

# Call for experts

## International agricultural expertise – Chili planting project, China

*February 15, 2021*

IDH, in its role as the manager of the AGR13 Technical Assistance Facility (TAF), invites eligible agricultural expert consultants / service providers to submit an expression of interest in a short term consultancy assignment that entails the technical input and review for the design of an improved sustainable cultivation plan of a Chinese chili company.

Consultants must have experience and knowledge of international standards (including IFC EHS Guidelines for Annual Crop Production) and best sustainable practices related to the agricultural and/or chili industry, including Integrated Pest Management, and working with smallholder farmers.

### 1. Assignment Background

The agricultural supplies and trading company Chongqing Agricultural Chain Corporation Limited (CACC) signed a loan agreement with Rabobank with de-risking from the AGR13 Fund to expand its chili planting project in Chongqing Municipality, Southwest China. By providing access to financing, training and high-quality inputs and by selling at a guaranteed price, this loan supports the project's ambition to enable farmers to switch from low yielding crops and inappropriate use of agricultural inputs to more profitable and sustainable pepper cultivation.

Based on an ESG gap analysis and overall due diligence assessment of the project, an Environmental and Social Action Plan (ESAP) was developed to enable the project to adapt its approach to be consistent with the IFC Guidelines on Annual Crop Production. A gap assessment between the current system and the IFC Guidelines has already been completed. IDH provides technical assistance to support CACC with its compliance to the ESAP requirements.

As a first step, CACC will establish an expert team, (including 1 agricultural, 1 environmental and 1 social local expert, 1 English translator and 1 international Agricultural Expert). The expert team together with CACC senior management will develop a detailed proposal to amend the draft Sustainable Agriculture cultivation and monitoring plan and set out actions to fill the gaps, as identified in the ESAP, in this cultivation plan. As a final deliverable this will lead to an updated cultivation and monitoring plan with a detailed timeline for implementation.

### 2. The Assignment

To complement the CACC expert team, additional expertise is sought to provide technical input and review of the proposed updated cultivation plan. The consultant is expected to:

- Join in workshops (online) to brainstorm on measures to the cultivation plan compliant with the ESAP requirements, together with the company representatives and local agricultural, environmental and social experts in Chongqing.
- Review and provide feedback on the draft and final proposal to update the cultivation plan (including Integrated Pest Management) making sure these comply with international standards. Note, the updated cultivation plan will be written at a later stage of the project.
- Recommend additional modifications or improvements to the cultivation plan to fulfil IFC standards.

It is expected the consultant will spend +/- 6 days on this assignment. The estimated starting date is early March.

Please submit an expression of interest with a brief presentation of the consultant and relevant experiences before **February 26, 2021** (including resumé and past relevant projects) and a daily rate overview. Experience in China is desirable; working knowledge in Mandarin is not required but will be an advantage.

#### Contact information

Annabel Bol

[bol@idhtrade.org](mailto:bol@idhtrade.org)