above;
4. **The report of technical specifications for Photovoltaic (PV) panels** and the relevant preventive measures for all 25 drainage stations, based on law no. 7/2017 "Renewable Energy Sources";
5. **The environmental impact assessment report** that will have the installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels at the 25 drainage stations.

# DELIVERABLES

# The Consultant will have 5 business days to address comments received from the Client (MARD), if any. After updates, if necessary, the Customer will approve the deliveries within 3 working days.

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| **Technical assistance for the preparation of feasibility studies, environmental and social requirements for the supply and installation of Photovoltaic (PV) panels in 25 drainage stations and the need to improve the internal electricity network** | | | |
| **No.** | **Submissions** | **Delivery deadline** | **Reviewed and commented by the Client** |
| 1 | Condition and suitability assessment report (2 copies in Albanian + 2 copies in English and electronic version) | 30 days after signing the contract | Three working days after delivery |
| 2 | Technical condition assessment report (2 copies in Albanian + 2 copies in English and electronic version) | 30 days after signing the contract | Three working days after delivery |
| 3 | The electrical network condition assessment report (2 copies in Albanian + 2 copies in English and the electronic version) | 30 days after signing the contract | Three working days after delivery |
| 4 | Specifications report​ technical , preventive for Photovoltaic (PV) panels (2 copies in Albanian + 2 copies in English and the electronic version) | 45 days after signing the contract | Three working days after delivery |
| 5 | Environmental impact assessment report (2 copies in Albanian + 2 copies in English and electronic version) | 45 days after signing the contract | Three working days after delivery |
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# CUSTOMER CONTRIBUTION

The Client will provide the list of contact persons responsible for each drainage station and will assist the Consultant in communicating between them.

# SELECTION OF CONSULTANT

The consulting firm will be selected according to the provisions of the World Bank Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers “Procurement of Investment Project Financing of Goods, Works, Non-Consulting Services and Consulting (July 2016, Revised November 2017, August 2018, November 2020), based on the quality-based selection (CQS) method. The contract is of lumpsum form. The Bank requires that the firms or individuals involved in the bidding process with the Bank's funds do not have a conflict of interest.

1. Institute of Statistics (INSTAT). Albania in Figures, 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. World Bank. 2017. Agriculture for Jobs and Growth in the Western Balkans: A Regional Report. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Institute of Statistics (INSTAT). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Joint Research Centre (European Commission). 2021. Recent agricultural policy developments in the context of the EU approximation process in the pre-accession countries. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)