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| **Project** | “ARAMAZD: SMART” (hereinafter project) |
| **Position** | Agro-business specialist (hereinafter Specialist) |
| **Main location** | Gyumri, Republic of Armenia |
| **Target locations** | Consolidated communities of Gegharkunik, Lori and Shirak provinces of the Republic of Armenia |
| **Employment term:**  | Temporary (three-month contract with possible extension) |
| **Job type:** | Part time (10 hours weekly) |
| **E-mail submission of applications** | z.aghanyan@caritas.am; info@caritas.am  |
| **The deadline for submission:**  | 17.10.2019 |

**Introduction**

Since 2006, Armenian Caritas has implemented "Aramazd" social-educational development program in the vulnerable, needy communities resettled with former refugees of Amasia, Vardenis and Chambarak sub-regions of Shirak, Gegharkunik Provinces of RA. Since 2015, the program has been implemented in Lori Province. The goal of the project was to promote the development processes in the bordering regions of Armenia by activating the potential of community key stakeholders. The current phase of the project, "Aramazd: SMART" has launched since October 2018. The goal of the project is to promote social-economic development processes in bordering communities of Gegharkunik, Lori, and Shirak provinces of RA through the empowerment of key stakeholders, promotion of entrepreneurship and employment, mobilization of civic participation, and strengthening cooperation on the benefit of youth.

**BACKGROUND**

As to the development of sustainable economy, the deliverables, determining the market prospects at the local and community levels, need the base for identification of producers, who are able to supply the products and services into the markets. In this regard, the intent of agricultural development is to facilitate the development of commercially based linkages between producers and buyers that will be sustainable and reach scale in terms of the target sales and ability to grow over time.

The project is leading to a sustainable economic growth, which aims to increase the value of agricultural products in the bordering rural communities of Gegharkunik, Lori, and Shirak provinces of RA. The target communities are the bordering communities of Gegharkunik, Lori and Shirak provinces of the Republic of Armenia, particularly the consolidated communities. The project is working with producers, private sector buyers, other value chain actors and business service providers to facilitate the safe, effective and efficient movement as well as empowerment of agricultural and local businesses in the those bordering consolidated communities.

**METHODOLOGY AND SCOPE OF WORK**

Within the framework of “Aramazd: SMART” project there is a need to increase linkages among private sector buyers, producers and appropriate government institutions, by considering the abilities of national and regional associations, networks, producer groups and other organizations of Gegharkunik, Lori and Shirak provinces. The entrepreneurial entities, operating in rural areas, need a facilitation on meeting high-value market demands in the consolidated rural communities. The knowledge and capacity of agricultural entrepreneurs is to enter and operate in businesses serving high-value markets, which directed to the overall community development procedure, are one of the core principals of the project.

The target sub-regions of three provinces for implementation of agribusiness development activities are Amasia and Ashotsq sub-regions (Shirak province), Vardenis and Chambarak sub-regions (Gegharkunik province), Stepanavan sub-region (Lori province).

The main responsibilities of the Specialist are as follows:

* Lead agro-business development activities and strategic support in a wide variety of areas, including upgrading strategies, improving access to agricultural inputs, agricultural extension and marketing, measuring, analyzing and interpreting data;
* Oversee the efforts of agricultural projects in the three target provinces, particularly focusing on value chain upgrading;
* Facilitate market driven linkages among agribusiness producers, wholesalers, processors, and markets within Armenia;
* Meet and liaise with relevant private sector, and other donors working in agriculture to ensure synergies are created and resources are leveraged by conducting analyses and collect data, such as crop yield;
* Attend project events, relevant meetings, technical working groups, conferences, etc. in order to share and provide capacity building support on the proposed topic to the project team through making presentations and giving demonstrations;
* Coordinate with the anticipated project agricultural activities to identify infrastructure constraints to agricultural production and flow of goods and services (products out to markets, and inputs and services into the rural farming areas);
* Conduct regular field visits to project sites located in the three target provinces, to provide hands-on technical assistance, give an advice on compliance with current legislation and conduct land valuations as well as the monitoring of project activities and its implementation;
* Provide overall strategy, vision, and inputs for the rural development section of the annual working plan of the project;
* Contribute to project activities, including data collection and reporting in coordination with the project team, developing and maintaining a set of beneficiaries contacts.

**KEY QUALIFICATIONS, METHODS AND SKILLS**

* University degree in Business Management, Agriculture Marketing or other related field;
* Master degree in the areas outlined above will be an asset;
* At least 5 years of work experience in marketing, including at least 3 years in agriculture marketing position;
* Extensive knowledge of agricultural sector of Armenia;
* High level of professionalism and an ability to work independently and in high pressure situations under tight deadlines;
* Detail oriented and able to efficiently and accurately manage budgets;
* Excellent inter-personal communication skills including experience of facilitation;
* Practical knowledge of market analysis, project cycle and results-based management;
* Excellent communication and written skills in Armenian, English would be an asset;
* Experience working and collaborating with diverse sets of stakeholders, including private sector (financial institutions, exporters, buyers, traders), private sector research institutions, donors, governments and producers;

**DURATION AND THE TIME FRAME**

Variations in workload relate to seasonal or project demands. Job responsibilities can be performed at offices (mainly at headquarters in Gyumri, also, if needed, at regional sub-offices), at home and in target communities.

**REPORT**

The reports will be accepted on monthly and final basis. Approval of the final report by the Contracting Authority will be the basis for issuing the continuity of the Service Contact.

**APPLICATION**

Interested candidates should submit the below mentioned documents:

* An updated CV;
* Motivation letter with the estimated cost of the assignment.

All interested candidates should submit their applications to info@caritas.am and CC to z.aghanyan@caritas.am marking “AS\_ABS” on the subject line by the **17th of October, 2019.**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.